

14.0 Recommendations

The Loch Sport Water Supply study has investigated innovative, low cost water solutions for the town of Loch Sport. Many innovative schemes were considered along with a number of traditional water supply options. A detailed analysis consisting of a triple bottom line analysis and a comparative capital cost estimate were undertaken on each of the options.

In undertaking a Water Supply study, the two main elements are:

- Where does the bulk water come from, and
- Alternative Water Supply options, i.e. How is it used within the home and garden and what is the delivery method

Each of these elements was considered in isolation.

The most suitable option for bulk water supply (if required) is to establish a groundwater bore at Loch Sport. A detailed hydrological investigation would be required to determine the depth of the borefield, and therefore the most suitable aquifer for extraction as well as the likely extraction rates. As no new groundwater bore allocations can be granted in the Gippsland Region, negotiations would be required with Southern Rural Water to determine the best methodology for transferring an extraction licence to the borefield at Loch Sport. Licences could be transferred via either decommissioning all existing licences in Loch Sport, or from Gippsland Water's allocation for the Sale Town Water supply.

It is also concluded that the most suitable option for Loch Sport is to continue using rainwater as the potable water source, however provide recycled water to supply all non potable applications.

This provides several advantages including meeting government policy, providing a means for removing treated wastewater and also reducing costs to residents by shifting treatment plant costs to the wastewater scheme. It is likely that the recycled water will be augmented with groundwater to meet the required demand.

If it is deemed unacceptable by Gippsland Water, or DHS to continue to use rainwater for potable supply, then it is recommended that Gippsland Water provide Loch Sport with either:

- a low pressure reticulation network for potable use with rainwater used for all non potable applications, or
- a conventional water supply

Prior to commencing functional design of the water supply option it is recommended that:

- Gippsland Water determine their position with respect to managing an innovative water supply scheme and select a suitable water supply solution for Loch Sport
- Gippsland Water select a suitable wastewater solution for Loch Sport
- Functional design of the water and wastewater scheme are undertaken in conjunction with one another
- Consultation for the life of The Gippsland Lakes project continues with the CRG throughout the development of the project, using the same process developed