



CITY OF VINCENT

## **MEDIA STATEMENT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Issue Date: 25 January 2013**

### ***Sewer mining: is this the future? Vincent's groundbreaking water-saving study***

Vincent Council has awarded a contract to investigate the option of re-using the waste water component in an active sewerage system as a clean and secure water source, primarily to recharge the Hyde Park Lakes and our parks and gardens.

If the feasibility study is successful, Vincent will be one of the first Councils in the Perth metropolitan area to undertake sewer mining as a future water source. This process begins with tapping into an approved sewer line to divert the sewerage, which is then extensively treated, to produce high quality water.

Mayor Alannah MacTiernan says, "We recognise that we need an innovative long term plan; Perth's climate is getting hotter and drier which means we will need to water our green spaces more and more.

"Vincent's strong focus on green initiatives such as strategic planting, eco zoning and soil improvement, go a long way in reducing our water requirements – but if the City is going to keep expanding at the rate it has been, we need to genuinely evolve our green planning and thinking, especially with regards to water conservation," said the Mayor.

If the 10-week study is successful, Vincent could use the treated water for the recharge of Hyde Park Lakes, which have been a casualty of declining rainfall and ground water levels in recent years. Additionally, it may be used for the irrigation of Hyde Park and a clean source of water for the City's water trucks to fill up with when irrigating areas within the City by hand.

The study will also reveal whether we can transport this water to other areas within the City to water the significant green spaces and gardens that we are establishing as part of the City's extensive Greening Plan.

The Mayor says, "Hyde Park is an asset for our community, so this study will not only allow us to protect that but it may also hold the key for watering other areas of Vincent.

"The water we currently access is from a superficial aquifer – there is no guarantee that this water will even be available to us after 2017 due to the restrictions issued by the Department of Water. We may need to go into a deeper aquifer which will cost us substantially. We need a contingency for this and treating water that would otherwise just go to waste and be pumped out into the ocean is a great option.

"Sewer mining is not out of our realm and after the study, if it's a feasible option and approved by Council, we'll look at funding options to make it happen," said Mayor MacTiernan.

#### **Ends**

**AUTHORISED BY: Mayor Hon. Alannah MacTiernan**  
**ENQUIRIES: Mayor, as above. Mobile: 0478 406 494**