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Water-wise town showing the way

WESTERN Water, located just outside Melbourne, has won praise for its work at the Eynesbury Township development, which is located between Melton and Werribee.

Western Water won the government section of this year's national savewater! awards, which were announced in Sydney last month.

The authority provides water, sewerage and recycled water services to more than 53,000 properties.

Since 2002, it has been involved in the development of the Eynesbury Township, the first new town development in more than 100 years.

Located in an area of low rainfall, high evaporation and deep saline ground water, the township required significant foresight and planning to ensure it achieved a six-star environmental rating.

Western Water upgraded one of its recycled water plants, allowing it to supply Class A recycled water to all homes in Eynesbury.

A dual-pipe recycled water scheme was created, with the Class A recycled water supplied through a purple pipe for domestic use in toilet flushing, garden watering, car washing and even fire-fighting.

As a result, almost 60 per cent of water used by Eynesbury households is recycled.

This Class A water is also being used for irrigation of public parks and sporting facilities.

In this way, Western Water has saved more than 1500 megalitres of potable water.

Western Water is now set to expand the Eynesbury development to more than 2900 homes, with plans to connect about 20,000 lots to dual water supplies by 2030.

The land Eynesbury is now filling was once part of the



Laying it down: workers install purple piping to denote recycled water at the Eynesbury Township development.

Stoughton family's Exford Run pastoral empire, which was first established in 1841 and spanned 40,500ha at its peak.

Eynesbury today comprises more than 7285ha of mixed-use farmland that has carried up to 30,000 sheep.

The restored Eynesbury home-

stead, in Eynesbury Rd, Melton South, and now classified by the National Trust, was hand-built from local bluestone almost 150 years ago.

An array of out-buildings, also classified, include the original shearing sheds, water towers and workers' cottages.