Quality Water for Wannon

We're improving the quality of your water

We're really excited to be on the way to improving water quality for our customers in Port Fairy, Portland and Heywood.

It's part of the $52 million Quality Water for Wannon Program which is jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian governments, delivered in partnership with Wannon Water.

It will mean a lot for households, reducing bottled water and appliance maintenance costs by around $140 a year. The project will also have significant benefits for small businesses, industry and the tourism sector.

> "We will upgrade the water treatment plant at all three towns by adding reverse osmosis."



What's the project about?

Our customers experience different water quality and taste depending on their water sources. Communities paying an equivalent price for water services want equitable water quality and taste.

Although the tap water is safe to drink, many people in towns where there is a groundwater supply, such as Portland, Port Fairy and Heywood, find the taste less palatable as a result of the naturally occurring mineral salts. This leads to reduced consumption.

The Federal Government announced $26.1 million in its 2023 budget to support us in improving the water quality in those three towns as part of the Quality Water for Wannon Program (previously known as Great Tasting Water). The funding, from the National Water Grid Fund, follows years of planning and extensive community, stakeholder and government engagement.

How will the water quality be improved?

We're committed to make this happen for our communities, but we know that changing the treatment for a town's water supply is complex and needs to be done carefully.

So, we will upgrade the water treatment plant at all three towns by adding reverse osmosis. This will reduce the saltiness to levels similar to our other water supplies across the region.

What is reverse osmosis?

Reverse osmosis is a process that uses enormous amounts of pressure to force salty water through a membrane (a filter with microscopic holes). The salt molecules are generally too big to squeeze through the holes but the water molecules are small enough to pass through. This leaves most of the salt on one side of the membrane and fresh water on the other side.

What will the water taste like?

The process will reduce the saltiness to levels similar to our other water supplies across the region. It will produce high-quality drinking water that meets our strict quality requirements including standards set by the:

- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
- *Victorian Safe Drinking Water Act*
- World Health Organisation.



Community drop-in session

Our team will be in Heywood and Portland to talk to interested residents.

Drop in to see us at:

Heywood

When: Saturday April 13
Time: 9am - 12pm
Location: Heywood Bakery, 53 Edgar St

Portland

When: Friday April 12
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Location: Woolworths Portland, Percy St

When: Saturday April 13
Time: 2:30pm - 4pm
Location: Portland Library, 32 Bentinck St

When: Sunday April 14
Time: 10am - 2pm
Location: Community Market, Portland Foreshore, Bentinck St

We want your feedback

Please share your thoughts on what we need to consider when implementing the Quality Water for Wannon Program in your community.

To have your say scan the QR code below.

Have a question?

Contact our team on **1300 926 666** or visit **engage.wannonwater.com.au**

Australian Government | National Water Grid Authority | wannonWATER | Quality Water for Wannon