



Press Release

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GODFREY HIRST TURNS THE TAP ON WATER RECYCLING FACILITY

Godfrey Hirst Carpets, the largest carpet manufacturer in the Southern Hemisphere, has successfully built and commissioned a \$3.5M state-of-the-art Water Recycling Facility and is now saving up to 250 million litres of water a year.

Regional and Rural Development Minister Jacinta Allan officially opened the facility during her visit to the Geelong plant today.

"The new infrastructure, supported by the Brumby Labor Government, will harvest stormwater and recycle wastewater, saving the company 250 million litres of water each year," Ms Allan said.

During the visit Godfrey Hirst Group Operations Officer, Mr. Tim Maishman thanked the State Government for their support in the form of a \$1.3 million grant and Barwon Water for their technical support and \$100,000 grant. Mr. Maishman said, "without this significant support, this project may not have been successful."

"The design and commissioning of this state-of-the-art Water Recycling Facility was the greatest opportunity to realise major reductions in water consumption at Godfrey Hirst. The incorporation of both Storm Water and Effluent Water Recycling systems in this facility not only improves the efficiency and environmental performance of the company's operations, but will assist to sustain Geelong's water supply", said Mr. Maishman.

By reprocessing 175 million litres of effluent production water along with 75 million litres of captured storm water and returning it to Class A water for reuse, the recycling facility will save 250 megalitres - the equivalent of 250 Olympic sized swimming pools per year.

The water recycling facility will also save energy and reduce waste cutting:

- energy use by 5 per cent a year (15,712 billion joules)
- trade waste discharge by up to 70 per cent a year (175 million litres)

Barwon Water Chairman Roger Lowrey said, "The project was consistent with Barwon Water's strategic goal to deliver sustainable services. This innovative project will increase water recycling and further ease demand on drinking water supplies. Barwon Water commends Godfrey Hirst on its vision and drive toward a sustainable future. It has set a benchmark for other industry and businesses".

Godfrey Hirst Carpets has previously been recognised for its water and energy saving achievements including:

- Winner of the Victorian Save Water Awards-Manufacturing Category and Overall Excellence Award 2005
- National Greenhouse Challenge Plus Program-Medium Business Category Winner
- Geelong Advertiser Business Excellence Awards-Environmental Category Winner

"The realisation of this project will further reduce Godfrey Hirst's environmental footprint and maintain its position as a leading sustainable manufacturer", Mr. Maishman said.