

## This sludge is no slouch

**Australian ingenuity is behind an innovative new cogeneration facility recently opened at a recycled water plant in Melbourne's west.**



This cogeneration facility produces enough renewable energy to power Western Water's recycled water plant in Melbourne. Western Water.

Regional urban water corporation, Western Water, produces Class A recycled water from sewage at the Melton site. The new cogeneration facility will produce enough electric and thermal energy to drive the recycled water plant. Ozone-depleting methane emissions from sewage sludge treatment will be captured and burnt inside a microturbine to produce electricity. The cogeneration facility is connected to the site's existing power grid, so that the 100 per cent renewable energy can power the plant. In addition, explains Western Water's Managing Director, Mr John Wilkinson, an external heat exchanger installed alongside the microturbine will deliver heat energy for use in plant processes.

According to Mr Wilkinson, producing electricity from this renewable source will 'reduce costs and cut carbon dioxide emissions by 1800 tonnes per year – equivalent annually to taking 420 cars off the road'.

The \$2 million initiative was co-funded by the state government and Western Water, and built by Aquatec-Maxcon, an Australian water and wastewater engineering company.