

Friday, 14 August 2009

## NEW WATER SUPPLY TURNED ON FOR LAKE WENDOUREE

Ballarat's famous Lake Wendouree is one step closer to refilling with the completion of a key water supply project for the almost dry lake, Member for Ballarat East, Geoff Howard, said today.

Mr Howard today turned on the tap to a new water source that will see 600 million litres a year of high quality recycled water delivered to the iconic venue.

"This new water source is approximately 20 per cent of the annual water supply needed to maintain the lake at full capacity.

"The Brumby Government committed \$2.13 million to this key project to help secure the future of Lake Wendouree – which is an important recreational, tourism and social hub for the Ballarat community."

The \$7 million project is jointly funded by the Victorian Government, Central Highlands Water and the City of Ballarat and will provide 600 ML of recycled water to the Lake as well as an additional 230 ML of stormwater from Paul's Wetland.

"I'd like to congratulate Central Highlands Water and the City of Ballarat for delivering this significant project in partnership with the Brumby Government.

"The project incorporates key elements of the Government's water plan, *Our Water Our Future*, by substituting recycled water and stormwater instead of drinking water to help fill the lake.

"Lake Wendouree is a Ballarat icon and its refilling is a key step in repositioning the site as a national, state and regional attraction for water sports, cultural events and visitor activities."

Recycled water for the lake will be piped from the Ballarat North Recycled Water Treatment Plant to Paul's Wetland where it will be mixed with stormwater to reduce salinity levels, before entering the lake.

Lake Wendouree covers an area of 220 hectares and has an average depth of 1.5 metres. At full capacity it holds 3.3 billion litres and the new recycled water supply will provide approximately 20 per cent of that amount.

Given the success of this project, Central Highlands Water now plans to explore further reuse options for water from its Ballarat North Recycled Water Treatment Plant.