

Malcolm Turnbull to Visit Sandhurst Melbourne's Only Drought Proof Suburb

The Federal Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull will receive a briefing on Melbourne's only drought proof suburb Sandhurst during an inspection of the \$1 billion privately managed suburb this morning.

The visit comes just five days before Melbourne enters into level two water restrictions banning the watering of all lawns and highlights the major advantages of recycled water for residential developments.

Mr Stephen Head, Managing Director of Links Living said, "The master planned 310 hectare golfing residential suburb commenced just five years ago at Skye in the City of Frankston has led the way in the development and showcasing of recycled water in Victoria".

"Over fifty per cent of Sandhurst is allocated to open green space, walking and cycling paths, parks, extensive wetlands and lakes, and with level two water restrictions coming next week it has now also become Victoria's most sustainable suburb".

"It is one of the major points of difference no other suburb in Victoria can guarantee its residents - a plush green environment maintained to a high standard even in a drought."

Mr Head said that with the visit and briefing of Mr Turnbull, who has national responsibility for water policies, we will be stressing the importance of Governments having a streamlined program to assist the land development industry and local government to implement recycled water programs.

"The private management of Sandhurst as a suburb is unique as it allowed us as a private organisation to make the decision to implement a recycled water strategy".

"The cost of providing recycled water adds around \$4,500 to every home which will guarantee a green urban environment and protect resident's gardens."

At this stage Sandhurst Club is using 1 million litres a day of A grade recycled water on the golf courses and public areas. Houses are due to be connected in mid 2007. When fully developed over 2 million litres of A Class recycled water a day will be used and stopped from being pumped into the ocean outfall at Gunnamatta Beach.

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