



WESTERNPORT
WATER™

Class A



Your recycled water guide

Introducing Class A Recycled Water

Westernport Water supplies Class A recycled water to new residential developments and commercial customers on Phillip Island. Recycled water plays an important part in helping to preserve drinking water supplies and supporting future development. Class A recycled water, while not fit for drinking, is suitable for many other purposes such as flushing toilets, watering gardens, and washing cars and boats on grass areas, which helps contribute to a strong, resilient community.

What is Class A?

Class A recycled water is wastewater that has been treated to the highest quality and has the widest range of uses. The Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services follow stringent guidelines that classify recycled water based on its quality and range of uses.

Government regulation stipulates that all pipes and taps used for recycled water must be marked a distinctive **purple** colour. This ensures that the community can easily recognise and identify recycled water sources and use recycled water appropriately.

The benefits of recycled water...



Recycled water is not subject to drinking water restrictions and can be freely used to maintain gardens, lawns, as well as wash cars and boats.



Recycled water is not subject to Permanent Water Saving Rules which makes it very valuable, especially during times of severe drought and low rainfall.



Using recycled water helps reduce the amount of wastewater discharged to the ocean and preserves our precious drinking water supplies.

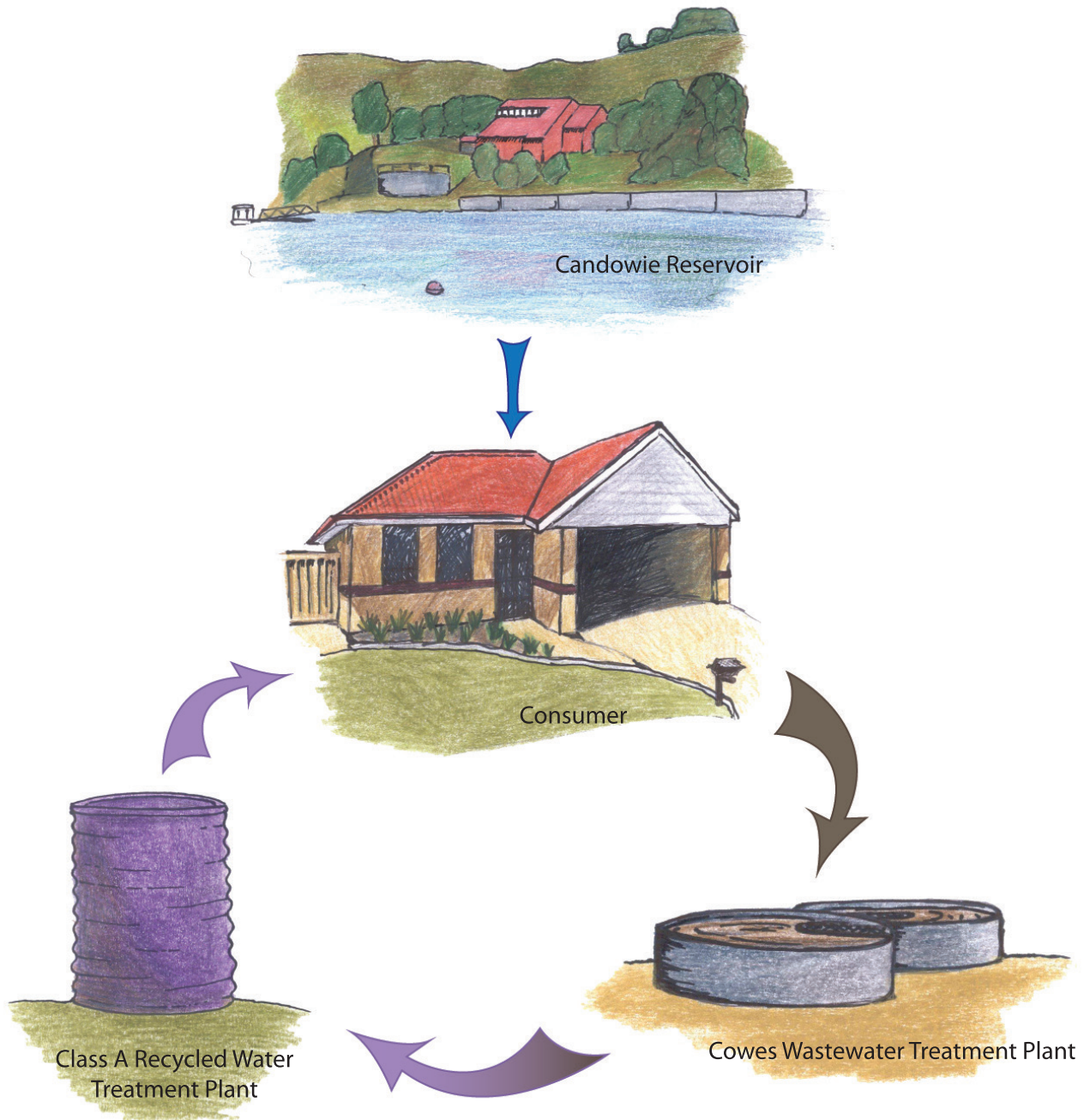


Increases the security of Westernport Water's local drinking water supplies by using recycled water for purposes that don't require a drinking water standard.



Alternative
water supplies
support
resilient
and liveable
communities

The recycled water process



Recycled water in your home

Your house will have 'dual reticulation', which means you have two separate water pipe networks and water meters. One network supplies drinking water, while the other supplies Class A recycled water.

Recycled water pipes and fittings will look very similar to your normal plumbing fittings. However, all taps and fittings with recycled water are coloured purple for easy identification.

All plumbing installation work on your property must be performed by a licensed plumber. Westernport Water is only responsible for installation of the meter and all pipes and systems up to the meter. However, Westernport Water will inspect the plumbing work of the recycled water service during property development, ensuring the safe delivery of recycled water to your home.

Recycled water will be connected to your toilet, front and back garden taps, and it is recommended to be used for garden irrigation systems.



Dual pipe meter setup

Recycled water use

Recycled water is ideal for a number of applications that would normally use valuable drinking water. By substituting with recycled water where appropriate, we conserve drinking water supplies and are able to provide an alternative water source in periods of low rainfall and high consumption.

Recycled water can be used to flush toilets, water gardens (including vegetables and fruit trees), wash vehicles on grass, external cleaning and maintenance, fire fighting, irrigating public parks and sports grounds, filling ornamental ponds and water features.

Additionally, because recycled water is not subject to Permanent Water Saving Rules, it can be used to maintain gardens during times of drought or periods of low rainfall.

Can you drink recycled water?

Recycled water **MUST NOT BE CONSUMED**. Despite its high quality, recycled water is not suitable for personal use such as bathing, cooking and drinking. If you accidentally drink it, there is no need to panic. The likelihood of getting sick is extremely low, however, if this occurs please let Westernport Water know. If there are signs of illness, please seek medical advice.



**A 'DO NOT
DRINK'** notice
must be fixed
to all
recycled water
taps located
outdoors

Your guide to using recycled water

Recycled water can be used for a number of applications, as shown below. Please use this quick reference guide to discuss the safe uses with your family and friends.

DOs



Washing cars on grassed areas



Flushing toilets



Watering vegetable gardens and fruit trees



Watering lawns and open grassed areas



Filling ornamental ponds and water features



Fighting fires

DON'Ts



Drinking



Cooking or food preparation



Bathing or showering



Filling pools or spas



Filling children's water toys

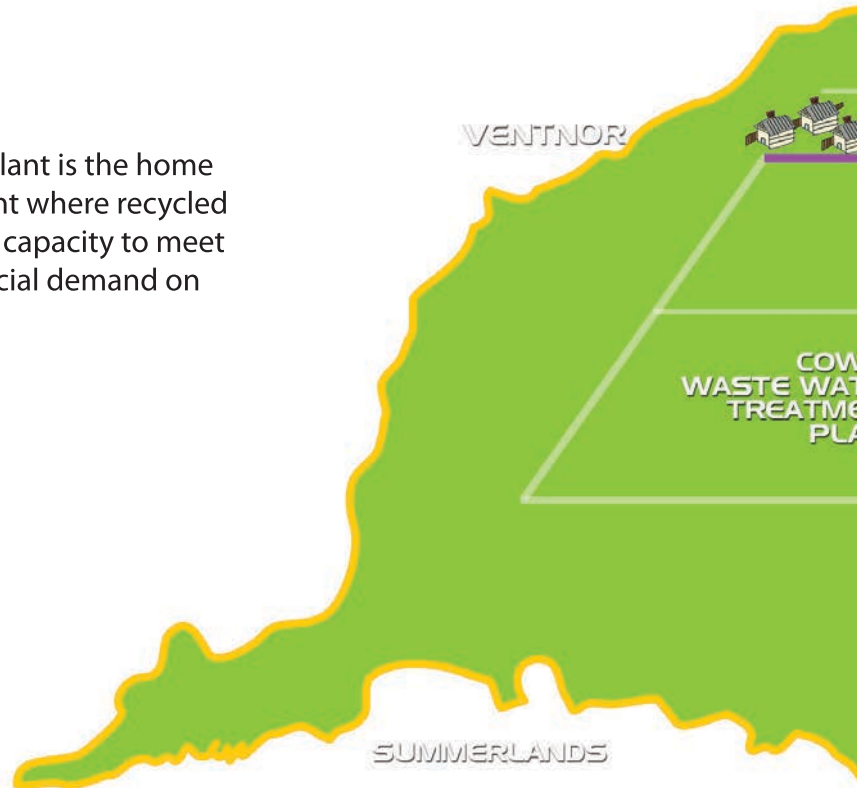
Recycled water on Phillip Island

Treatment

The Cowes Wastewater Treatment Plant is the home of our Recycled Water Treatment Plant where recycled water is produced. The plant has the capacity to meet the future residential and commercial demand on Phillip Island.

About recycled water on Phillip Island

Recycled water has been available and used at the Golf Club on Phillip Island and on sports ovals for many years. Class A recycled water was first made available to residential and agricultural customers in August 2012.



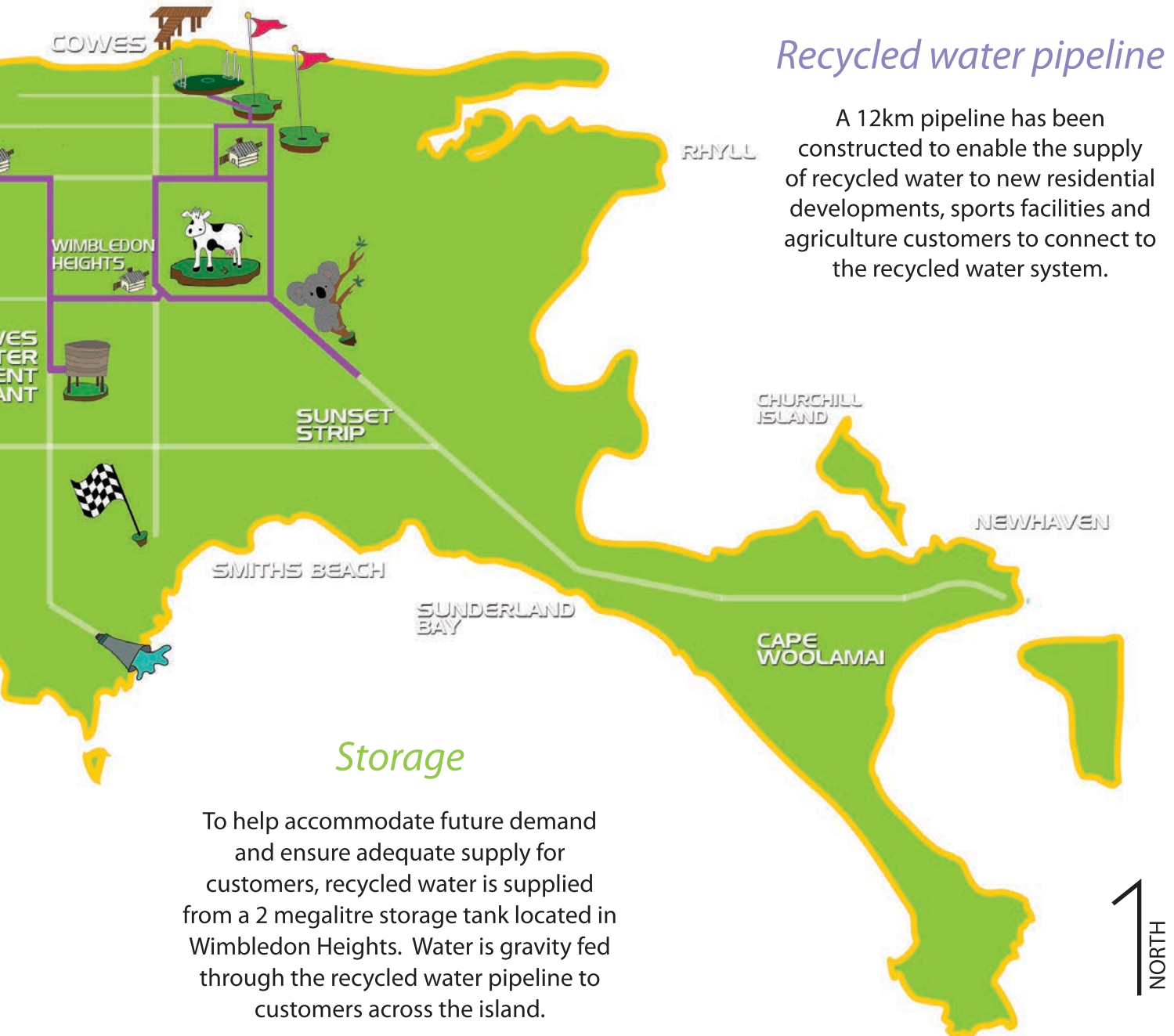
Recycled water fact

The Recycled Water Treatment Plant has the capacity to produce 340ML per year and with its modular design can be easily upgraded to produce 640ML per year to meet future demands.

Please note: Map not drawn to scale

Recycled water pipeline

A 12km pipeline has been constructed to enable the supply of recycled water to new residential developments, sports facilities and agriculture customers to connect to the recycled water system.



Is recycled water safe for farming and agriculture?

Yes, as long as it is used as intended, it is safe for a wide range of applications. Recycled water is subject to an array of quality testing to ensure that it is fit for its intended use.

Farming and agriculture

Food production, animal care, crop or fodder irrigation, shed and stockyard wash down are all common uses for recycled water, but these must be managed in accordance with Customer Site Management Plans (CSMPs).

Customer Site Management Plans

CSMPs are to be developed by the commercial customer with support from Westernport Water to ensure the health and safety of people, animals and the environment.

Information on CSMPs

It is the responsibility of the commercial customer that recycled water is used in accordance with their CSMP. It is the responsibility of Westernport Water to ensure CSMPs are adhered to and that the quality of the recycled water is maintained to the levels suitable for these purposes.

An information kit can be collected from Westernport Water that contains information on CSMPs, including a checklist to ensure customers have included all the relevant information and a Usage Agreement to be signed by the customer.

Recycled water is a renewable resource, and can provide agricultural users with increased productivity from valuable nutrients, which reduces fertiliser requirements. Recycled water, as it is, is not subject to water restrictions during periods of drought, providing peace of mind for farmers.

Commercial and agricultural uses

Supporting sustainable productive agriculture, recycled water offers a reliable water supply that can be used for a variety of non-domestic applications including:

- 💧 Irrigation and pasture management
- 💧 Food production
- 💧 Animal care
- 💧 Water features
- 💧 Outdoor cleaning and maintenance
- 💧 Fire fighting

Managing nutrients

Nutrient levels in recycled water may reduce the need to fertilise flower and vegetable crops, as well as pastures for producing animal feed. However, management of nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorus) is necessary to maintain and improve the productive capacity of receiving lands. Recycled water is not recommended for hydroponic production and pigs **must not** drink or be exposed to pasture irrigated with recycled water.





Recycled
water is a
great source
of nutrients
for your
veggie patch



*Phillip Island
Community Orchard*

Green living

Phillip Island holds a unique place in Australia's landscape, featuring a wide range of native flora and world renowned natural attractions. By using recycled water, we aim to build a more resilient and liveable community with a greater ability to sustain green open spaces, sporting ovals, maintain tourist attractions, and support environmental, social and economic outcomes.

Gardening with recycled water

Gardening with recycled water has some differences to gardening with drinking water. Recycled water is rich with nutrients and has some extra salinity, which means you will need less or no fertiliser. Keep an eye out for signs like 'yellow leaves' that may indicate you need to alter how much water and fertiliser you are using on your garden. Be sure to wash home grown fruit, vegetables and herbs with drinking water before eating.

Reducing the waste

The Phillip Island Recycled Water Treatment Plant currently produces approximately 70 million litres of Class A recycled water every year. Recycled water is a valuable resource. In the past, all wastewater was disposed to the ocean. Now, every drop of recycled water used reduces the amount discharged. Recycled water can help beautify our local environment, provide water security for farmers and businesses, and at the same time create opportunities for economic development.

Water savings

Recycled water consumption on Phillip Island is estimated to save approximately 10 per cent in drinking water demand, helping to preserve our water supply and improving overall sustainability.

Checking for cross connections

Westernport Water will conduct property inspections on recycled water supply connections to ensure the safety of the wider community. These inspections simply confirm no cross connection between the recycled water and the drinking water pipework.

Cross connections can occur when drinking water is incorrectly connected to a recycled water pipe, or vice versa. As a connected customer to recycled water, *we strongly recommend that you check for cross connections on your property every 12 months*, to ensure no contamination between water supply networks has occurred. To protect all water uses, Westernport Water will carry out checks for cross connections on an ongoing basis according to risk.

Plumbers are also required to conduct checks for cross connections when carrying out any new plumbing work at your home or business.



To protect all water uses, Westernport Water will carry out checks for cross connections on an ongoing basis

How to conduct a cross connection check...

The following steps explain how to conduct a cross connection check. If you are unsure of any of these steps, please contact Westernport Water.

Step 1: Turn off drinking water meter

Turn off your drinking water service at the water meter outside your house. Keep your recycled water meter on.

Step 2: Taps inside your house

Turn on all sink, bath and shower taps inside your house (both hot and cold) one by one, and flush all toilets. Toilets should refill as normal to indicate they are correctly connected to the recycled water service. Other taps should run dry after a short time, meaning they are correctly connected to the drinking water service.

Step 3: Taps outside your house

Turn on all the taps outside your house one by one. Taps that run dry after a short time are connected to the drinking water service. Purple recycled water taps should run as normal.

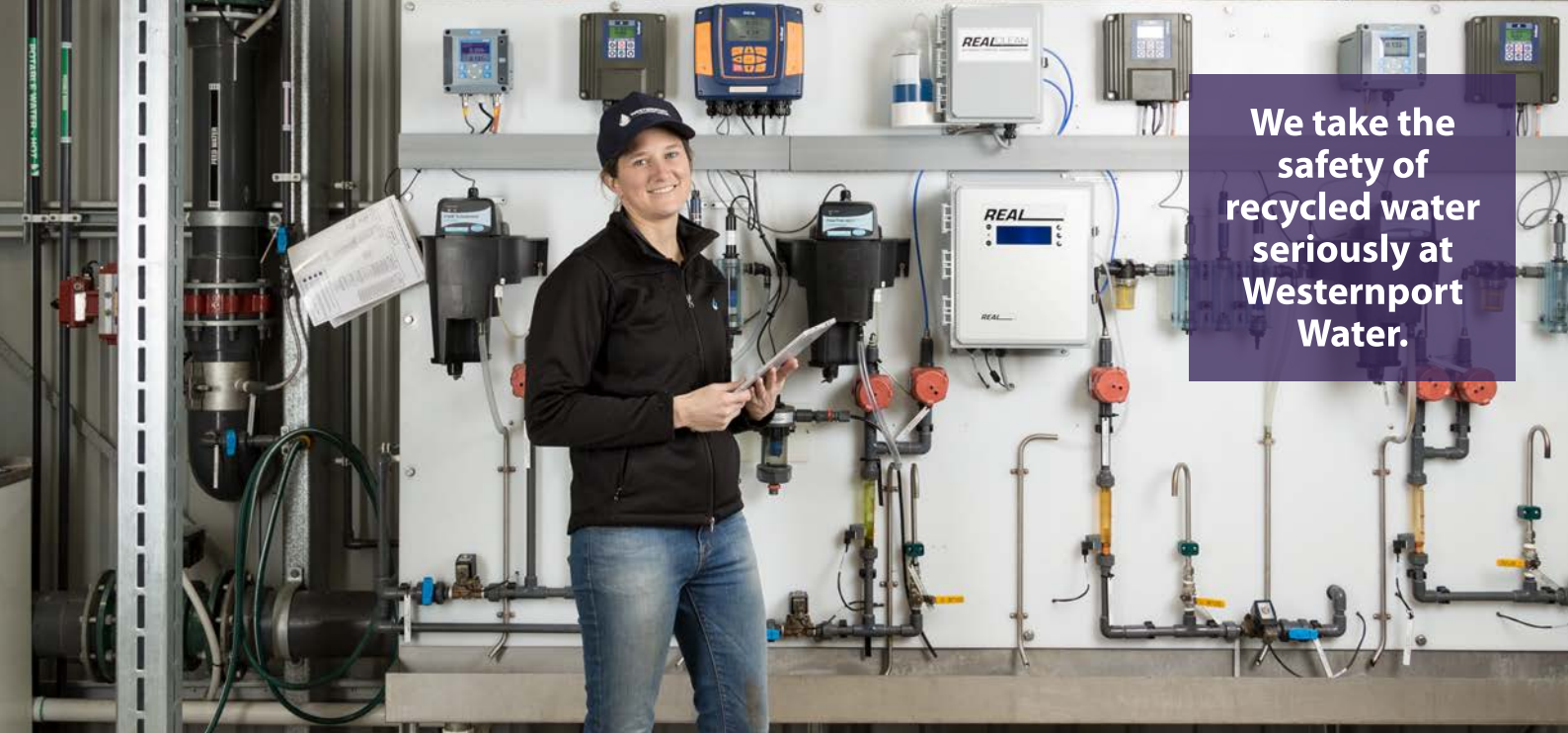
Step 4: Appliances inside your house

Do not attempt to check appliances like dishwashers and washing machines with the drinking water turned off. Turn on the drinking water service at the meter and turn off the recycled water meter, then turn on appliances to see that they fill. If not, they are incorrectly connected.

Step 5: After completing the test

Turn off all taps, then turn both your recycled water meter and drinking water meter back on. When turning taps back on inside the house, let them run for a few seconds to allow any trapped air to escape.

If a cross connection has occurred, please contact your local plumber immediately and notify Westernport Water on **1300 720 711**.



Find out more about recycled water

Recycled water has a long history of use in Australia and there are a number of sources where customers can find more information:

- 💧 Recycled Water in Australia – www.recycledwater.com.au – Recycled Water in Australia is a great beginner's guide to recycled water and contains a range of helpful information and references.
- 💧 EPA – www.epa.vic.gov.au – The Environment Protection Authority helps regulate the end uses of recycled water and provides technical details on their site.

Additionally, customers are welcome to contact our Wastewater and Sustainability Officer on 1300 720 711, or visit our website for more information.

www.westernportwater.com.au/products-services/recycled-water/

Please keep this booklet to inform your family and friends about safe use of recycled water



Printed on Recycled paper