

Bondi Water Resource Recovery Facility

Community update - June 2021

What's in a name?

You may have noticed that we're referring to the Bondi Plant as a Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) – that's because this plant is much more than just a wastewater treatment plant. It's also able to use the 'solid' elements of the wastewater and put it to good use.

We've renamed all our treatment plants because the plants do more than just treat sewage – some treat water and sewage, and others recycle water for reuse. To minimise our environmental footprint, we're also using the by-products of the treatment process to produce biosolids and even renewable energy. All of Sydney Water's 30 Wastewater Treatment Plants are now known as Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRFs). When treated, the water can be re-used for different purposes. At Bondi, we breakdown wastewater solids into biogas which we can then turn into electricity. We then use this electricity for the daily running of our operation and if we generate excess, we feed it back to the grid. Last financial year we generated 7,920 MWh and of this, exported 1,530 MWh to the grid.

Planning for the future

We're currently working on plans to upgrade many assets and systems at the Bondi facility. These plans will ensure we can continue to treat wastewater effectively while protecting our environment and community from pollution and odour.

We've established a long-term work program, with some projects starting soon, and others being investigated for the future.

Here's a quick look at the work we want to do:

Ventilation system upgrades this July

We've been upgrading our underground ventilation systems to improve the ventilation, safety and odour impacts on the community and environment.

The underground plant has two ventilation systems; a fresh air system to feed clean air into the plant and a foul air system to extract and treat air from contaminated areas.

This July, we're planning to repair and replace two major sections in the foul air ventilation system. To do this work, we need to shut down the ventilators. This means we won't be able to treat all the foul air before it's released into the atmosphere.

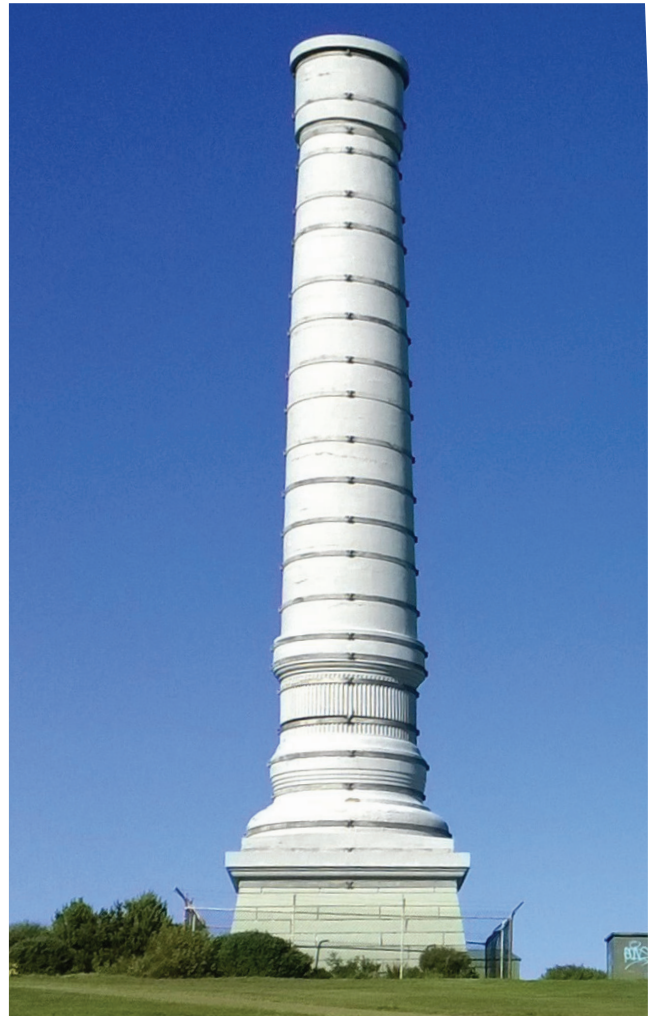
We're planning this work in winter as there is less gas concentration within the facility and less odour during the colder months.

This upgrade will start in early July and may take up to six weeks to complete. During this time, we will be running 24 hour shifts to do the upgrade work and gas and odour levels will be constantly monitored.

There may be a temporary increase in odour at the site, during this time, however, this upgrade work is essential for reducing odour impact at Bondi for years to come.

Hugh Bamford Reserve upgrade

We're planning landscaping upgrades at Hugh Bamford Reserve. This will include vegetation trimming and replanting, earth stabilising, new park seating, a look out platform at the cliff edge and a new boundary fence around the facility.



Ben Buckler Stack refurbishment

The Ben Buckler Stack is a heritage listed operating asset that is an important part of the Bondi facility. It provides underground ventilation to our staff, as well as electrical and mechanical systems which ensure the continued daily operation of the plant. We're planning a condition review to help us develop a renewal plan for this structure.

Our aim is to help preserve the heritage value of the Ben Buckler Stack, as well as making it structurally safe and able to operate at optimum levels.

Recycling pipeline condition assessment.

We have a comprehensive underground pipeline system including three recycling pipelines that help prevent spills above ground when our digester tanks are full.

These pipelines were constructed about 70 years ago and we will soon assess the condition of these pipes to help us understand what upgrades are needed to improve their operational performance. This upgrade will ensure we can continue to improve our environmental performance.

Bondi inlet works

The first stage of the sewage treatment process is to remove non-biological objects such as trash and plastic. We're planning on replacing the inlet screens at Bondi. This work will increase the reliability and capacity of these screens, which in turn will reduce the risk of pollution such as plastics, from flowing through to the ocean discharge during a storm event.

Bondi Pumping Station upgrade

We are planning a major upgrade of the Bondi Pumping Station. The station pumps primary treated water through to our deep ocean outfalls (DOOFS) about two kilometres offshore, where the water is 62 metres deep.

These pumps perform a critical role and their upgrade allows the plant to continue to effectively treat wastewater and ensure continuous quality control of the treated effluent being discharged to the ocean.

Producing biosolids

During treatment at the Bondi facility, we separate water and solids. After processing the treated water is released into the ocean. Solids are treated to reduce odours and particles that attract insects and vermin. We also remove water. Treated solids (biosolids) are used in agriculture, forestry, and rehabilitation. 100% of our biosolids are beneficially re-used, with at least 70% used in agriculture. At Bondi, we produce over 100 tons of bio-solids per week.



Bondi wastewater network - fast facts



765 km of pipes

35 pumping stations

**WRRF currently treating:
120 ML/day**

Did you know?



Sydney Water collects more than

**1.3 billion
litres of wastewater**

that's the equivalent of about **520
Olympic-sized swimming pools!**



Our WRRFs produce about

**180,000 tonnes
of biosolids per year**

and all of it is used beneficially.

Staying updated – on time, every time and paperless

We're committed to ensuring you're kept informed. If you'd like to receive email notifications about our work, please send your details to: **Delivering4Customers@sydneywater.com.au**

We take both the privacy and security of your data seriously. To find out how we use and protect your data, please refer to the *Sydney Water Privacy Policy* on our website.

We want to hear from you

There are many ways to get involved and contribute to the success of the facility. Your insights and feedback are valuable and will help us to deliver the best outcome for all involved.

Join our Community Reference Group (CRG)

As a community representative you're invited to regular meetings with our team where you will be able to provide feedback about your experiences from the facility. This will help us to identify key community issues and understand what information the community wants.

To get involved, contact

Dounnia Lahoud on **1800 006 113 option 6**

or send an email to

Delivering4Customers@sydneywater.com.au

Need to contact us on another matter?

Call our Contact Centre on 13 20 92

Something in the air? Let us know!

We're committed to reducing the impact our Bondi facility has on the community. You can help by letting us know when you experience odour issues. The information you provide, combined with our own operational data, will help us to identify possible sources of odour. We'll use this information to make improvements.

If you're experiencing odour issues you can let us know using a short online form via this QR Code. This is the quickest way to submit your experience and for us to respond.

You can also let us know when there is no odour present. This is valuable information too. We'll provide updates in the future about the feedback we've received and how it's helped us improve what we do.



Inside Bondi's pumping station

Reporting odour issues

Open the QR Code reader on your smart device.

Hold your device over the QR Code to scan it.

The form should automatically open, or prompt you to click to open the form.

