

Boneo Water Recycling Plant Upgrade

Project update November 2023

Welcome to our November 2023 update for the Boneo Water Recycling Plant (WRP).

Thanks to those who joined us for a tour of the WRP in May. It was great to see so many of our local neighbours on the tour, which was led by Peter Segura, Operations Support Manager – Suez. Peter shared insights into how the plant works and what changes have occurred as a result of the upgrades. We hope those who attended found it interesting and left feeling better educated about the importance of this vital piece of infrastructure in our network.

Stage B upgrade works

We're now in the final stage of the Boneo WRP upgrade, and will be operating as usual throughout the works which include:

- Repurposing an existing lagoon to construct an Emergency Storage Lagoon (ESL). Initial works will occur in December 2023 with the permanent ESL expected to be completed by the end of 2024. This will help us to manage extreme weather events in the future.
- Commissioning the nitrate shunt process which will improve the energy efficiency of the process.

We'll continue to keep you informed about these and any other upcoming works.



Boneo WRP

Improving environmental protection processes

We take our responsibility to protect our environment seriously, and we know that our local community relies on us to care for and enhance our environment. Unfortunately, there have been some instances in the last 6 months where we haven't delivered on this commitment.

The following issues have all been reported to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA):

- Two odour complaints potentially related to the activities onsite.
- An equipment fault which led to partially treated wastewater spilling within our property boundary.
- An unintended discharge of diluted chlorinated water into our onsite stormwater system.
- During a planned network power outage, one of our backup generators did not start as expected resulting in treated effluent spilling to a grassed area within our site.
- Over the 2022/23 financial year, the volume of treated wastewater discharged to the South Eastern Outfall was slightly above the limit in our EPA licence

We've already made a number of improvements to address these issues, and we're continuing to investigate how these events happened. Our team has been diligently managing these incidents and improving our operations, systems and processes to prevent this from happening again.

If you would like any further information, please feel free to reach out to Cody Narlock, Environment Compliance Manager, at 9552 3138 or cody.narlock@sew.com.au.

EPA tour at the plant

In September 2022, we welcomed the EPA to the plant to increase their awareness and understanding of our wastewater treatment processes. The EPA visitors included representatives from their marine science and biology teams, who were impressed with the wastewater treatment technology and processes.

South East Water's Kate Tanner and Ron Beljavski, along with Suez Operations Manager Peter Segura, hosted our EPA guests, showing them the entire treatment process from raw sewage to the final effluent and sludge handling processes.

The EPA were particularly keen to understand what happens to our wastewater before we discharge it into the ocean.

Global knowledge sharing

We welcomed a special delegation from Mongolia to the plant in November 2022 to learn about our practices and the regulatory framework we operate under in Australia. The tour included an overview of our processes, how we manage health, safety, and hygiene at the plant. The tour was a great example of how the global water industry is working together to learn from each other.



The Mongolian delegation on tour at the Boneo WRP

Increasing natural wetlands

We've been working with Melbourne Water to restore a portion of the site back to a natural wetland environment. Melbourne Water led the project from 2016/17 and the site/project was recently handed back to South East Water in June 2023. An aquatic ecological survey was recently conducted and we're awaiting the results so we can make further improvements. We're looking at further ways to enhance the wetlands in the area and welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Future updates

We'll be in touch with another update in the first half of 2024. We'll also keep you informed via email of any tests, drills or additional works at the plant that might impact you.

Need to get in touch?

We're here to help, so here's how to reach our project team:

Contact: Peter Segura
Phone: 0456 931 065
Email: peter.segura@suez.com

To subscribe/unsubscribe to the **mailing list** for updates on the Boneo WRP Upgrade please notify get in contact with the details above.

Community updates are available on South East Water's website at the [Boneo WRP Upgrade project page](#).