

# Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP  
Minister for Skills and TAFE  
Minister for Water



Friday, 7 February 2025

## RECYCLED WATER BOOST FOR CROP RESEARCH AND GREEN SPACES

New water recycling infrastructure in Horsham will help parks and gardens stay green and support Victoria's world class agricultural research thanks to support from the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Water Gayle Tierney and Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence today announced the completion of the \$11.8 million Horsham SmartWater and Integrated Water Management project including new water recycling infrastructure at the Horsham Wastewater Treatment Plant providing more recycled water to the region.

Researchers at the Horsham SmartFarm now have access to better quality water for research to irrigate their crops thanks to the installation of a reverse osmosis plant.

The project included construction of a new network of pipes through the city of Horsham, with connections to green spaces such as parks, ovals, the cemetery and the racecourse, providing up to 126 megalitres of recycled water for irrigation per year, reducing the need to use valuable drinking water.

More recycled water allows Agriculture Victoria researchers to conduct field experiments to improve the profitability, productivity and sustainability of crop production. Purified wastewater will be used to irrigate more than 50 hectares of grain, oilseed and legume crops.

Using more diverse sources of water, such as recycled water, ensures a water supply for open spaces during dry spells, delivers environmental and economic benefits, and bolsters the regions' long-term water security.

The two projects were jointly funded by the Allan Government and the Albanese Government.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Water Gayle Tierney

*"This sustainable water project will ensure our important local parks and fields will continue to stay green and thrive year-round without using our precious drinking water."*

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

*"Sustainable water supply at the Horsham SmartFarm means our researchers can expand their field crop trials and continue to deliver practical research that makes a difference for Victorian growers."*

### Quotes attributable to Senator Jana Stewart

*"Investment in Horsham's water recycling infrastructure ensures that local agricultural producers and researchers will continue to benefit from a sustainable water source."*

*"This project builds on our investments in regional Victoria and allows Wimmera's beautiful parks and gardens to flourish."*

### Quotes attributable to Member for Western Victoria Jacinta Ermacora

*"Integrated Water Management Projects like this are crucial to diversify our water sources and secure sustainable water supplies for our growing communities and towns in the Wimmera."*

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