

## Water Infrastructure Group

# Recycled Water An Award-Winning Solution

Water Infrastructure Group's Eastern Irrigation Scheme has been supplying Class A recycled water to 60 growers in Melbourne's south east region since 2005.

Originally, most of the growers signed up to the scheme as an insurance policy but almost immediately found that they were totally dependant on recycled water to sustain their businesses over the summer irrigation period.

Peter Cochrane has grown vegetables for more than 30 years in Devon Meadows and says that recycled water is now a fundamental part of his business.

"Without the Class A recycled water from Water Infrastructure Group's Eastern Irrigation Scheme our production would be down 70-80% and consumers may notice a shortage quality carrots, parsley, radishes, spring onions and other bunch lines we grow for Melbourne's retail stores. Recycled water is a vital tool to ensure the continued viability of food production in Melbourne's south east district", Peter said.

Peter is President of the Victorian Farmers Federation Horticulture Group and this year's recipient of the AUSVEG Chairman's Award for his contributions to the industry.

Peter Schreurs is another customer of the Eastern Irrigation Scheme and the recipient of this year's AUSVEG Grower of the Year Award.

Peter has adopted an Environmental and Sustainability Policy for his family vegetable growing business, which is one of the largest leek producers in Australia. He has implemented nature-friendly initiatives through soil biology, integrated pest management (IPM), biodiversity, energy conservation, water conservation and has further reduced potable water use by substituting recycled water.

Mark Schruers explained that the future of the family business is a lot more secure since they signed up to the Water Infrastructure Group's Eastern Irrigation Scheme.

"September is normally when we collect runoff water for our dams but this year we had the driest September on record and we collected very little. Originally, we hadn't intended to use recycled water in our main dam but this year we have topped it up with recycled water over winter so we are ready if we continue to have dry weather. Without the recycled water, I wouldn't be confident this summer."

"In addition, the quality of our dam water has been declining as a result of increasing mineral and salt content and was causing crop problems such as tip burn. The high quality of the Class A recycled water and the nutrients in it have a positive effective on the quality of our crops," Mark said.



Noel Mansfield is one of Australia's leading propagators; growing and supplying close to three million plants annually. This year his business was a finalist in the Australian savewater® awards Built Environment and Gardens category and winner of the Business Award category, which included Cadbury Schweppes and Visy Beverage Can as the other finalists.

"Many nursery owners are concerned about their businesses this summer. Stage 3a water restrictions in Melbourne require hand watering in nurseries, which adds substantially to running costs and impacts on the viability of businesses. At the same time, Melbourne's residents have adapted to the restrictions and there is increasing demand for water tolerant plants."

"As a result of connecting to the Eastern Irrigation Scheme, we've been able to expand our business sustainably by using Class A recycled water. Each plant grown in a 5 cm pot needs 10.2 litres of water. We've substituted 8 litres of this with recycled water, which is an 80% reduction in our use of potable water", Noel said.

Water Infrastructure Group's Eastern Irrigation Scheme received the International Water Association's Project Innovation Award 2006 for Design Projects in Australia and South East Asia.

Water Infrastructure Group will own and operate the scheme's ultrafiltration recycled water plant and pipeline network, and sell Class A recycled water direct to customers for 25 years.

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## About Water Infrastructure Group

Water Infrastructure Group's unique combination of design, build, operate and maintenance services provides sole-source accountability for streamlined delivery of sustainable water infrastructure to meet community and business needs.

Our holistic approach to infrastructure delivery results in:

- Award winning innovation
- Reduced costs
- Guaranteed performance
- Individualised solutions
- Comprehensive environmental compliance
- Enhanced risk management

Water Infrastructure Group is an Australian leader in water recycling and Australia's largest supplier of Class A recycled water for farming and residential use. We have led the way with the introduction and regulatory approval of microfiltration technology for water recycling and our innovation and contributions to the water industry have been recognised by Australian and international excellence awards.

We have an extensive track record in the delivery of water and sewage treatment plants and we are one of Australia's leading infrastructure rehabilitation specialists, providing services such as pipeline inspection, assessment, linings, coatings and major valve work.

Some current projects from our portfolio include:

- Adelaide Desalination Pilot Plant
- Barwon Water Biosolids Management Project in Geelong
- Campaspe Water Reclamation Scheme in Echuca
- Eastern Irrigation Scheme in Melbourne
- Mangawhai EcoCare Project in New Zealand
- Moura Wastewater Treatment Plant in Queensland
- Surbiton Park Recycled Water Plant in Melbourne
- Virginia Pipeline Scheme in Adelaide

Water Infrastructure Group combines the complementary skills of the former Earth Tech water projects group with Tyco's Water Technology Australia and Water Services businesses to deliver an expanded range of services that cater for the needs of customers and current developments in the water industry.

Water Infrastructure Group is a Tyco International Ltd company. Tyco is a diversified, global company that provides vital products and services to customers in more than 60 countries and has 118,000 employees worldwide. More information on Tyco can be found at [www.tyco.com](http://www.tyco.com).

