

Sydney WATER

June 2026

Securing our water supply Quakers Hill to Prospect

As part of planning for Greater Sydney's long-term water needs, Sydney Water is exploring purified recycled water (PRW). Together with desalination, PRW could support our dams in providing a safe, sustainable and reliable water system that is less dependent on rainfall. Our planning is guided by what matters most to our customers — safe, reliable and affordable water, now and into the future.



Drivers for change



Rainfall dependence

Today, most of our water supply in Greater Sydney relies heavily on rainfall:

- 85% comes from dams
- 15% is produced through desalination



Population growth

Greater Sydney's population is forecast to reach about 6.5 million by 2045



Climate change

Increasing heat and extreme weather can limit rainfall and challenge water reliability



Drought

Longer and more frequent dry periods limit how much water is available for Sydney to use



New industries

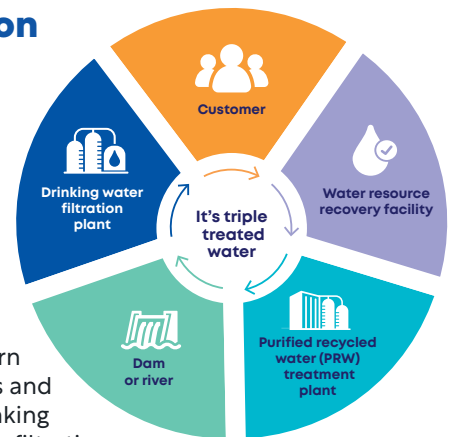
Growing demand for high volumes of supply for water intensive technology sectors

A trusted solution used worldwide

Building on its safe and successful use in major cities around the world, PRW uses proven technology to treat water to very high standards.

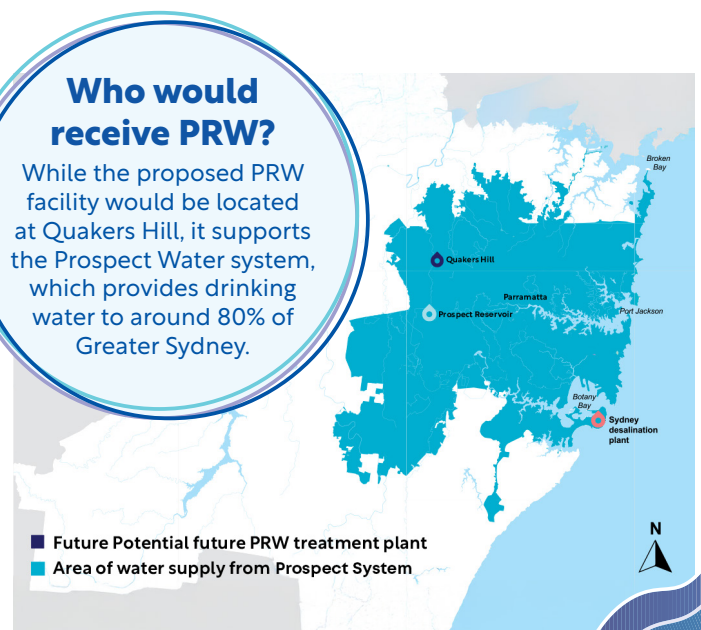
Our approach would return treated water to the rivers and dams that supply our drinking water filtration plants. Our filtration plants then process it again before use. This multi-step process ensures customers receive water that has passed through three independent treatment facilities. Discover more about the water treatment process on our project page

www.sydneywater.com.au/prwproject



Who would receive PRW?

While the proposed PRW facility would be located at Quakers Hill, it supports the Prospect Water system, which provides drinking water to around 80% of Greater Sydney.



What is purified recycled water?

PRW is water recycled from industry and homes (including from kitchens, showers and toilets) that has been purified to meet strict Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling to supplement drinking water sources such as rivers and dams. While this would be a new initiative for Greater Sydney, it is not new technology - over 35 cities worldwide already incorporate PRW into their drinking water supply. Any decision to introduce PRW would involve government approvals, community input and compliance with strict water regulations.

Project benefits

The introduction of PRW would implement an integrated and sustainable approach to our drinking water supply, delivering a wide range of benefits, including:



A cost-effective, climate resilient water source



Reduced reliance on ocean outfalls



Produces high quality water using proven technology which is already implemented around the world in over 35 cities



Reduced likelihood of severe water restrictions



Supports emerging industries by enabling the sustainable operation of water-intensive sectors

Engagement to date

Community feedback is a critical part of decision making and we have been actively engaging with local landowners, Aboriginal communities, businesses, community groups, councils and NSW Government agencies.

Since early 2024, we have received thoughtful questions and valuable insights from the community that have helped shape our planning. Many people have highlighted the importance of planning ahead and making better use of water already in the system, rather than letting it go to waste. There is also strong recognition that this proven approach, already trusted in major cities around the world, can support a growing city and help secure water for future generations. This feedback reinforces the value of proactive planning to deliver a safe, reliable and sustainable water supply for Greater Sydney.



We have delivered **48 engagement events** including pop ups and community information sessions



More than **6,000 people** have visited the PRW Discovery Centre at Quakers Hill



More than **14,600 people** across Greater Sydney have engaged with the project



Overall community sentiment is strong for this project, with **63.6% supporting PRW** and a further 31.1% remaining neutral

The Quakers Hill Water Resource Recovery Facility Advanced Treatment Upgrades

Sydney Water is planning to upgrade the Quakers Hill Water Resource Recovery Facility, which is expected to reach capacity by 2028. The upgrade will:

- support a growing community
- take pressure off the wider wastewater network
- meet updated environmental standards
- protect local waterways

We designed the upgrades to meet all regulatory and operating requirements while also supporting a wide range of future uses. These improvements would enable highly treated wastewater to contribute to long-term, sustainable water supplies, while making the best use of existing infrastructure.



What's next

We're continuing to connect with the community in a range of ways including monthly pop-ups, guided tours of the demonstration facility and ongoing conversations to answer questions about how PRW could support Greater Sydney. We're also sharing regular updates on our website so everyone can stay informed as planning continues to take shape.

To support our customers and community as we explore PRW, we are enhancing the PRW Discovery Centre at Quakers Hill.

The upgrades will give visitors the opportunity to taste purified recycled water onsite, helping build understanding, confidence and trust as we continue to explore this option together.

If you need a free interpreter, please call 13 14 50

Arabic | Italian | Chinese (Traditional) | Chinese (Simplified) | Spanish | Croatian

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم، اتصل برقم الهاتف المذكور أعلاه

Se hai bisogno di un interprete, chiama il numero sopra

如果您需要口譯員，請撥打上面列出的電話號碼如果您需要

口译员，请拨打上面列出的电话号码

Si necesita un intérprete, llame al número que figura arriba

Ako trebate prevoditelja, nazovite gornji broj

Contact us

We're here to answer your questions and seek your input on this important project.

☎ 13 20 92

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🌐 www.sydneywater.com.au/prwproject

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