



Newsletter

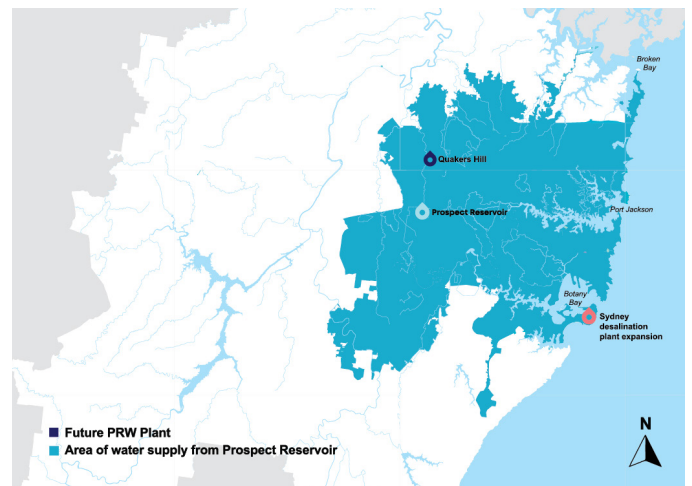
November 2024

Securing our water supply Quakers Hill to Prospect Reservoir

Greater Sydney is reliant on rainfall for water supply, with 85 per cent of our water coming from rainfall and the remaining 15 per cent from desalination. To better protect against droughts and climate change, we need more rainfall independent water sources to support population and housing growth, and to support our water future. Combined with our existing assets, purified recycled water (PRW) can help safeguard our city's water needs for future generations.

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). A number of future plants could provide up to 25 per cent of Greater Sydney's water needs by 2056 ensuring a resilient water supply. While PRW will be new for Greater Sydney, it is not new technology with 35 places around the world using it.



Project overview

Sydney Water is planning a proposed PRW scheme as a part of upgrades to our existing Quakers Hill Water Resource Recovery Facility. The scheme will allow us to use water that would otherwise be sent out to the ocean. Instead of wasting this water, we can treat it to the highest standards using ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis, ultraviolet light disinfection with advanced oxidation and finally chlorine contact disinfection. Water leaving the PRW Treatment Plant would mix with water from Warragamba Dam and other Sydney dams in Prospect Reservoir before being treated again at the Prospect Water Filtration Plant. This triple treated water would provide high quality water to meet growing demand for the future.

The project involves:

- expanding wastewater treatment capacity
- improving the quality of wastewater at Quakers Hill with advanced treatment processes
- a new Purified Recycled Water Treatment Plant
- a new pipeline to transfer PRW from Quakers Hill to Prospect Reservoir
- a new pipeline from Quakers Hill to Sydney Water's Northern Suburb Ocean Outfall Sewer (NSOOS) to transfer brine
- infrastructure to mix PRW with raw water at Prospect Reservoir.

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The project will help achieve a range of objectives for economic development, population and housing growth, water resilience and environmental protection. It supports the NSW Government vision for the Greater Sydney Water Strategy as well as initiatives for more housing across our region.

Project benefits

	1 A cost effective climate resilient water source
	2 Improved water quality for the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system
	3 High quality water using proven technology used around the world
	4 Reduced likelihood of severe water restrictions

Who will receive PRW?

PRW will be added to Prospect Reservoir to mix with dam water before being re-treated at the Prospect Water Filtration Plant, which supplies drinking water to more than 80 per cent of Greater Sydney.

Project timeline



Planning approvals

Any decision to include PRW in our water supply involves government approvals, community consultation as well as ongoing compliance with water supply regulations. All water in our network must meet the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and is continuously monitored.

If approved, PRW will become part of the water supply from 2031. We are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to be on display late 2025 for public comment. The EIS will provide detail on the economic, environmental, and social impacts and benefits of the project.

Have your say

There are a range of ways you can get involved, using the QR Code below.

- Tour at our PRW Discovery Centre
- Request a presentation or briefing
- Join us at events in person, or online
- Subscribe for e-updates
- Share your views through our survey
- Make a submission to the project team

Your input will help us improve the project planning. We will keep you informed and report on community input through our page.



Contact us

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