



Media Release

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Recycling Sydney gas pipes and water to save H₂O

An innovative new approach to deliver recycled water through what were gas pipelines will soon help boost water supply in western Sydney.

AquaNet Sydney Pty Ltd, part of the Jemena group, together with Veolia Water Australia signed an agreement this week with Sydney Water to build, own and operate the nation's first privately-owned recycled water system. Jemena Limited is the new brand name for Alinta LGA.

Under the A\$100 million AquaNet water recycling scheme, Veolia Water will construct a water recycling plant and Jemena will renew parts of its isolated (no longer used) gas main network for incorporation into a new 20 kilometre recycled water transportation system.

Jemena Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr Lim Howe Run, said the company was excited about its first major project in the recycled water market.

"A great outcome of this project is that it will generate significant water savings for Sydney residents and businesses. The recycled water will replace drinking water that would otherwise have been used for industry and irrigation purposes," Mr Lim said.

The AquaNet scheme will initially provide 4.3 billion litres per year of safe, high quality recycled water to Sydney Water to supply industrial and commercial customers in Rosehill and Smithfield by early 2011. The design also provides for the future expansion of an additional 3 billion litres per year to customers in Westmead, Parramatta, Wetherill Park, Fairfield and Liverpool.

Mr Lim said that 'recycling' existing pipeline networks will not only minimise the impact of construction, but will also provide significant economic and environmental benefits to the community.

"We are proud that the Sydney Water Corporation has given AquaNet the opportunity to leverage Jemena's diverse gas and electricity infrastructure experience to offer a unique solution to meet Sydney's water supply needs," Mr Lim said.

AquaNet and Veolia Water Australia will apply for a licence to operate the recycled water system and provide Sydney Water with recycled water under the new Water Industry Competition Act (WICA) later this year. The project heralds AquaNet's firm commitment to the future of water management in Australia.

Construction of the scheme will begin by early 2009.

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