

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Desludging works commence at Lakes Entrance Water Recycling Plant

To increase storage capacity at the Lakes Entrance Water Recycling Plant for sludge produced as part of the wastewater recycling process, East Gippsland Water is commencing desludging works from the beginning of December.

Sludge is the organic material removed during the wastewater recycling process from wastewater generated by the community. These solids then undergo further treatment in the plant's sludge lagoon.

East Gippsland Water Executive Manager Sustainability and Infrastructure, Neville Pearce said: "The existing sludge lagoon at the Lakes Entrance Water Recycling Plant is nearing its capacity, so desludging the lagoon is necessary to make space for the sludge that is produced as part of the wastewater recycling process.

"Desludging is the process of dewatering, reducing and removing quantities of sludge from the lagoon to increase its efficiency. The sludge is then stored to mature for three years, this then turns into biosolids which, after further treatment, can be applied to land for agricultural purposes.

"We will be removing approximately 1,100 dry tonnes of sludge from the lagoon, where it will then be transported to our storage facilities at Bruces Track near Kalimna and Newmerella towards Corringale. The removal of the sludge will take around three to four months to complete."

Around two to three truckloads of material will be transported each day, in fully enclosed, sealed, water-tight trailers with waterproof covers by Epsom Environmental Services, who have been contracted to complete the works.

In addition to the desludging works, other improvements are also being undertaken at the Lakes Entrance Water Recycling Plant with the upgrading of two Primary Sedimentation Tanks.

Sedimentation tanks are used in the wastewater recycling treatment process, where wastewater is stored for a period of time to remove particles in the water that fall to the bottom of the tank due to gravity.

The works include clarifier upgrades, following the decommissioning and removal of the existing equipment, as well as civil works related to road access to the Primary Sedimentation Tanks and inlet screens general area. Jaydo is the contractor undertaking these works which are due to be complete in the next few weeks..

For further information regarding the Lakes Entrance Desludging Project, please call 1800 671 841.

Ends

Image shows the Lakes Entrance Water Recycling Plant sludge lagoon.



Image shows the Lakes Entrance Water Recycling Plant primary sedimentation tank upgrades

