

Recycled Water Management Policy

Overview

At a glance

We are committed to the principles of a circular economy. Recycled water is a valuable resource which can meet customer and environmental water demands and support increased resilience of our water supply. We are committed to protecting public health and the environment through the delivery of fit-for-purpose recycled water to our customers.

To demonstrate this, we will:

- maintain a recycled water management system that is consistent with the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling to manage health and environmental risks, and any requirements relating to water recycling specified by NSW Health
- ensure that the recycled water management system is fully implemented and that all relevant activities are carried out in accordance with it, and to the satisfaction of NSW Health
- plan and operate recycled water schemes under a preventive risk management approach, given the understanding of the system from catchment to customer
- ensure there are pathways to manage excess or out of specification recycled water, including environmental discharge to waterways, meeting the requirements of the EPA
- manage and operate our recycled water assets effectively and efficiently to support the safe and reliable supply to our customers
- undertake accurate and timely reporting that supports confidence in our recycled water supplies
- ensure emergency response is planned and performed
- promote awareness of recycled water quality management amongst employees, contractors, and the community and ensure that our staff and contractors are cognisant of their role in the supply of recycled water
- engage in the development of industry regulation and guidelines, and undertake targeted research and development
- use recycled water management system outputs to inform long-term planning, given our role in integrated water cycle management and water conservation for the Greater Sydney region
- pursue improvements to recycled water management considering our customers, our regulators, and our business drivers, and to meet objectives of our Strategy and Plan.

Scope

This policy applies to all Sydney Water employees and contractors and to any person or organisation acting for or representing Sydney Water.

Objective

This policy expresses Sydney Water's strategic intent regarding recycled water management.

Roch Cheroux
Managing Director



1. Definitions

Term	Definition	Source
Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling	The document entitled Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risks (Phases 1 and 2) published by Environmental Protection and Heritage Council, the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, and the National Health and Medical Research Council or the Australian Health Ministers' Conference.	Operating Licence 2019-2023 (Extended to 2024)

2. Context

2.1 Accountabilities

Position	Accountabilities
Head of Water and Public Health	Establishment, implementation, review, and update of the Recycled Water Management Policy

2.2 Training and competencies

Position	Training or competency
All staff and contractors involved in recycled water management	Awareness of this policy

2.3 References

Document type	Title
Compliance obligations	Sydney Water Operating Licence
Policies and procedures	Recycled Water Management Manual (BMIS0260) and the policies and procedures referenced within

3. Ownership

Role	Title
Group	Governance and Assurance
Owner	Carolyn Haupt - Head of Water and Public Health
Author	Kaye Power

3.1 Change history

Version	Issue Date	Approved by	Brief description of change and consultation
1	10/03/2016	Managing Director	New policy
2	21/06/2018	Acting Managing Director	Revision consequential to the operational audit of 2016–17 made in consultation with the Recycled Water Forum
3	21/06/2021	Managing Director	Periodical review, Heads of Business consulted
4	06/09/2023	Managing Director	Periodical review, updated author and OL reference