



*Recycled water
strategy snapshot*

Acknowledgement of Country

At Unitywater, we respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters on which we live, work and operate, the Kabi Kabi, Jinibarra and Turrbal peoples.

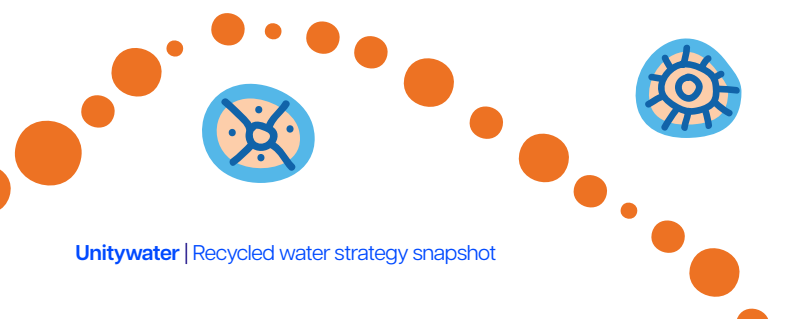
We honour the rich cultural heritage, deep spiritual connection and enduring relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with their Country, particularly their profound knowledge of and stewardship over the waterways that sustain us all.

We pay our deepest respects to Elders past and present, who hold the wisdom, traditions and stories of their people. We recognise that the waterways we rely on today have been cared for by First Nations peoples for tens of thousands of years and we acknowledge the impacts of colonisation, which have disrupted ancient and sustainable practices.

Unitywater is dedicated to promoting reconciliation and inclusion, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of First Nations peoples are heard and valued.

We strive to integrate Indigenous knowledge and practices into our operations, recognising their crucial role in protecting and sustaining our precious water resources.

Together, as One Unitywater, we will work towards building a harmonious and inclusive community, united in respect and understanding. We are committed to fostering respectful and collaborative relationships, and to learning from and working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to create a sustainable future for all.



Message from the CEO

Water belongs to all of us. It's our most precious resource.



Anna Jackson
CEO, Unitywater

Unitywater is here for healthy and thriving communities. We proudly provide safe and reliable water and wastewater services to the Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast and Noosa regions. These services are essential to life and support our communities and businesses today, while enabling regional and economic growth.

We serve one of Australia's fastest growing regions, with diverse communities, business and environmental needs, so collaboration is key. That is why we have taken a collaborative approach to creating this strategy, considering both internal and external feedback, research and analysis.

In line with our [Environmental Sustainability Plan](#), our *Recycled water strategy* is essential to achieving two key sustainability goals:

1. **Net positive blue by 2040** by maximising use of recycled water.
2. **Net zero nutrients to waterways by 2040**, contributing to waterway health, including diverting recycled water (and the nutrients within it) for beneficial use.

Unitywater is expanding beyond pipes, pumps and plants, to further embed sustainable blue and green environmental practices into our approach to doing business, and our *Recycled water strategy* will help us to achieve this.



Anna Jackson with Gavin Scurr from Piñata Farms, one of the first farms to receive water from our Wamuran Irrigation Scheme.

Our region and *recycled water*

With more climate variability in the decades ahead, recycled water can be a climate resilient, productive, year-round water source. Unitywater is committed to taking a lead role in identifying, scoping and pursuing opportunities for recycled water.

More climate resilient water sources and less pressure on water supplies

Diverse, climate-independent water sources, like recycled water are important to address water security challenges.

For example, modelling shows droughts will increase in both frequency and duration in the future, which may reduce water availability from current sources (like dams).

Liveability, green spaces and urban cooling

Green spaces are known to have a wide range of environmental and health benefits, and recycled water can be used to promote green infrastructure such as irrigation for urban parks, gardens and sports fields.

With hotter days comes increased evaporation, which requires more frequent irrigation to maintain grass. Recycled water can provide more reliable year-round water security.

Economic development

Recycled water can provide year-round water security to support and foster growth in agriculture and industry.

Our focus will be on the education of recycled water in addressing risk and uncertainty for businesses, and the long-term economic benefits that the community can expect to gain from a reliable and recycled water supply. In parallel, we will work to reduce or remove barriers and help improve uptake.

The Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling defines recycled water as:

'Water generated from sewage, greywater or stormwater systems and treated to a standard that is appropriate for its intended use'.

Within the context of this strategy, recycled water will only refer to water sourced from sewage.



Mount Coolum Golf Club uses recycled water from the Coolum Wastewater Treatment Plant on its course.

Our *Recycled water strategy* is built around five key themes and 13 objectives to increase recycled water use and reduce nutrient discharges to waterways.

Between 2025 and 2040, we will deliver measurable actions to achieve our net positive blue and net zero nutrients to waterways by 2040 goals.

These include working with councils to identify precincts that could benefit from recycled water, monitoring and supporting research that contributes towards a circular economy and developing a framework that assists with the assessment of recycled water opportunities, taking into account environmental, social, cultural and economic objectives.



Wamuran Irrigation Scheme

We're committed to maximising the productive use of recycled water and have taken the first steps through our Wamuran Irrigation Scheme. Our scheme treats wastewater to a Class A standard and delivers it to farmers in the Wamuran area, helping to secure their water supply now and into the future.

The scheme also reduces effluent and nutrient volumes being discharged into the Caboolture River, helping us to deliver on our net zero nutrients to waterways commitment, it's an example of how we can value every drop and harness the full potential of water resources in a more circular way.

Class A recycled water is used for food crops like strawberries, raspberries and pineapples.

What's next

Establish a recycled water strategy steering group

This group will continue the ongoing engagement with councils and industry, deliver actions, gather insights and understand lessons learnt.

Develop a five-year action plan

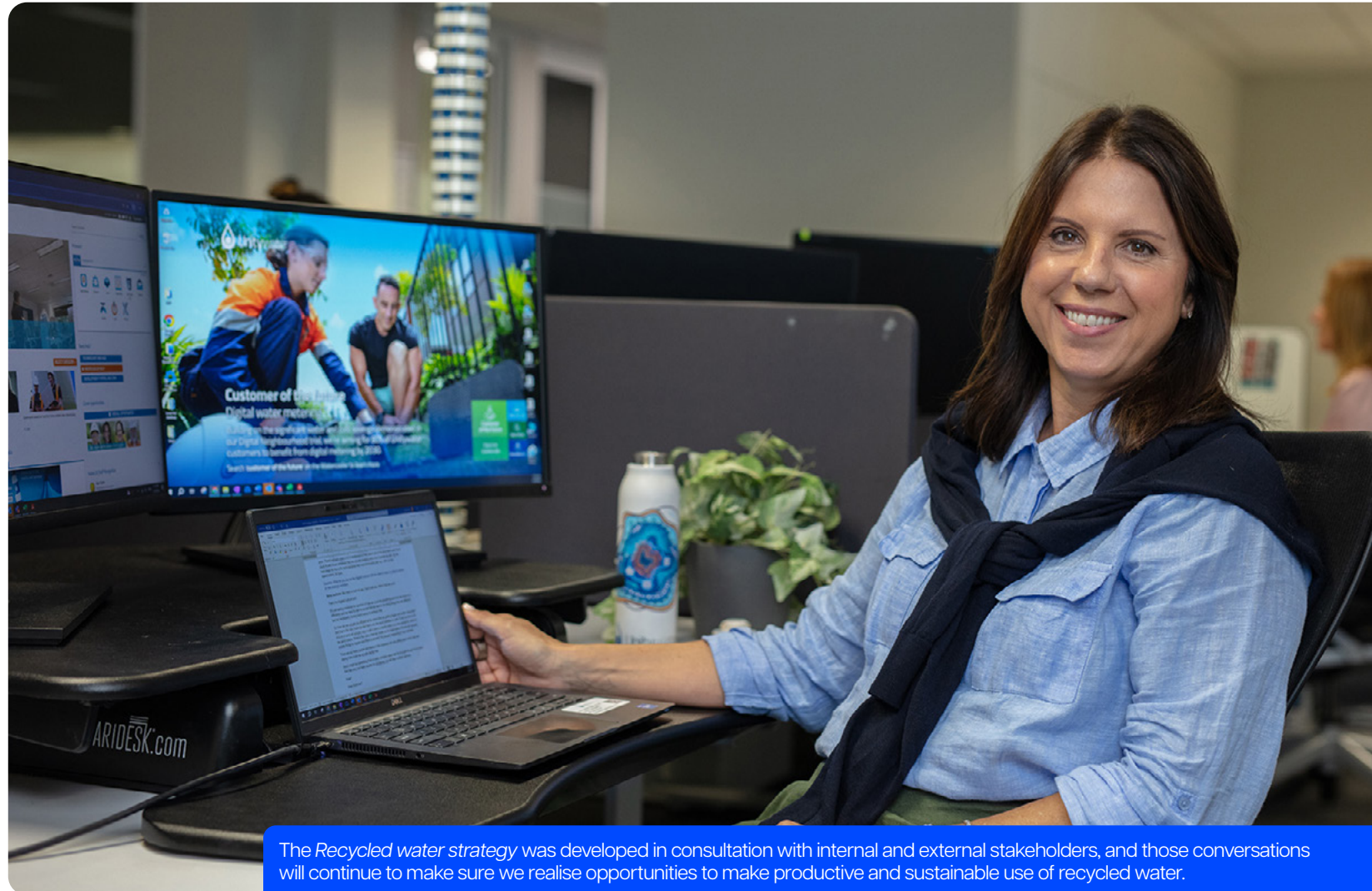
We will prioritise projects, and allocate responsibilities and timelines.

Scope and implement

Scope precincts for use of recycled water and areas for further irrigation schemes, to ensure our new frameworks cover all aspects before full implementation.

Review

We will review our *Recycled water strategy* every five years, or if conditions trigger the need for review sooner.



The *Recycled water strategy* was developed in consultation with internal and external stakeholders, and those conversations will continue to make sure we realise opportunities to make productive and sustainable use of recycled water.



For more information on recycled water visit
unitywater.com/business/recycled-water

