



## Margaret River Recycled Water Scheme

1 October 2009

The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River is seeking to pipe recycled water from the Water Corporation's sewerage treatment facility, just north of Margaret River into town to irrigate its parks, ovals, the Margaret River golf course (on Shire land) and two schools. A developer is also seeking to take some of the water and irrigate its public open spaces, which in due course will revert to Shire ownership once the subdivision is handed over to the Shire. In order to do this the Shire (not the Water Corporation) is building a pipe network from the Water Corporation's waste water treatment plant into town, where the water will be distributed to the various public open spaces. A supply agreement between the Shire and the Water Corporation will be in place to govern the arrangement between the parties.

Currently the water used to irrigate the schools and public open spaces is sourced through a pipeline from the Margaret River. The community's desire to reduce its reliance on the river for sustainability reasons has led to the recycled water project. At this point the Shire and the two schools have an informal share arrangement whereby they use a common pipe system to extract water from the river. The developer also has a pipe which extracts water from the river and this pipeline is used to irrigate public open spaces in the Riverslea subdivision and will irrigate public open space in its new Brookfield subdivision. The Riverslea subdivision has now been handed over to the Shire and the Brookfield subdivision will also eventually be handed over.

The Margaret River Golf Club is on Shire land leased to the golf club. They currently obtain water from a bore, but also see the benefits of using recycled water and wish to participate in the project.

This project will allow the return of about 169ML per year to the river. The capital costs for the new pipe line will be shared between the Shire, the developer, the Golf Club and the Department of Education and Training. The operating costs, while low, will also be apportioned between the stakeholders.

The Shire is the landowner, or will be the landowner of the developer's land under irrigation, except for the two schools which are owned by the Department of Education and Training.

