



Media Release

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YARRA VALLEY WATER WINS TOP ENVIRONMENTAL HONOUR AT PREMIER'S SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

Yarra Valley Water has been awarded Victoria's top environmental honour in the Premier's Sustainability Awards, for its work in delivering Australian and world-leading sustainable water and sewerage solutions.

The Award recognises Yarra Valley Water's integration of sustainability right across its organisation, from marketing programs, community engagement and an internal Green Office strategy, to engineering designs for new water and sewerage infrastructure and upgrades.

The water utility, which services 1.6 million people in Melbourne's northern and eastern suburbs, was announced as winner of the 'Large Business' category on Thursday 16 April.

'It is very exciting to be awarded with a Premier's Sustainability Award, as Yarra Valley Water uniquely integrates sustainability into every level of our organisation, from corporate strategy to day-to-day activities,' said Yarra Valley Water Managing Director, Tony Kelly.

'Our sustainability programs and approach are at the forefront of the domestic and international water industry, designed to both educate our customers, the community and our staff, and to deliver our services within the carrying capacity of nature.'

Examples include the Kalkallo Integrated Water Management project, undertaken in the township of Kalkallo north of Melbourne, where a 1,200 hectare industrial precinct development is planned for construction over the next 10-15 years.

Yarra Valley Water is working with Hume City Council and Melbourne Water to merge design of the development's water supply, sewerage services and stormwater system. Each of these is interlinked through the water cycle, nutrient cycle and carbon cycle, and designing them together seeks to achieve a more sustainable solution than that which could be achieved via the traditional methods of designing them separately.

The utility's depth in industry-leading water conservation work encompasses Water Conservation Kiosks in major shopping centres (an Australian first) to provide the public with face-to-face water saving support; its globally award-winning Smart Account which educates households on their water use and links them to their water usage behaviour; and leading the Schools Water Efficiency pilot program to help schools improve the efficiency of their water use.

Premier John Brumby said the Premier's Sustainability Awards recognised the hard work and innovation by the business and community sectors to reduce their carbon footprint and resource use: 'The Victorian Government is committed to supporting businesses, groups and individuals that are prepared to take on the challenge of cutting their resource use and being innovative with less.'

The theme of this year's Premier's Sustainability Awards was 'Innovation – a new Thinking'.

'Innovation is a key driver of sustainability, and what the winners share is a vision for a sustainable present and future and the ingenuity and tenacity to see it through,' said Environment & Climate Change Minister Gavin Jennings.

Other finalists in the 'Large Business' category were Toyota Australia and GPT Victoria.

For more information about Yarra Valley Water and its award-winning sustainable initiatives, visit www.yvw.com.au