



Media Release

20 October 2011

For immediate release

Branxton recycling plant open for peek into the future

Hunter Water will open the Branxton Wastewater Treatment Works to the public on Saturday, 22 October, showcasing the plant's innovative operations and how it will deliver recycled water to irrigators through the Branxton Water Irrigation Scheme.

Thanks to a \$48 million upgrade completed this year, the Branxton Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) is now one of the most technologically advanced of its kind in the region, producing high quality recycled water for irrigation.

Darren Cleary, Manager Treatment Delivery, said the Branxton WWTW had been upgraded to improve effluent quality and ensure it could continue to service existing and new recycled water customers.

"The upgrade of the Branxton WWTW has been a great achievement for Hunter Water and in fact the entire lower Hunter region. The improved effluent quality means local irrigators including The Vintage can rely on a water supply even through the notoriously dry summers."

"The project will save up to 410 million litres of water each year and will reduce the amount of treated effluent entering local water ways.

"Hunter Water is in the final stages of construction of a purpose built 10 kilometre pipeline to provide recycled water to the local irrigators. The new scheme provides a safe, affordable and reliable water service as well as providing capacity for the Branxton community to grow," Mr Cleary said.

The Branxton recycling scheme is part of the Lower Hunter Recycled Water Initiative. This project has been supported by the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative through the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan.

Mr Cleary said the Branxton WWTW was the second to be upgraded by Hunter Water using advanced membrane treatment and combined technology with biological treatment to produce consistently high quality effluent.

"Visitors to the treatment works will be able to see first hand some of the technology that will allow our region to become less dependent on precious drinking water for purposes such as irrigation or industrial use," Mr Cleary said.

The project was part of Hunter Water's unprecedented \$700 million capital works program of new infrastructure projects.

Open day information:

Where: Branxton Wastewater Treatment Works

Address: Wyndham Street, off New England Highway, Branxton

Tours: Guided site tours will be held at 1.00pm and 2.00pm.

Bookings are essential.

Please call the Hunter Treatment Alliance on 4922 0800.

For more information about the Branxton Wastewater Treatment Works or the Lower Hunter Recycled Water Initiative please visit Hunter Water's website at www.hunterwater.com.au under 'Major projects'.

More information: Elisha Whitburn on 4979 9524 or 0427 547 498