



# Picton Wastewater Scheme

## Recycled water opportunities for the Picton community

Sydney Water provides wastewater services to Picton, Tahmoor, Thirlmere, Bargo and Buxton as part of the Picton Wastewater Scheme.

Wastewater from homes and businesses is treated at the Picton Water Resource Recovery Facility to produce high quality recycled water, which is used to irrigate crops at our Picton Farm.

### Picton Water Resource Recovery Facility

As communities in the area have continued to grow, wastewater flows to the facility have increased - exceeding the capacity at our farm to reuse all the recycled water we produce.

In limited circumstances, excess recycled water can be released into Stonequarry Creek. This is controlled through an Environment Protection Licence for the Picton Facility, which is regulated by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Our current Environment Protection Licence for the Picton Facility was approved by the EPA in May 2023. The frequency and amount of recycled water that can be released must comply with conditions set by the EPA.



Recycled water is currently used to irrigate 119 hectares of crops at our 175-hectare Picton Farm.

### Planning for recycled water in the Picton area

We have been looking at alternative ways to manage the recycled water we produce. This includes upgrading the Picton Facility and expanding the Picton Wastewater Scheme.

This creates opportunities to increase the use of recycled water in the community to support a sustainable water supply for the future.

We are investigating the potential of a recycled water scheme to service properties in the Picton area and are currently assessing the feasibility of the project.

As part of our investigations, we are working closely with Wollondilly Shire Council, and engaging with local businesses and property owners.

The feedback we receive is important and will help us shape a recycled water scheme for the Picton area that supports the community, is cost-effective and protects the environment.

### Recycled water

Recycled water is water that has been used before in bathrooms, laundries, kitchens and businesses.

Most recycled water in Sydney and the Illawarra is produced at Sydney Water's Water Resource Recovery Facilities. All these facilities use multiple steps to treat wastewater so it can be safely used again. How much it's treated depends on how the recycled water can be used.

We use treatment processes like screening, biological treatment, filtering, ultraviolet radiation, chlorination and disinfection to produce high quality recycled water.

## How recycled water can be used

Recycled water is treated to a standard that is suitable and safe for its intended use.

When used properly, recycled water produced at the Picton Water Resource Recovery Facility is a valuable resource that could be used in many ways.

Homes and businesses could use recycled water for watering gardens, flushing toilets and washing cars.

Recycled water could be used for irrigating farms, parks, sports fields, golf courses and green space, as well as in industry for cooling towers, boilers, some manufacturing processes and dust suppression.

It could also be used for firefighting and some construction purposes.

The recycled water we produce is treated to a high standard, but is not for drinking.

## Benefits of recycled water

- It's a reliable alternative water supply for irrigation and industrial processes.
- Appropriate use of recycled water can reduce long term costs of maintaining sports fields, parks, golf courses and racetrack surfaces.
- Provides a reliable, alternative water source during drought periods, as it is not usually impacted by water restrictions.



Recycled water is a reliable alternative water supply for irrigating golf courses.

## Good for the environment

- Recycled water households typically use 30–40% less drinking water than other homes - helping to relieve pressure on drinking water supplies.
- Using recycled water is another way to enable greening and cooling of urban environments to help be more resilient with managing climate change.
- Recycled water provides less reliance on climate-dependent water sources, such as surface water and groundwater for irrigation, allowing these water sources to replenish and improve waterway health.

## Next steps

We will continue to work together with key stakeholders and the local community, and will provide updates as our investigations for a recycled water scheme in the Picton area progress.

### More information

To learn more about the Picton Wastewater Scheme, and our planning for recycled water in the Picton area:

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For more information about recycled water, visit [sydneywater.com.au](http://sydneywater.com.au) and search for 'recycled water'.