

Cleaning Goulburn's sewer mains using recycled water

Interflow has cleaned some of Goulburn's busiest sewer trunk mains using a specialised cleaning truck fitted with the latest in Recycler Cleaning technology and in turn has saved about two million litres of water from the town's potable supply.

Interflow's Super 2000 cleaning truck, worth nearly \$1 million, has the ability to jet clean the pipe using water from the sewer at the same time as it removes debris and silt.

At the completion of the project 3.6km of pipe was cleaned and approximately 100 tons of debris and silt was removed from the pipeline.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council's Acting Water Services Manager Marina Hollands said the mains had been cleaned without interruption to residential services.

"This particular truck has made the jobs of Council staff infinitely easier. These mains, which were installed in 1916, will be able to operate at full volume during periods of high demand," Mrs Hollands said. "Now that they've been cleaned out, there should be minimal overflow when we do have times of heavy rain. With Goulburn's usable water storage levels currently at 46.2%, this particular sewer jet truck has saved us valuable water."

Recycler and vacuum cleaning technology is particularly suited to cleaning large diameter pipelines which have high flows and high silt volumes. This technology is also increasingly being used to clean waste water pipes because the process is efficient and very environmentally friendly.

To date the typical industry practice has been to use potable/drinking water for cleaning waste water pipes because it has often been the most practical choice available. However the concept of taking water from a catchment, treating it, and then using it to clean a wastewater pipe seems somewhat illogical, inefficient and wasteful.

Recycler vacuum cleaning trucks, such as Interflow's Super 2000, are able to clean the pipe using the water that is already inside it so that there is no water wastage. These trucks are of particular benefit in areas where supply of potable water is limited or not available together, such as in regional Australian towns where the sensitivity to water conservation is often very high.



Interflow's Super 2000 Recycler Cleaning truck in operation in Chatsbury St, Goulburn, NSW.

The Super 2000 is equipped with a high performance vacuum pump which sucks the existing water from inside the pipe.

The water is then recycled through five different tanks on board the truck so that any debris and silt is collected before the water is jetted back into the main.

The process is fast. The truck has the capacity to suck up over 60 cubic metres of sewer water per minute, recycle it, collect silt and debris and return the water at a jet-cleaning pump pressure of over 2000 psi and a flow rate of over 450 litres/minute.

The silt and debris that is removed from the pipe is collected and stored in a separate tank which can be disposed of at an appropriate waste facility.



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Another benefit is that the process is fully automated and is operated above ground so there is no man entry required, making the system safer.

The concept of using wastewater to clean wastewater pipes is logical and makes good economic and environmental sense so it seems inevitable that in the future the pipe maintenance industry will be using only recycled water to clean wastewater pipes.