

Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program

Reliable, safe water supply

Many towns in regional Victoria do not have a reliable and safe water supply.

In some towns with plentiful reticulated water supplies, residents occasionally must boil water.

In towns serviced by groundwater, contamination by sewerage can be a threat.

These towns with water supply problems generally are small towns without the population to sustain the cost of expensive water supply infrastructure.

Along with these problems, domestic consumption of water has increased through higher use of dishwashers, washing machines and other whitegoods.

In some areas, demographic changes have intensified the problems with water supply and quality – for example, the “sea change” growth in regional beachside communities.

The Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program is helping fund sustainable solutions to water supply in priority towns.

Towns with the most serious impacts on drinking water quality as well as environmental and health problems will be helped to develop sustainable solutions.

The program will help councils and water authorities develop new schemes and build new treatment plants to fix water supply and quality problems.

Following an independent statewide review in consultation with the Department of Human Services the towns to be provided water supply solutions are: Bethanga, Kennett River, Loch Sport, Milawa, Separation Creek and Wye River.

Towns that will receive funding – to upgrade existing water supply are Dartmoor, Landsborough, Macarthur, Manangatang, Merino, Murrayville and Underbool.

New water supply schemes may include innovative solutions or use of technology, such as desalination.

The program will combine with the Regional Development Victoria’s Small Town Development Fund to ensure small regional towns have reliable and safe water supplies.