To accommodate growth in the area and new property connections in Bargo and Buxton, the Picton Wastewater Scheme and Water Recycling Plant are being upgraded.

Since early 2000, our Picton Wastewater Scheme has been servicing the townships of Picton, Tahmoor and Thirlmere.

The Scheme currently consists of:
- wastewater pipelines and pumping stations
- the Picton Water Recycling Plant
- high quality recycled water being used at Picton Farm and releasing surplus recycled water into the local creek and Nepean River.

**Picton Water Recycling Plant**

The Picton Water Recycling Plant treats wastewater that’s been used in homes and businesses in Picton, Tahmoor, Thirlmere, Bargo and Buxton.

Sydney Water cleans and purifies the recycled water produced from wastewater so it is safe to use again. We use processes like screening, biological treatment, clarifiers and disinfection to produce high quality recycled water.

Sydney Water produces recycled water to meet the water quality standards outlined by NSW Health and in the *Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling 2006*.

To ensure safety, the quality of recycled water is monitored at all stages of production and distribution.

**Biosolids**

The wastewater treatment process at Picton Water Recycling Plant also produces biosolids - the nutrient rich material created from treating wastewater solids. When solids are separated from wastewater during the treatment process, they go through biological treatment.

All biosolids we produce are tested at laboratories to make sure they comply with regulations to protect human health and the environment.

The NSW Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and NSW Health advise that biosolids are safe if produced and used in line with their guidelines.

**Benefits of biosolids**

- Biosolids are a good soil conditioner containing organic matter that can improve the soil structure.
- Biosolids contain plant essential nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which can improve plant growth.
- Biosolids provide an economic nutrient-rich alternative to conventional inorganic chemical fertilisers.
Picton Farm

Picton Farm, previously known as Carlton Stud, is a 175 hectare property owned by Sydney Water. Recycled water is used to irrigate 119 hectares of crops on the farm including oats, rye grass, clover, sorghum and millet. Sprinkler systems are used to irrigate the pastureland.

Biosolids produced at Picton Water Recycling Plant are a rich source of phosphorus and nitrogen and can be used to improve soil quality. After the biosolids have passed contaminant and stability testing, they are applied to pastureland at Picton Farm.

All biosolid applications are used in line with NSW EPA Environmental Guidelines: Use and Disposal of Biosolids Products (1997). Crops produced at the farm are later harvested and sold to local dairy and beef farmers.

Using recycled water in the Picton area

Recycled water can be used in many ways:

- in homes and businesses
- in industry
- to irrigate parks, farms and playing fields
- for river health.

As more recycled water is being produced at the Picton Plant, we are looking at other opportunities to use recycled water in the Picton area.

If you are a local resident and interested in using recycled water on your property, we would like to hear from you. Feedback from the local community will help us determine the future level of treatment required at Picton Water Recycling Plant.

Please call our Community Relations Team on 8849 4544 for more information.

Benefits of recycled water

- Reduces the amount of treated wastewater entering waterways.
- Is a reliable alternative water supply for irrigation.
- Provides valuable nutrients for plant growth, reducing the need for chemical fertilisers.

To know more

For more information about upgrades to the Picton Wastewater Scheme and Water Recycling Plant, please contact our Community Relations Team:

- Call: 8849 4544
- Email: picton@sydneywater.com.au