

Wastewater Fact Sheet

Irrigation with recycled water: information guide for applicants

This guide details the information to be provided when making an application to SA Health for approval to use high quality recycled water suitable for unrestricted irrigation. It is intended for use by third parties accessing SA Health approved SA Water or local government sources of recycled water. The recycled water provider will provide you with information on the range of approved uses.

A Risk Management Plan (RMP) based on elements of the *Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling (AGWR)* should include information as follows:

Commitment to responsible use and management of recycled water quality

1. statement on responsibilities for management of the scheme (owner/operator/user) – who does what and who is the contact for DH inquiries

Assessment of the recycled water system

Site details

2. a location plan providing accurate details to locate the site
3. a scaled site plan showing:
 - o boundaries of the site and areas to be wetted by irrigation
 - o position and use of all nearby buildings, public areas and public roads
 - o type, location and capacity of the recycled water storage facilities (where applicable)
 - o location of watercourses, water bodies and other sensitive areas such as the coast, rivers, creeks, bores, drinking water supplies and storages (eg rainwater tanks)
 - o location of special use sites/facilities such as bbqs, play equipment, drinking fountains

Use of recycled water

4. the source of recycled water and its approved uses
5. proposed use of recycled water (municipal irrigation, crop irrigation, passive use/ornamental, other eg dust suppression).
6. type and proposed use of the vegetation, crop or pasture to be planted/irrigated (not required for grass or landscape irrigation)

Infrastructure

7. method of application (eg, inward throwing/large droplet/low throw sprinklers, drippers or subsurface irrigation)

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Preventative measures for recycled water management

8. OH&S precautions (eg advice to employees/users of the water on hand washing after working with recycled water and before eating, smoking etc and do not drink)
9. proposed watering hours
10. type and location of signage to be used eg “RECYCLED WATER: DO NOT DRINK”
11. precautions to minimise public access (eg locked valve boxes, tap handles removed)
12. marking of pipework and fittings (eg signage/colour coding of pipework, valves and fittings (note: existing below ground pipework will not need to be colour coded).
13. protection of drinking water supply through cross connection control and backflow prevention (eg specify type and location of backflow prevention devices and proposed auditing regime prior to commissioning and ongoing).

Operational procedures and process control

14. irrigation system maintenance and checks (eg spray irrigation function, check that water is not being delivered beyond designated irrigation areas)
15. information on automatic or manual controls (eg not watering in windy conditions, use of anemometer switching)

Management of incidents and emergencies

16. contingency plans for flooding, high rainfall periods, malfunction, spills, algal blooms (only where recycled water stored in open storage or used in ornamental or recreational water bodies), power outages or other impacts on the system

Note: This information will generally meet the requirements of SA Health. However, there may be cases where additional information is required. SA Health will advise applicants accordingly.

The AGWR can be found at: [Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risks \(Phase 1\) – November 2006](#)

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Application Fee and Forms

- An application fee applies for all applications
- Recycled water scheme application form is available at:

[Application for wastewater systems and reclaimed water reuse schemes for towns, subdivisions and communities](#)

Applications for non-metropolitan schemes should be addressed to the Wastewater Management Section, Public Health.

Applications for metropolitan schemes should be addressed to the Water Quality Section, Public Health.

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