

Sydney WATER



Planning for the future

Sydney Water has been providing world-class water services to Greater Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the Illawarra for 135 years, but with climate change and an increased demand on our services we need to think about water differently.

We are planning for the future and exploring a range of water supply options that don't rely on rainfall.

Our plans are based on best practice water management. We're considering all water supply options including purified recycled water (PRW) and desalination to supplement our drinking water supply. Increasing water efficiency, stormwater harvesting and water recycling for non-drinking purposes contribute to the comprehensive plan to improve the long-term resilience and reliability of one of our most precious resources.

What is purified recycled water?

Purified recycled water 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).

After first being treated at the Quakers Hill Water Resource Recovery Facility, recycled water is piped to the Discovery Centre where it undergoes three additional treatment processes (Ultrafiltration, Reverse Osmosis and Advanced Oxidation).

Lastly, as we do for our drinking water, chlorination ensures both the water and pipes are free from any remaining microorganisms.

All of these processes ensure we produce high-quality water that meets the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling. All of our treatment processes have continuous online monitoring so we are sure that all the performance parameters are being met.



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What is Sydney Water's PRW Discovery Centre?

Our Purified Recycled Water Discovery Centre plays a vital role in helping to secure Greater Sydney's water supply for the future. The first of its kind in New South Wales, the facility demonstrates the performance and reliability of the treatment technology used to treat recycled water to a quality suitable to supplement our drinking water supply. It also helps to build community understanding and acceptance of PRW.

The facility has been designed to produce 0.5 megalitres per day, which is between five to six litres per second. It uses less than 2000kWh per day throughout operations.

A thriving, liveable and sustainable Greater Sydney

Water produced at the Purified Recycled Water Discovery Centre does not contribute to Sydney's drinking water supply. Water from the Discovery Centre will be piped back to the Quakers Hill Water Resource Recovery Facility or utilised on site for irrigation. Ultimately, it will be the water source for the local recycled water scheme for non-drinking purposes once completed.

With climate change affecting water supply, and rainfall becoming less reliable, we anticipate purified recycled water and desalination will be needed to supplement our rainfall dependant water sources. Any future decision to include purified recycled water in our supply would involve community consultation and require stringent Government approvals.



Want to experience the PRW Discovery Centre for yourself?



Scan the code

