



Recycled water in Googong



A guide to everything
you need to know about
recycled water in Googong

“ The ‘purple pipe’ network will help to drought-proof Googong by providing recycled water for public green spaces, residential lawns and gardens, and flushing of toilets. ”





Recycled water in Googong

Recycled water is available to all Googong houses, schools and businesses from 1 December 2020. It will be delivered to your houses through the purple pipes and taps.

This booklet provides tips on how you can use recycled water in your day-to-day life and things to be aware of.

Is it safe?

The Googong Water Recycling Plant is operated, monitored and maintained by Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC).

Our recycled water is treated to a high standard and there is a low risk of any negative health effects from approved uses. Therefore it's very important that you, your family and any visitors understand the difference between potable water (drinking water) and non-potable water, which should only be used for particular purposes.

If you get recycled water on you, rinse with potable water (drinking water) and use standard hygiene practices such as washing your hands with soap before eating. If you accidentally use recycled water for an unapproved use, such as drinking, contact QPRC.

What you **CAN** use recycled water for:

	Flushing toilets
	Watering lawns and gardens
	Washing cars, brickworks and windows
	Fighting fires
	Watering your fruit and vegetable gardens <i>* As a safeguard, ensure that all fruit and vegetables watered with recycled water are washed with potable water prior to eating</i>
	Watering sportsfields and parks

What you **CAN'T** use recycled water for:

	Drinking
	Cooking and other kitchen uses
	Bathing (bath, showers, hand basins)
	Filling pools and spas
	Cooling systems
	Hot water systems
	Playing (sprinklers, filling water toys)
	Household cleaning, including washing machines

How you can prepare for recycled (non-drinking) water

Check that:

- Your recycled water and drinking water plumbing are not connected. Go to page 14 to learn how to do a cross-connection check.
- Your outside recycled water irrigation taps have removable handles.
- Your recycled water taps have the appropriate signage. See examples on page 14.
- Everyone in your household knows how to use recycled water safely.

What you need to do when recycled (non-drinking) water is available

- Remove your outside recycled water tap handles when not in use.
- Regularly check that your recycled water taps have signage.
- Ensure your visitors know how to use recycled water.
- Use a licensed plumber with a Backflow Accreditation for all future plumbing work.
- After any building works, employ a plumber to conduct a test of your non-drinking water system.
- Once a year, do a cross-connection check on your house. See page 14.

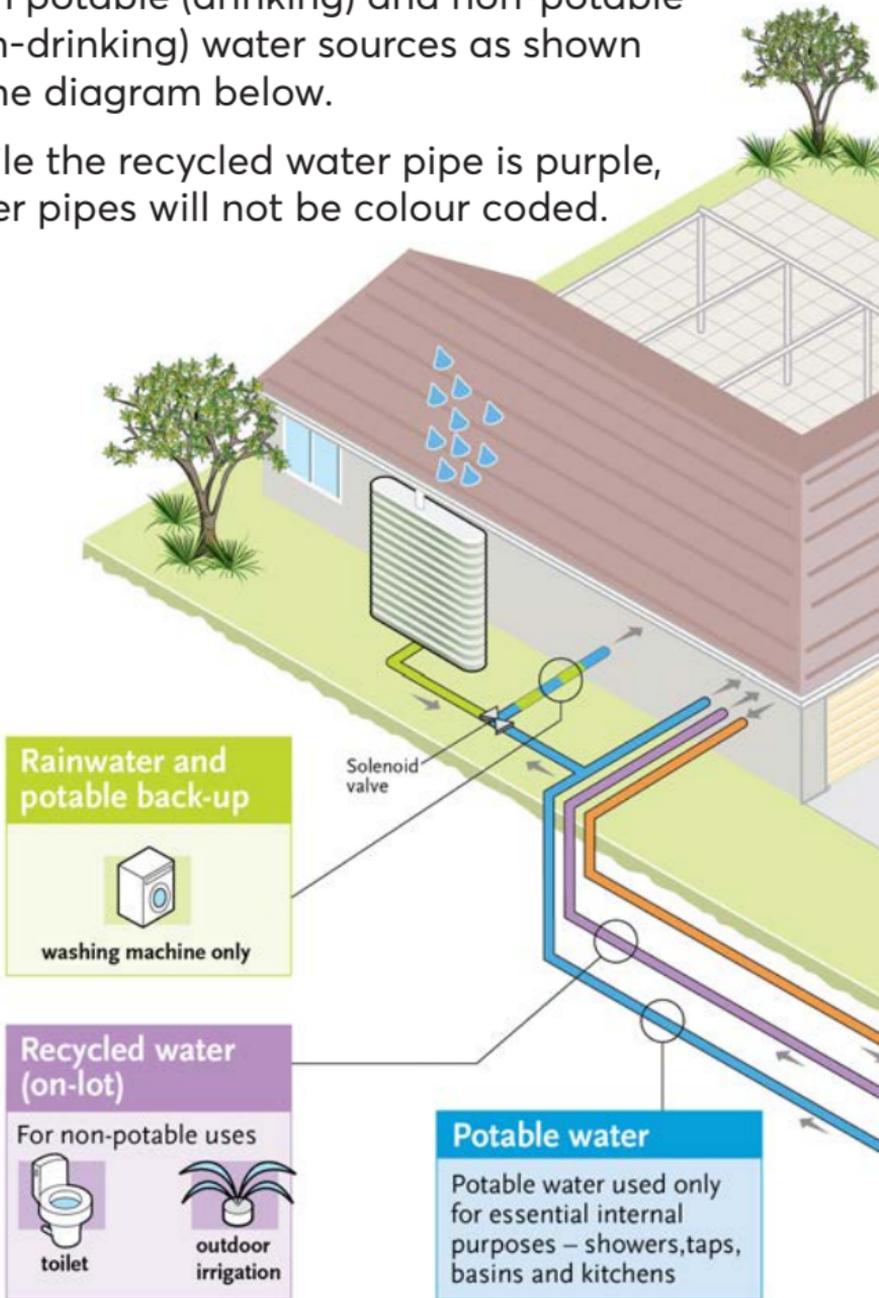
Integrated Water Cycle System and your home

Homes, streetscapes and parklands at Goongong are all part of the township's Integrated Water Cycle (IWC) system.

Each water source - rainwater, recycled water, stormwater, wastewater and drinking water - is effectively used or reused for its own unique purpose.

Your home and/or business has access to both potable (drinking) and non-potable (non-drinking) water sources as shown in the diagram below.

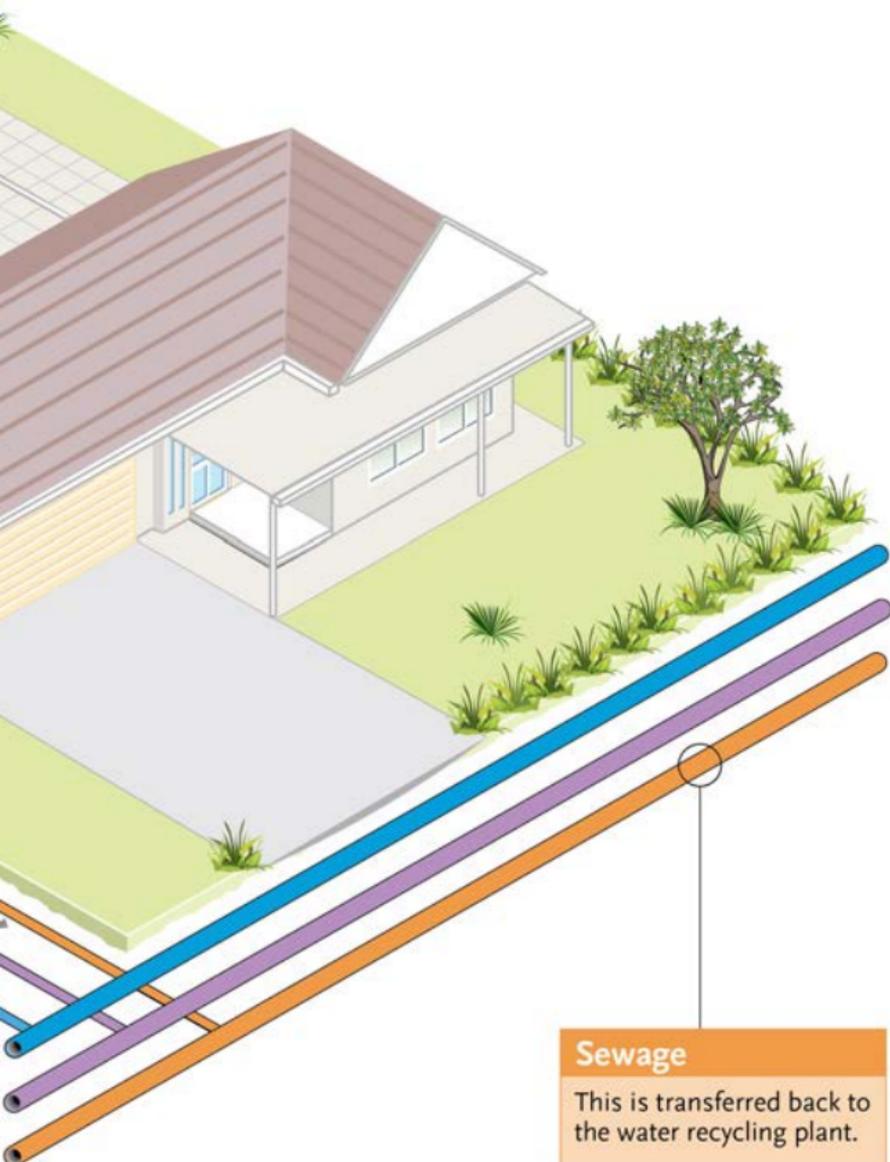
While the recycled water pipe is purple, other pipes will not be colour coded.



Potable water is transferred from the Icon Water treatment plant to a reservoir in Googong that is owned and operated by QPRC.

In addition to having access to this potable water, most homes have access to two types of non-potable water:

- 💧 Rainwater - water that has hit your roof area and drained into your rainwater tank.
- 💧 Recycled water - water that has been previously used in your bathroom, laundry or kitchen, that is treated at the Googong Water Recycling Plant, and plumbed back to your home. This plant is owned and operated by QPRC.



Sewage

This is transferred back to the water recycling plant.

// *The availability of recycled (non-drinking) water for non-potable uses will help to reduce consumption of potable drinking water in Googong to about 60% of a similar township without recycled water.*

//

Ensuring the quality of recycled (non-drinking) water

Before recycled water could be provided to Googong, a number of tests have been completed to ensure that the recycled water is safe for use. These tests have been completed in two stages:

- 💧 **Process commissioning** – testing the Water Recycling Plant equipment to ensure that it operates as required.
- 💧 **Process verification** – testing the quality of the recycled water to ensure that it meets the required standards.

QPRC will be responsible for the ongoing monitoring and quality of the water supplied to Googong. This will include daily operational testing of the equipment as well as ongoing monitoring of the recycled water and any water discharged to the environment.



What else do I need to know?

Always use an accredited plumber

It's essential to hire the right person for the job. Working with recycled water has certain risks and it's important to get it right the first time.

For any work on your household plumbing systems, make sure you use an accredited Backflow Plumber. This will ensure that your systems are installed correctly and reduce the risk of cross connection between water systems.

And remember...

Do:

	Use recycled water, but only for its intended purpose
	Always use an accredited plumber
	Replace recycled water signage if damaged or missing

Don't:

	Replace recycled water taps with conventional fixtures
	Use recycled water for purposes other than what it's intended for

Living with recycled water at Googong

We want to ensure safe use of recycled (non-drinking) water in Googong and to realise the vision of minimising the use of a scarce resource – water. We can only do this with your help. The information below will help you be prepared for recycled water and use it effectively on your property.

The most important thing to remember about living with recycled water is only use it for the correct purposes.

Gardening with recycled (non-drinking) water

- Recycled water does tend to have a higher nutrient and salt content than potable water. This means that certain plants will prosper in this environment while others may not.
- When thinking about landscaping you need to consider salt tolerant plants. Your local nursery should be able to help you with this if you tell them you will be using recycled water for irrigation.
- Consider best practice watering techniques such as watering your plants in the mornings or afternoons. Try not to use sprinklers on particularly windy days.

How you can help

Certain substances and products can affect the operation and ongoing costs of the Water Recycling Plant. You can help us by being mindful about what you put down your sinks and toilet.

Cooking oils, nappies, food scraps, personal hygiene products and wet wipes

TIP - DO NOT PUT DOWN THE SINK OR DRAIN. Always bin these items. They can harm the environment and upset the efficient recycling of water.



Fuels or corrosive and flammable liquids

TIP - DO NOT PUT DOWN THE SINK OR DRAIN. DO NOT PUT IN THE RUBBISH BIN. For information on how to safely dispose of products like these, visit www.qprc.nsw.gov.au



Household cleaning and clothes washing products that contain phosphates

TIP - AVOID USING THESE ITEMS. These chemicals are known to have serious negative impacts on natural waterways and the environment.



Recycled water in public places

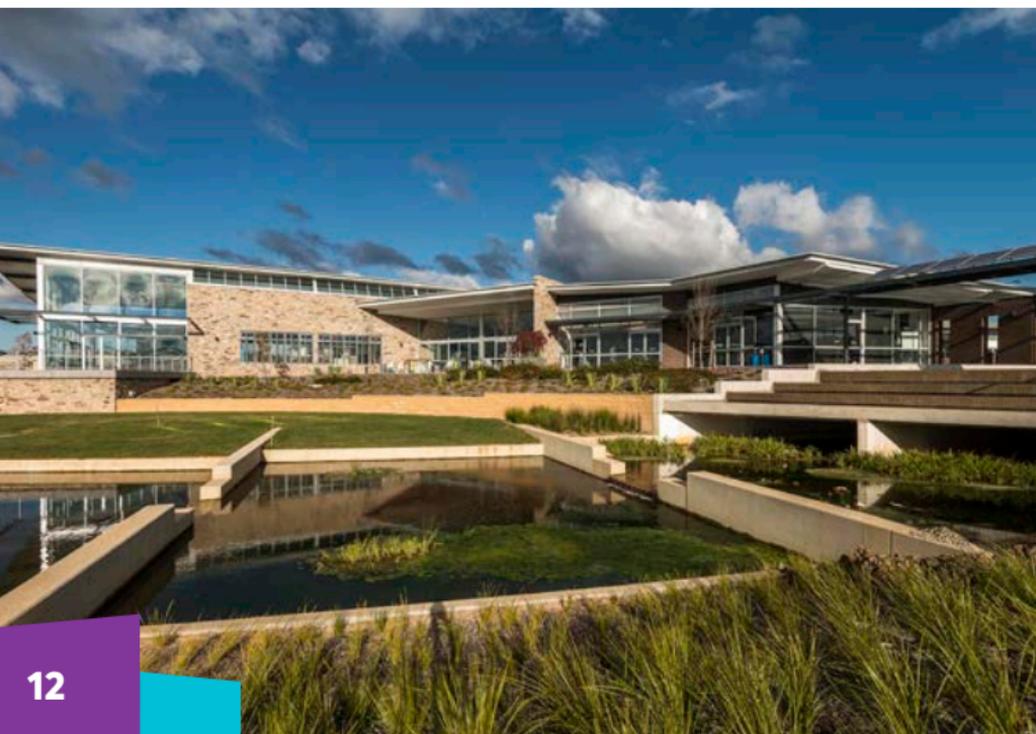
Recycled water is used to irrigate public parks and sports fields. All taps that supply recycled water are fitted with a "Not suitable for drinking" sign.

Excess recycled water may also be released periodically from the reservoirs to fill water features in Googong. Water released to the environment from the reservoirs is dechlorinated to protect the environment.

Advice for pet owners

You should discourage your pet from drinking or swimming in ponds filled with recycled water. The recycled water is treated to a high standard and the water will also be a mix of stormwater and recycled water. Stormwater in Googong also goes through water quality improvement devices to improve its quality.

The pond in the Barkley Dog Park is only provided with stormwater.



Advice for sports clubs

Recycled water will be used to irrigate grass sports fields and surrounding landscaping. Recycled water is treated to a high standard and there is a low risk of any negative health effects from approved uses. However, players should try to avoid contact with recycled water.

Question?	Answer
Do we warn our players, parents and visitors about recycled water?	Only if you want to. Fields irrigated with recycled water and all recycled water taps have signs displayed. All users should avoid contact with recycled water. If anybody accidentally uses recycled water for an unapproved use, please contact QPRC.
The sprinklers came on during our training session or the fields are still wet from the overnight irrigation. What should we do?	If you get recycled water on you, rinse with potable water (drinking water) and use standard hygiene practices such as washing your hands with soap before eating. If you accidentally use recycled water for an unapproved use, such as drinking, contact QPRC.
There is an area of the field that is always wet or has standing water. What should we do?	This may be a leaking irrigation pipe. Please contact Council on 1300 735 025 and ask to speak to someone in the Urban Landscapes Section.
One of the players has got a cut or graze during the game. What should we do?	Standard first aid treatment, including cleaning the injured area with potable water will mitigate the risk. For serious wounds, seek medical assistance.

Cross connection checklist

Council recommends that you conduct your own plumbing check every year to ensure you are confident the correct water is going to the correct fixtures. If you encounter problems whilst undertaking the check (e.g. sink taps don't run dry when they should), you will need to contact a certified plumber or call Council for assistance.

Check your home's recycled water connections:

1. Turn off the drinking water supply at your property's meter and rainwater tank pump or valve.
2. Turn on all internal drinking water taps. Taps should run dry. Once the tap runs dry, turn it back off.
3. Flush all toilets. Toilets should refill if connected to recycled water supply.
4. Turn on your external taps. Your drinking water tap should run dry. Taps continuing to run are connected to recycled water supply and should be coloured purple and marked with appropriate signs.
5. Turn your drinking water supply back on.



Check your home's drinking water connections:

1. Turn off your recycled water supply at your property's purple meter and rainwater tank pump or valve. Run recycled water supply outlets dry via your purple external taps or by flushing toilets.
2. Turn on internal drinking water taps, such as the shower or kitchen sink. If these taps do not flow, they are connected to the incorrect supply.
3. Turn your recycled water supply back on at your property's purple water meter.

If you ran the test and didn't get the expected results, please contact Council immediately on 1300 735 025.

How to tell if it's recycled water

Look for:

- Purple - pipes, water metres, fixtures, purple taps and labels.
- Signage - to alert the user that recycled water is being used.



// Recycled water provided through purple pipes will be available for washing cars, cleaning pavers and windows as well as for fighting fires. **//**



Contact information



If you have any questions about recycled water contact QPRC on:



1300 735 025



council@qprc.nsw.gov.au



www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/GoogongRecycledWater

If you are concerned that QPRC has not taken your public health concerns seriously, contact the NSW Health Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055.



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1300 735 025