

WAMURAN IRRIGATION SCHEME

Recycled Water Users



About Recycled Water

Rainwater, stormwater, town water, rivers, creeks and recycled water all contain a range of chemicals, including naturally occurring salts and minerals.

Queensland Health regulates the use of recycled water within set guidelines for microbiological quality, and uses the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling to ensure chemicals are at acceptable levels. This ensures the recycled water is safe for use.

PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of chemicals that could be present in recycled water. Refer to our PFAS Fact Sheet for more information about these chemicals.

Recycled water supply agreements and our [Commercial and Industrial Recycled Water Fact Sheet](#) provide information about how to manage and use recycled water. When used correctly, recycled water is safe for all approved uses including when low levels of PFAS might be present.

Managing PFAS in Australia

There are currently no Australian Guidelines for managing PFAS in recycled water. As a result, Unitywater has undertaken a detailed risk assessment for the potential for PFAS to be present in recycled water used in the Wamuran Irrigation Scheme. This additional assessment will ensure Unitywater and participating farms are managing and monitoring recycled water safely. Unitywater will roll out an ongoing monitoring program to ensure the presence of a wide range of chemicals, including PFAS, remain at acceptable levels.



The important controls that assist recycled water users:

- Only use the recycled water for approved uses
- Do not use recycled water for any other purpose – particularly drinking, washing produce, cooking, washing plant & equipment
- Develop and comply with a Unitywater-approved Farm Management Plan that outlines how recycled water will be used at a specific site. This Farm Management Plan must include:
 - ◊ approved uses at the farm including specific irrigation methods
 - ◊ where on the farm those approved uses will occur
 - ◊ rules for irrigation that will be applied to minimise exposure to people, food products and the environment: This may include implementing large size nozzles to reduce spray drift; soil moisture management to minimise over-watering, water pooling or run-off; and not using water near publicly accessible areas where recycled water is not approved for use.
 - ◊ stop-work conditions. For example, wind speeds above which irrigation will not be undertaken
 - ◊ signage advising that recycled water is in use
 - ◊ personal protective equipment requirements
 - ◊ how plumbing used for recycled water will be identified. For example, alternative coloured pipes and signs.
 - ◊ other requirements as agreed with Unitywater.
- Use recycled water only in accordance with the approved Farm Management Plan
- Ensure staff are trained in using recycled water in accordance with the Farm Management Plan.