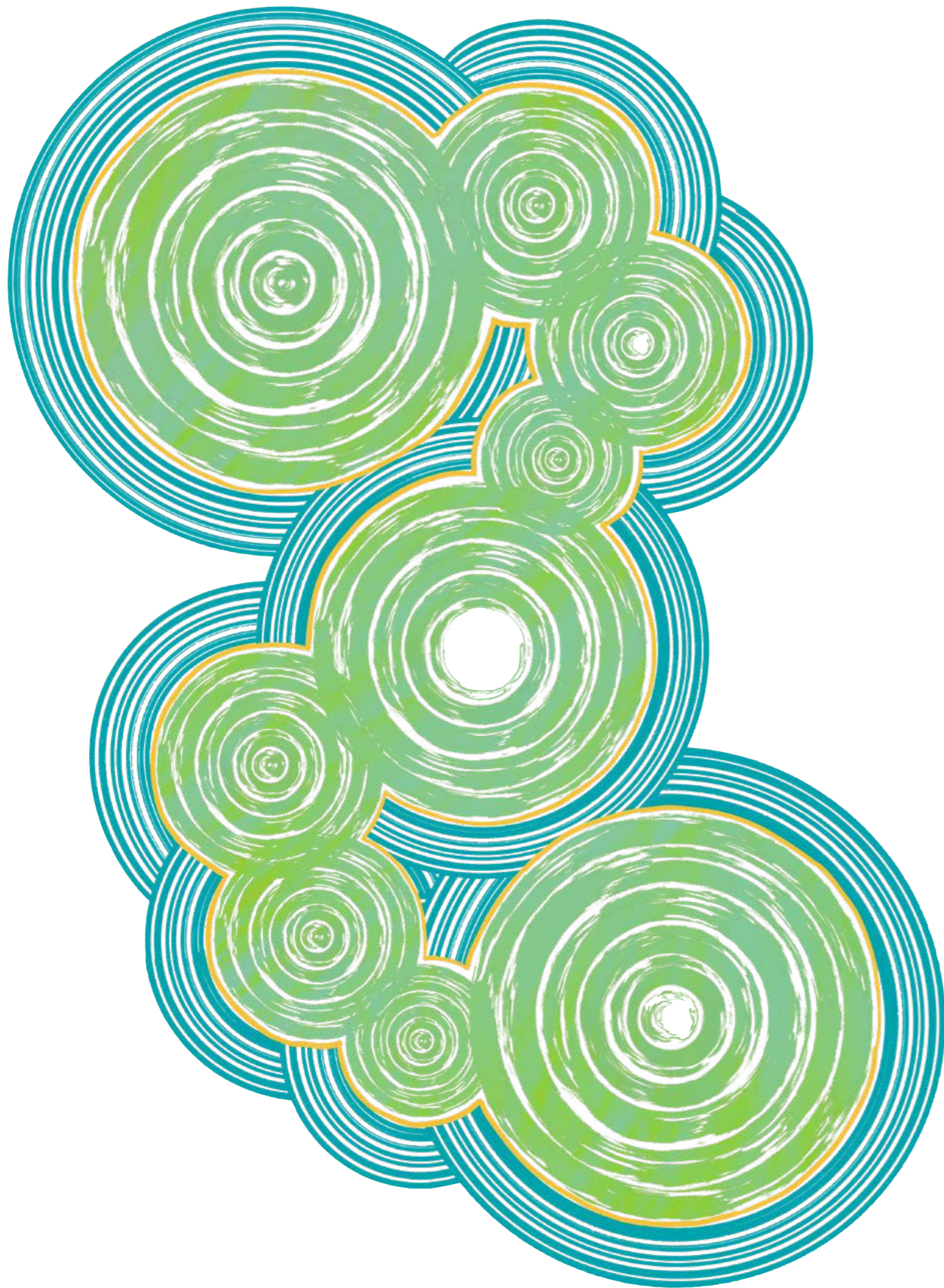




Recycled Water Performance Report 2024–25



Since creation, the Palawa have lived in Lutruwita – Tasmania. More than 2,000 generations of Aboriginal families have cared for this Country, looking after its lands, seas, skies and waterways.

In the spirit of respect and gratitude, TasWater acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as the traditional and ongoing custodians. We pay our respects to them, their culture and to elders past and present.

TasWater commits to working collaboratively and respectfully with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to protect and sustain the precious resources on this ancient land for future generations.

Year at a glance



30

Number of schemes across the state supplied with recycled water from our treatment plants



72

Number of recycled water properties across our schemes



5,042 ML

Volume of recycled water produced during the year



37

Number of treatment plants which supply recycled water into the **30 schemes**



3,504 ML

Volume used for agricultural irrigation



13

Number of treatment plants that are classified as 'full reuse', with all discharges diverted into the local recycled water scheme



888 ML

Volume used on golf course Irrigation



24

Number of treatment plants that seasonally discharge to recycled water schemes, keeping summer wastewater flows out of local waterways



650 ML

Volume remaining in storages for future irrigation



119.8 tonnes

Total nitrogen diverted to reuse and out of waterways



9.5%

Percentage of total treated wastewater produced, redirected away from waterways to recycled water schemes



27.8 tonnes

Total phosphorus diverted to reuse and out of waterways

Introduction

We're proud to share our second annual Recycled Water Performance Report, which provides an overview of our recycled water schemes and the environmental benefits they deliver – reducing wastewater discharge, conserving drinking water, and recycling nutrients.

A healthy environment is vital to a thriving Tasmania. That's why we're committed to protecting and enhancing our natural surroundings, and why one of the four key outcomes in Our Strategy is to create a healthier environment.

As Tasmania's statewide water and sewerage service provider, we have a unique connection to the environment – drawing water from rivers, lakes and aquifers, and returning treated wastewater from our sewage treatment plants (STPs) back to nature. We're focused on improving our services through sustainable practices.

This report includes performance metrics for 2024–25, outlines the regulatory framework for recycled water in Tasmania, and presents water quality data from our STPs to ensure environmental compliance.

Recycled water (also known as reuse water) is wastewater that has been treated to remove solids and pathogens. Its use brings a range of environmental benefits, including:

- reduced discharge of nutrient-rich treated wastewater to waterways
- reduced demand on drinking water and inland waterways for irrigation
- beneficial recycling of nutrients – particularly nitrogen and phosphorus – which helps reduce fertiliser use.

We supply recycled water through 30 schemes across the state. Depending on the level of treatment, recycled water is used for a variety of non-domestic purposes including irrigation of farmland, golf courses, vineyards, horticulture and nurseries.

This report summarises our annual recycled water quality performance. For more information about recycled water, please visit – <https://www.taswater.com.au/customers/businesses/recycled-water>

Legislative and regulatory instruments

Our operations are subject to a range of regulatory requirements.

State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997

Environmental Guidelines for the Use of Recycled Water in Tasmania, December 2002

Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risks, 2006

Guide to EPA Regulatory Expectation for Wastewater Management in Tasmania 2020 (EPA Tasmania, 2020)

Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994

Regulation of recycled water in Tasmania

Local councils are primarily responsible for regulating recycled water schemes in Tasmania. However, when wastewater originates from a treatment plant regulated by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the plant must obtain EPA authorisation before discharging to a recycled water scheme. The EPA, with the assistance of the Wastewater Reuse Coordinating Group, provides advice on the development of sustainable reuse schemes.

Tasmania has its own set of guidelines¹ that outline the classification and management requirements for approved recycled water uses. These guidelines recognise three quality classes – Class A, B and C.

We currently provide Class B only.

Each property receiving recycled water has an environmental management document detailing the safe and sustainable use of recycled water. We conduct regular property reviews, water quality monitoring, groundwater monitoring and annual soil analysis to ensure compliance. If the recycled water falls outside specifications, we inform the end user and respond in accordance with our management plans and procedures to protect user health and safety.

¹ Environmental Guidelines for the Use of Recycled Water in Tasmania, December 2002

Table 1: Recycled water class based on Tasmanian guidelines

Recycled water class	Mandatory treatment requirement	Mandatory quality requirement [^]
A ¹	Advanced treatment with disinfection	E. coli median < 10 organisms per 100 ml pH 5.5 – 9.0 BOD <10 mg/L Nutrient, toxicant and salinity controls
B	Secondary treatment with disinfection	E. coli Median ² < 1,000 organisms per 100 ml E. coli Maximum ³ <10,000 MPN per 100 ml pH 5.5 – 9.0 BOD < 50 mg/L Nutrient, toxicant and salinity controls
C	Secondary treatment	E. coli median < 10,000 organisms per 100 ml pH 5.5 – 9.0 BOD < 80 mg/L Nutrient, toxicant and salinity controls

Table notes:

1. Tasmanian Class A requires management methods in accordance with the National Guidelines, note in Tasmania there are only grades A-C.
2. E. coli median < 100 organisms per 100 ml in special cases
3. TasWater received approval for variation to regulatory limits for pH and E. coli

Table 2: Approved uses for our Class B recycled water

Use	Class B
Agricultural – Pasture irrigation for grazing animals ¹	✓
Agricultural – Crops which have been cooked or processed prior to sale	✓
Agriculture – Crops irrigated with drip irrigation e.g. viticulture, orchards	✓
Agriculture – Non-edible cropping e.g. plant nursery, forestry, cotton	✓
Golf courses	✓

Table notes:

1. Some restrictions and withholding periods apply



Recycled water performance summary

We supply recycled water to three multi-user schemes in the south of the state. These schemes are supplied by more than one STP and have multiple customers connected. The remaining 27 schemes are referred to as single-user schemes where one STP supplies one reuse customer.

The following tables provide the 2024-25 median data for the parameters most required to assess recycled water land use suitability.

In addition to these, we regularly test for other substances including metals, pathogen indicators, algae and cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) and per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), to monitor quality in accordance with current requirements.

This information can be used by landowners to assess suitability of recycled water for irrigation applications.

Region – South

Brighton multi-user scheme

STP	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Calcium (total) (mg/L)	Conductivity (µS/cm)	E. coli (MPN /100ml)	Magnesium (total) (mg/L)	Nitrogen (total) (mg/L)	pH (pH Units)	Phosphorus (total) (mg/L)	Potassium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium Absorption Ratio	Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)
Brighton STP	60	23	897	237	8	52	7	8	17	69	3	13
Green Point STP	19	20	725	1,615	6	42	7	6	15	63	3	17

Clarence (Coal Valley) multi-user scheme

STP	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Calcium (total) (mg/L)	Conductivity (µS/cm)	E. coli (MPN /100ml)	Magnesium (total) (mg/L)	Nitrogen (Total) (mg/L)	pH (pH Units)	Phosphorus (total) (mg/L)	Potassium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium Absorption Ratio	Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)
Cambridge STP	5	25	812	10	12	11	7	0	22	98	4	4
Duckhole Dam	11	29	848	64	28	8	8	2	15	99	3	15
Richmond STP	12	28	918	31	13	17	8	14	28	101	4	26
Rokeby STP	5	21	589	10	11	6	7	2	14	65	3	4
Rosny STP	95	30	1,238	1,363	44	35	7	4	17	128	3	7

Note: Duckhole Dam is a reuse storage lagoon only, it does not provide further treatment.

Penna multi-user scheme

STP	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Calcium (total) (mg/L)	Conductivity (µS/cm)	E. coli (MPN /100ml)	Magnesium (total) (mg/L)	Nitrogen (Total) (mg/L)	pH (pH Units)	Phosphorus (total) (mg/L)	Potassium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium Absorption Ratio	Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)
Penna RWS TP	5	22	587	127	6	6	8	6	19	70	3	6

Note: Penna RWS TP (Recycled Water Treatment Plant) further treats and stores the treated wastewater from Sorell, Midway Point and Barwicks Lagoon STPs prior to supply to customers on the Penna Scheme.

Southern single user schemes

STP	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Calcium (total) (mg/L)	Conductivity (µS/cm)	E. coli (MPN /100ml)	Magnesium (total) (mg/L)	Nitrogen (Total) (mg/L)	pH (pH Units)	Phosphorus (total) (mg/L)	Potassium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium Absorption Ratio	Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)
Bagdad STP	77	23	683	5,028	5	29	7	7	15	71	4	52
Bicheno STP	53	16	684	600	9	14	7	9	19	87	4	28
Bothwell STP	8	36	1,084	52	26	5	8	4	23	121	4	9
Cameron Bay STP	7	33	918	10	32	30	7	6	18	109	3	6
Campania STP	31	20	605	330	8	19	8	7	21	58	3	25
Collinsvale STP	6	28	490	23	6	6	8	1	12	53	2	15
Kempton STP	27	30	796	677	17	10	8	9	19	75	3	22
Oatlands STP	27	18	704	58	11	17	8	4	19	86	4	57
Swansea STP	17	29	1,285	25	24	16	8	5	19	164	5	5
Triabunna STP	31	28	1,133	180	17	24	8	8	18	136	5	46

Region – North

Northern single-user schemes

STP	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Calcium (total) (mg/L)	Conductivity (µS/cm)	E. coli (MPN) /100ml	Magnesium (total) (mg/L)	Nitrogen (Total) (mg/L)	pH (pH Units)	Phosphorus (total) (mg/L)	Potassium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium Absorption Ratio	Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)
Beaconsfield STP	12	24	442	97	6	10	7	3	8	28	1	6
Beauty Point STP	5	32	2,690	28	44	6	7	3	24	373	10	4
Bridport STP	11	14	992	10	9	13	7	8	15	130	7	33
Campbell Town STP	48	27	1,332	339	24	20	8	9	16	129	4	19
Carrick STP	9	15	543	245	18	9	8	6	9	34	1	25
Cressy STP	31	19	625	241	10	12	8	3	16	79	4	38
Evandale STP	87	24	637	5,483	8	32	8	9	19	66	3	84
Exeter STP	55	29	580	1,389	8	26	8	6	10	36	2	36
Legana STP	51	24	682	1,187	10	36	7	5	12	51	2	53
Lilydale STP	13	12	321	982	7	7	8	2	8	28	2	16
Perth STP	74	22	761	667	8	43	8	8	16	64	3	62
Scamander STP	6	17	604	81	10	9	8	8	18	83	4	10
St Marys STP	60	34	598	3,371	7	16	8	4	17	52	2	67
Stieglitz STP	24	18	874	620	9	14	8	9	23	108	5	26

Region – North West

North-West single-user schemes

STP	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Calcium (total) (mg/L)	Conductivity (µS/cm)	E. coli (MPN) /100ml	Magnesium (total) (mg/L)	Nitrogen (Total) (mg/L)	pH (pH Units)	Phosphorus (total) (mg/L)	Potassium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium (total) (mg/L)	Sodium Absorption Ratio	Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)
Cradle Valley STP	5	9	--	1	4	2	7	0	15	95	7	4
Railton STP	17	35	354	228	4	5	9	3	9	22	1	44
Smithton (Pelican Point) STP	73	16	2,118	547	17	43	9	15	145	336	13	141



Our commitment to recycled water

Expanding recycled water use is a key part of our approach to protecting Tasmania's ecosystems and supporting agricultural resilience. By increasing recycled water, we reduce the volume of nutrient-rich water entering waterways – helping to preserve aquatic environments and keep more water within natural systems.

Recycled water also plays a vital role in agriculture and industrial use, offering a reliable and cost-effective alternative that helps mitigate the effects of water scarcity.

We are committed to increasing recycled water supply to cover 100 per cent of flows by 2050. If you're exploring a future recycled water initiative or partnership, we'd love to hear from you – please get in touch [here](#).





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