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### **COMMUNITY VISITORS FLOW TO DESALINATION PLANT**

More than 5000 people have flocked to the Victorian Desalination Plant (VDP) since construction finished in December 2012.

VDP operator, Watersure welcomed its 5000<sup>th</sup> visitor last Wednesday when members of the Australian Institute of Project Management toured the plant.

Plant Director, Mike Jury, said that local and wider community interest in the desalination plant has been constant even though the plant is not currently producing water.

“Since construction was completed in December 2012, group visits to site have averaged around 16 per month.

“That trend looks set to continue, with tours being fully booked through to the end of August this year,” Mr Jury said.

“It is pleasing to see the ongoing interest of the community, and our team welcomes the opportunity to provide a first-hand insight into the plant.

“Even though we are not currently producing water, there is still a lot of activity happening on site, with the team of 52 busily keeping the plant in top working order,” he said.

The site tours provide an important link for the community to access information and better understand the leading edge technology and environmental management aspects of the plant’s operation.

Visitors have the opportunity to learn about the design and operation of the plant, and to look into the main reverse osmosis building to see the scale and ingenious design of the facility. In spite of its size, the plant’s design fully integrates the built form with the landscape, making it barely visible from all public viewing points.

Watersure runs site tours for community groups or organisations that have formally pre-booked through the community contact line (1800 811 214).

And of course the VDP Ecological Reserve – the 225 ha park surrounding the plant - is open to the general public 365 days a year.

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**For further information:**

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