



a new age in water management



Visualise a life where you can conserve water and then in times of drought have lush lawns, abundant gardens and always have a shiny clean car. Imagine having the confidence that the waste we produce whilst living in such a beautiful area is managed sustainably.

Wastewater reuse is the key to such an idyllic lifestyle, and Westernport Water has invested in state-of-the-art technology to deliver this collective dream of sustainable living.

In August 2012, Class A reclaimed water will be turned on, delivering a renewable supply of non-drinking water through the Phillip Island 'Purple Pipe' system for use on our gardens, toilets, parks and agriculture.

Managing Director of Westernport Water, Mr Murray Jackson says: "Turning our wastewater into a useful commodity is a large step towards caring for our environment, as well as significantly conserving our water storages. We also benefit by increasing the quality of our lifestyle."

Initially new residential developments on Phillip Island, and the recreational, commercial and agricultural industries will have the ability to utilise Class A water, with the aim to connect 1,400 customers and reuse 25% of wastewater within 3 years. Long term plans to increase the network and access across Phillip Island will also increase the demand for Class A water.

So what does Class A recycled water mean?

Water reuse is the reclaiming of wastewater that we pour down our kitchen, laundry and bathroom pipes. It is then collected and treated with advanced technology to produce water quality so safe it can be used within residential communities.

Classification and production of Class A recycled water is subject to stringent guidelines set by the Department of Health and the Environment Protection Authority.

If you would like to know more www.epa.vic.gov.au/water is a great source of information. Class A recycled water is not for human consumption.

The actual treatment process involves the initial 'clarification' or removal of solids from the wastewater, then it is chlorinated and treated using sand filters to produce what is called 'Class B' recycled water. To produce Class A recycled water, it is then 'Ultra Filtrated' – a process where it is pressure fed through various fibre filter membranes to remove any remaining particles. Finally it is subject to a disinfection process using Ultra Violet technology to kill off any pathogens remaining in the water.

Fail-safe measures are an important element of this operation. The treatment plant will shut down at any stage of the process if the water does not meet the quality specified, and then re-start from the beginning of the cycle.

The infrastructure and technology involved in the treatment of wastewater is quite extraordinary. Managing the development of the Phillip Island Recycled Water Scheme is Westernport Water's Commercial Manager Recycled Water, Mr Keith Gregory.

"We are delighted to bring a technologically innovative project to our region, benefiting our community in an economically sound; environmentally sustainable; and socially responsible manner," says Mr. Gregory.

The water security benefits for pastoral management alone are invaluable. Agricultural industries are very sensitive to climate changes, particularly rainfall, therefore being able to provide an ongoing supply of water throughout drought conditions guarantees productivity via

the ability to produce animal feed and irrigate crops year round.

Furthermore, the water produced is 100% safe to use on lawns, vegetable gardens, and fruit trees, with the additional advantage of reducing or eliminating fertiliser due to the nutrient levels in the water.

Other significant benefits include providing an ongoing water source and additional connection points to fight fires, and the ability to maintain healthy community parks and recreational reserves.

Class A recycled water decreases the demand on drinking water supply, is a renewable resource, can be utilised during drought situations with no limits on the time of day, week or season, and can provide for gardens and lawns all year round.


In summary Managing Director Murray Jackson says: "We are privileged to live in such a unique area, with coast to country landscape and native wildlife, it is why millions of visitors frequent our region every year. With modern technology and the community commitment to live in harmony with our environment, we have the ability to lead the change towards sustainable living, providing a win-win situation for all."

"We are also indebted to the Federal Government for contributing 50% of the funding for the Phillip Island Recycled Water Scheme through the Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns."

For more information about our water quality projects and initiatives, visit www.westernportwater.com.au or phone **1300 720 711**.

This project is partly funded by the Australian Government on behalf of the Commonwealth's 'Water for the future' initiative, through the Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns.

Uses for Class A water

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|  Washing cars on grassed areas |  Filling ornamental ponds & water features |
|  Watering lawns, flower gardens & open grassed areas |  Fighting fires |
|  Flushing toilets |  Watering vegetable gardens & fruit trees |

