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**23 October 2009**

**WEST CAMDEN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GETS \$48 MILLION UPGRADE**

A \$48 million upgrade to West Camden Sewage Treatment Plant is now completed, with the plant now capable of producing up to 5 million litres of recycled water a day, NSW Minister for Water, Phil Costa announced today.

Minister Costa joined the Member for Camden, Geoff Corrigan today to tour the plant and inspect the upgrade.

“This is a \$48 million investment doubled the treatment plant’s capacity and means it can produce up to five million litres of recycled water a day,” Mr Costa said.

“This upgrade will ensure the community can continue to receive a reliable sewerage service for existing and new local homes and businesses.

“West Camden Sewage Treatment Plant can now treat 21 million litres a day, an increase of 10 million litres a day.

“This additional capacity will meet the needs of the community over the next decade, as the local population increases by an expected 20,000 to 80,000 residents.”

Minister Costa said the upgrade included a recycled water component, which had already contributed to increased water recycling in the area.

“As part of this upgrade, Sydney Water installed an 8.5-kilometre pipeline to transport recycled water to Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute,” Mr Costa said.

“The pipeline was completed last year and can supply up to 730 million litres of recycled water a year for irrigation – enough water to fill about 730 Olympic sized swimming pools.

“As well as reducing the reliance on drinking water for irrigation, recycling will also reduce the volume of wastewater and nutrients discharged into the Hawkesbury-Nepean River and decrease the amount of water taken from the river for irrigation.

“Along with dams, desalination and water efficiency, recycling is one of four key ways Sydney Water is securing the water supply for the people and businesses of Sydney, the Illawarra and the Blue Mountains.

“Greater Sydney currently recycles 27 billion litres of water a year and by 2015 recycling will meet about 12 per cent of Sydney’s water needs.

“The new desalination plant can supply up to 15 per cent of greater Sydney’s water needs and is on track to begin operating this summer, while improving water efficiency through installing devices such as water efficient taps, showerheads and washing machines, active leak detection and repair and Water Wise Rules will save up to 24 per cent of greater Sydney’s water needs in the near future.”