

Set for solar savings

Busselton Water has undertaken one of the biggest solar panel installations of its kind within the City of Busselton, installing more than 300 solar panels at its Water Treatment Plant 2 operations.

The solar panels are expected to save the corporation almost \$40,000 each year in electricity costs and will significantly reduce its carbon footprint.

"We'll be reducing our carbon footprint by offsetting approximately 15 per cent of our power use each year – or around 143MWh annually," CEO Chris Elliott said. "That's the carbon dioxide reduction equivalent of taking 21 passenger cars off the road or recycling more than 30 tonnes of waste."

Local business, WA Alternative Energy, installed the panels over a four-week period across Plant 2's three buildings. The Plant, located on Queen Elizabeth Avenue, is one of three water treatment plants, supplying 63 per cent of Busselton's water.



Working towards better recycling



At Busselton Water, we're not only concerned about conserving water the best we can, we're also keen on good recycling practices.

The City of Busselton's Recycling Education Officer, Bessie Mulhall, recently helped our team undertake a waste audit for our Administration building – checking the waste we produce and giving us tips on how we can improve.

As a result of the audit we have developed a Waste Management Plan for the entire business from our water treatment plants to the Administration Office, including the installation of recycling bins and compost bays with information on what can and can't be recycled. We're also doing more to educate our staff on reducing the amount of paper use.

City of Busselton Recycling Education Officer Bessie Mulhall (left) and Busselton Water Environmental Scientist Katie Biggs



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BUSSELTON WATER

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STEM pathways in the spotlight

Busselton Water's Environmental Scientist Katie Biggs joined a line up of science and technology professionals at a recent *techtrails* regional incursion at Bunbury Senior High School.

techtrails – an initiative of Women in Technology WA – is an innovative program designed to encourage high school students to consider careers in technology. The program is designed to generate passion, excitement and interest in technology and science based careers to motivate secondary students to explore and pursue related study and career opportunities.

Katie provided students an insight into her role at Busselton Water as part of an energetic and inspiring day for students and staff.

Busselton Water is proud of our diverse workforce and inclusive culture. Currently, females make up 43 per cent of our workforce, including many in STEM and operational roles.



Educating the next generation

Civil engineering student Joel Gray recently joined Busselton Water as an intern to gain some hands-on experience for his University of Western Australia undergraduate degree.

Working with our Operations Engineer, Claudia Martinez, Joel learned about the water industry and how it works, and helped out on different projects including preparing sketches of a pipeline modification and helping to draw and map valves and flushing points in our distribution network.

"It's definitely been more hands-on than I had expected. I spent quite a bit of time at the water treatment plants and had the opportunity to use my CAD drawing skills. I even helped install a new pump at the plant!"

If you'd like to be considered for work experience at Busselton Water, contact us on 9781 0500 or email admin@busseltonwater.wa.gov.au.



NEW
WEBSITE
LIVE!

We've just launched our brand new website with a fresh look and customer-friendly design.

The new site includes a range of new information and handy online forms, such as change of address and meter reading request forms, to make it easier for our customers to access information and support.

The updated website is just the first step in improving our digital services. Later this year, customers will be able to pay Busselton Water accounts at local Australia Post outlets and, in 2018, customers will be able to view their accounts and water use online.

Check out the new website at www.busseltonwater.wa.gov.au.

Hundreds to benefit from community partnerships



(Pictured L-R): Busselton Water Chair Helen Shervington with Busselton Jets Junior Rugby Club players Seth Sadler, Shae Boyes and Elora Holmes, and Club President Donna Sadler.

Seven different community groups – including local sporting, youth and support organisations – are set to benefit from the latest round of Busselton Water's Community Partnership Program.

In the second round of the grants program, first launched in 2016, Busselton Water is investing more than \$10,000 in the local community.

"This year, the program touches all parts of the community through a broad mix of organisations from sporting groups across a range of codes and genders, a local scout group, and the elderly through the Busselton Community Hospice," said Busselton Water CEO, Chris Elliott.

Busselton Jets Junior Rugby Club President Donna Sadler said their funding will be essential in helping the club to meet Australian Rugby Union (ARU) medical and safety requirements which requires each club to have a stretcher and first aid kits available on game days or at training.

"Currently, at all home games, we employ the local St John Ambulance to provide this – but it's a costly requirement for our fledgling club," Ms Sadler said.

"Now, thanks to this funding from Busselton Water, we have the first aid equipment we need to ensure that our players, and the opposition, are well looked after in the event of an on-field incident."

2017 RECIPIENTS

- **Busselton Jets Junior Rugby Club** for first aid equipment
- **Busselton Swimming Club** for a poolside equipment cage
- **1st Cape Naturalist Scouts Group** for a new hot water unit
- **Busselton Hospice Care** to support the installation of a new water tank and pump
- **Busselton Surf Lifesaving Club** for first aid equipment and training
- **Robins Women's Hockey Club** for two junior goalie kits
- **Disabled Surfers Association South West** for catering at four surfing events

WELCOME TO THE BOARD



There have been some changes to the Busselton Water Board, with our Deputy Chair Paul Carter stepping down and current Board member Matt Walker being appointed to the role.

Chair Helen Shervington congratulated Matt on his appointment and thanked Paul for his invaluable contribution, dedication and commitment to the organisation over the past six and half years.

"Paul's willingness to commit his skills, experience and time to the governance and management of the Board and its Audit Committee over a long period is greatly appreciated," Ms Shervington said.

In 2017, the Busselton Water Board made a strong commitment to addressing gender diversity and is proud that a female candidate has been appointed to the Board.

"It's with great pleasure I welcome Christine Kershaw to the Busselton Water Board. Christine's governance, systems and finance management skills, as well as considerable local networks, relationships and connections, will make her an asset to our Board."

Current Board member Geoffery Oddy was also reappointed after serving his first term.

Understand your water charges

Busselton Water has a stepped billing system for customers – a form of tiered charges that are activated only after water use reaches a certain threshold.

Your water use is measured annually between 1 July and 30 June and is reset each year on 1 July.

Stepped billing

means that the rate you are charged for your water increases in line with your cumulative annual water consumption – so it's important to be waterwise year-round. Ultimately, if you use less water throughout the year, you'll end up paying less.

Busselton Water has six stepped charges for water use in residential properties, set each year by the State Government. From 1 July 2017, the following charges apply.

1001+ kL
\$3.04 per kL

701-1000 kL
\$2.97 per kL

501-700 kL
\$2.12 per kL

351-500 kL
\$1.60 per kL

151-350 kL
\$1.41 per kL

0-150 kL
\$1.01 per kL

All rates effective from 1 July 2017

In addition to the water usage charge, a standard residential supply charge of \$201.89 is charged in instalments and shown separately on each bill.

You can find more information on stepped bill on your Busselton Water invoice or on the Busselton Water website, www.busseltonwater.wa.gov.au.



Students inspire water conservation

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE!

To celebrate this year's National Water Week (15-21 October), school students across Busselton were asked to think about how water is a part of their everyday lives for the Busselton Water 'Canvas your Culture' art competition.

Class groups from seven primary and five high schools were provided with a blank canvas and a voucher for art supplies. They donned their creative caps and completed a one-of-a-kind art piece inspired by 2017 National Water Week theme 'Water – the Heart of our Culture'.

The theme was designed to encourage young people to explore how water shapes our everyday lives through recreational activities, the natural world and our community values.

The finished pieces are on display at Railway House (corner of Foreshore Parade and Jetty Way) until 20 October. You can visit the exhibition from 9am to 5pm, seven days a week.

You can also view the artworks on the Busselton Water Facebook page (@BusseltonWater) where you can vote for your favourite artwork. **Voting closes at 12noon on Thursday, 12 October.** The winning primary school and high school will each take home a \$500 prize.

WANTED: NEW MEMBERS

Busselton Water is calling for new members to join its Customer Advisory Group.

If you have ideas about water planning in the Busselton area and can spare a couple of days of your time each year, complete the application form on the Busselton Water website. We'd love to hear from you!

