

Wednesday, 12 May 2010

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON \$60M BIRD IN HAND UPGRADE

Minister for Water Paul Caica today announced that construction has begun on the \$60 million Bird In Hand Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade in the Adelaide Hills.

Mr Caica says the plant upgrade will not only cater for the region's growth for the next 25 years, but will also create benefits for the local Dawesley Creek and surrounding environment.

"The recent Development Assessment Commission approval means SA Water has been able to mobilise construction crews on site and begin the earthworks," Minister Caica says.

"The upgrade means the quality of treated wastewater being discharged from the plant will be significantly improved, which is a good outcome for the local environment and addresses key issues raised by the local community during an extensive consultation process.

"The new plant will also have the capacity to provide more than 100 million litres of recycled water a year.

"This new recycled water capability will provide nearby landholders to access the water for irrigation purposes. SA Water is speaking with these potential customers about this opportunity.

"SA Water has worked with the community during the past three years to make sure we developed a plant design that meets the objectives of all key stakeholders."

"A key objective identified by the local community was the improvement of the quality of water discharged from the plant in to Dawesley Creek.

SA Water Chief Operating Officer John Ringham said he wanted to thank the local community for their involvement in planning the Bird In Hand Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade.

"This is a positive example of listening to and addressing concerns of the local community and the needs of the environment to reach an outcome which is positive for everyone," Mr Ringham says.

"The upgrade will provide a sustainable long-term treatment facility for the townships of Charleston, Lobethal, Woodside and Inverbrackie, to cater for predicted growth in these areas until 2035.

"It is expected the treatment facility will be completed by the end of 2011 and the plant will be fully operational by the middle of 2012. During construction the current plant will remain operational."