



Reclaimed Water

Reclaimed water is treated wastewater available for reuse from our wastewater treatment plants. This water is a valuable resource to our region and can provide social, economic and environmental benefits. We are continually investigating ways to conserve water through the use of reclaimed water. The reclaimed water provides economic benefits to industry and social benefits to the community through the enhancement of facilities. Reclaimed water enhances the environment by reducing demand on freshwater and preventing wastewater from entering our waterways.

Reclaimed water that is treated according to Environment Protection Authority Victoria guidelines can be used in a range of agricultural and urban applications. We generally treat wastewater to a 'Class C' level, which permits the use on:

- > Urban areas that has restricted public access during irrigation;
- > Agricultural uses for human food crops that are cooked or processed;
- > Agricultural uses for grazing or as fodder for livestock;
- > Industrial uses for systems with no potential worker exposure.

We have implemented numerous reclaimed water schemes across the region. These schemes mean that no discharge of wastewater to local waterways is required.

***The use of reclaimed
water is a win-win
situation for everyone***

Reclaimed water schemes include:

Ararat

Ararat Lawn Tennis Club, Ararat Turf Club, Ararat Secondary College, Montara Winery, Chalambar Golf Club, Alexandra Oval, Gardens, Croquet Club

Horsham

Horsham Golf Club, Horsham Rifle Club, Leasehold farming, Department of Primary Industries - Plant Breeding Centre

Stawell

Wimmera Racing Club, Stawell Golf Club, Woodlot, Concongella Vineyard

Birchip - Leasehold farming

Charlton - Woodlot

Dimboola - Leasehold farming

Donald - Woodlot

Edenhope

Edenhope Golf Club, Leasehold farming, Edenhope Football Club

Great Western - Vignerons and olive growers

Halls Gap - Halls Gap Golf Club, Leasehold farming

Murtoa - Leasehold farming

Nhill - Farming

St Arnaud

St Arnaud Cemetery, Leasehold farming, Lord Nelson Park, St Arnaud Lawn Tennis Club

Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal Golf Club, Warracknabeal Racing Club

Reclaimed water is often stored in the winter and then used during the dry summer and autumn months when other water sources are scarce, allowing for better planning of water use. A reliable source of water allows development of projects with economic benefit to the community.

Reclaimed water has a positive effect on the environment by eliminating the discharge of treated wastewater into natural waterways. In the past, water corporations were licensed to discharge treated wastewater to local waterways, including rivers, lakes or the sea. The nutrients in the treated wastewater may promote rapid plant and algal growth. The rapid growth exhausts the nutrients and leads to loss of oxygen from the water, causing the death of water animals. Blue-green algal blooms may release toxins in the water which can cause skin irritations or affect stock health.

By using reclaimed water for irrigation purposes, nutrients and salts from the treatment of human and industrial wastes are no longer being added to waterways. This is contributing to healthier environments.

There is a consequent reduction in the amount of water that is needed from diversion of rivers when reclaimed water can be substituted for fresh water in towns. This provides immeasurable environmental benefits for river water quality while still maintaining economic and social development in the region.

We work with communities to determine the most effective way to use reclaimed water. The benefits have ranged from improved local facilities to industrial developments that benefit the local economy.

Useful resources:

www.gwmwater.org.au

Our website contains further information on reclaimed water.

www.epa.vic.gov.au/water/reuse

The Environment Protection Authority provides information on recommended systems for treatment and use of wastewater.

Handbook for Irrigation

A handbook for Irrigation with Water Recycled from Wastewater in the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Region, Victoria is available. To obtain a copy of the handbook please call our Customer Contact Centre on 1300 659 961.

Below: Vineyards and golf courses are among those that benefit from reclaimed water from our wastewater treatment plants

