

Appendix J

Recycled Water Policy

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“Western Water is committed to responsible, sustainable and integrated management of all water resources in order to preserve water supplies for future generations.

“Western Water will manage its recycled water as a key strategic element of our water resource assets, and beneficially use our recycled water supplies as an efficient, safe, and responsible alternative for suitable non-drinking purposes.”

Recycled Water Principles

Western Water will be **Responsible** in its management of recycled water by:

- ensuring that risks are made explicit, are understood, managed and accepted by the most appropriate stakeholders
- educating and informing stakeholders of shared risks and responsibilities
- maintaining and enforcing the Trade Waste Policy to protect the quality of recycled water produced
- actively pursuing HACCP accreditation for all recycled water plants
- working with Western Water teams, community, customers, governments and regulators to ensure schemes are planned, constructed, operated, and recycled water is used, at all times, consistent with best practice guidelines
- keeping abreast of latest technologies, research and initiatives in this area.

Western Water will be **Sustainable** in its recycled water activities by:

- aiming to recognise and capture the full economic value of recycled water over the long term
- actively seeking full cost recovery principles applying to all sources of water
- adopting pricing structures that reflect different grades of recycled water quality, costs of supply, seasonal demand and service levels in relation to other forms of supply
- exploring Public Private and regional scale Partnerships in line with government policy
- assessing all proposed schemes and initiatives consistent with long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability criteria
- reporting regularly to stakeholders on the activities of the recycled water business, including separately reporting costs and revenues so that commercial viability or subsidies are transparent
- investigating water trading and substitution opportunities

Western Water will Integrate recycled water supplies by:

- encouraging and promoting integrated water management solutions

- working closely with all levels of government and other stakeholders to implement smart water sensitive urban design solutions from subdivisional level (e.g. Eynesbury Township) to local, site specific initiatives
- working closely with private sector interests and other stakeholders to secure government grant funds and subsidies for innovative integrated water management projects
- developing markets as new sources or increased volumes of recycled water become available from each Recycled Water Plant (RWP)
- conducting detailed investigations on options (for example, sewer mining from Caroline Springs) to provide additional sources of recycled water supplies
- continuing to substitute recycled water supplies for potable water where appropriate,
- aiming for 100 per cent beneficial use of recycled water supplies.