

**11:15 am Thursday 10 February 2022**

## **UPDATE: Water Corporation bushfire response and advice to affected customers in Bridgetown and Hester**

The following update and advice relates to recent bushfires in the Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes (South West)

- Water Corporation crews have maintained water supply to all bushfire-impacted areas.
- Customers are being asked to limit non-essential water use to help manage demand while temporary supply arrangements (water carting) are in place.
- Our thoughts are with those impacted by the fires. Water Corporation extends its appreciation to firefighters and all those who have worked tirelessly to protect lives and property.

### **South West – Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes**

#### **Situation:**

- Scheme water supply to all areas remains safe and secure, however, customers are asked to limit non-essential water use to help maintain supply.
- Water to Hester townsite is normally supplied from Hester Dam. Potential hazardous material contamination caused by damage to a nearby timber mill means water is not currently being drawn from Hester Dam.
- Instead, water supply to Hester has been switched to the Bridgetown Reservoir which has not been affected by the fire. Scheme drinking water supplied into Hester remains safe.
- Water quality testing is being carried out, and the dam will not be brought back online until results confirm it meets 100 per cent of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
- Water Corporation will continue to monitor Hester Dam will over the coming weeks and months to ensure water quality testing meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
- Ongoing updates will be provided to the community when information becomes available.

#### **Customer advice:**

- A customer assistance package will be available through Water Corporation. The details of this will be made available in the coming days.
- In addition to the disaster package of support, households within a 500-meter radius of the timber mill will also be eligible for up to 20,000 litres to replace water in their water tanks. This is subject to the HAZMAT team advising Water Corporation that the tanks have been cleaned in accordance with Department of Health protocols.