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## Shoalhaven Water moves into innovative electricity generation

Shoalhaven City Council will begin work as an electricity generator later this year. Shoalhaven Water, Council's water utility, will become one of the first water utilities in regional NSW to establish electricity generation from its water distribution network.

Shoalhaven Water will invest about \$277,000 to install a 50kW turbine within a water main at the Milton Water Treatment Plant.

The turbine will be installed by contractors but will be operated by Shoalhaven Water during its life. Shoalhaven Water expects that the turbine will be able to generate enough electricity to power the water treatment plant and the remainder will be sold back into the State energy grid.

Shoalhaven Water Director Carmel Krogh said the energy generation project is an exciting time for Shoalhaven Water staff.

"It is exciting to see that Shoalhaven Water is now able to move into more self sufficient energy production. We will review the electricity generation and the equipment to see if Shoalhaven Water is able to use innovative concepts to reduce its operating costs over the next decade," Ms Krogh said.

In the next decade Shoalhaven Water expects electricity costs for its operations to at least double. These costs will be added to the operating budget of the city's water distributor.

Shoalhaven Water has been working with Hydro Tasmania Consulting on the project. This project will see Shoalhaven Water show leadership in both economic and environmental means of dealing with energy use and generation. The proposed turbine will use the available water pressure from the water mains in the Porters Creek, Milton, trunk main to generate electricity.

"Shoalhaven Water is confident that the experience gained from this project will allow us to develop other power generation projects using Shoalhaven Water assets," Ms Krogh said. "But not all assets would be suitable for establishing a electricity generator, we have to ensure that we review sites that are appropriate and economically feasible."

Shoalhaven Water estimates that it will take about 13 years to recover the costs associated with purchasing, installing, and maintaining the electricity generator.

At present Shoalhaven Water is discussing concept and design details with the consultants and turbine manufacturers to establish a turbine design which will best fit the current water distribution system.

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