



Media Release

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For immediate release

Trucks get the treatment

Thousands of truck movements will be kept off local Newcastle streets thanks to an innovative landscape rehabilitation plan, restoring 5 hectares of Glenrock State Conservation Area surrounding the Burwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW).

As part of the plant's Stage 2 upgrade, Hunter Water is rehabilitating a degraded hillside, returning the area to its native condition, initially contouring and landscaping the area using soil excavated during construction work, before replanting the entire area with local tree and bush species.

Hunter Water Managing Director, Kevin Young says depositing soil on site means fewer truck movements on local roads, reducing potential greenhouse gas emissions from the construction project by more than half.

"Carting the soil away would have meant more than 2,000 separate truck trips. By using that soil onsite to regenerate degraded bushland means less trucks, less noise, less greenhouse gases and delivers a permanent improvement to the Glenrock State Conservation area," Mr Young said.

Hunter Water along with National Parks and Wildlife Service has developed a landscape rehabilitation strategy and plan for the area. The program includes regenerating degraded bushland, overgrown with introduced species using weed clearing, earthworks, seeding and a weed control maintenance program.

Mr Young said the rehabilitation plan will also improve the area's local biodiversity, increasing available habitat for the 140 native flora and fauna species identified in the State Conservation Area.

"It's a clear example of Hunter Water reducing our eco-footprint and investing in infrastructure to provide better services and cleaner waterways for Hunter people as well as a new home for our Hunter mammals including the short beaked echidna, long nosed bandicoot, new holland mouse along with both sugar and feathertail gliders," the Managing Director said.

Once revegetation is complete, the area will be reinstated for recreational use including re-opening a fire track through the regenerated area, allowing local fire authorities to access coastal areas during bushfire emergencies.

Burwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Works is undergoing an upgrade to ensure it continues to operate reliably and sustainably in the future. The stage 2 upgrade will provide additional processing capacity as well as a recycled water system for onsite use. Construction on the stage 2 upgrade commenced in August 2009 and is expected to be completed by June 2011.

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