

# » recycled water facts

## the price of recycled water



**Factsheet No.7**

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[www.ballinawater.com.au](http://www.ballinawater.com.au)

**Water is a large and complex business. Ballina Shire Council is committed to providing not only high quality recycled and drinking water but also a competitive product.**

Recycled water is clean and safe, cheaper to use and available 24/7.

The current pricing of recycled water for use in Ballina Shire's household scheme is pegged less than the drinking water charge. Further incentives are provided to irrigators who agree to use recycled water.

This pricing is intended to provide an incentive to use recycled water in preference to drinking water sources.

The pricing arrangement also recognises the environmental and social benefits to communities and industries that rely on clean rivers and beaches.

### » How is recycled water pricing determined?

The current pricing of recycled water for use in residential dual reticulation schemes is pegged at 80 per cent of the drinking water charge. Incentives are also provided irrigators who agree to use recycled water.

This pricing subsidises the true cost of treatment, and is intended to provide an incentive to use recycled water in preference to drinking water sources.

This arrangement recognises the savings to the broader community through the deferment of capital works and water supply upgrades that would normally be required with a growing population in the absence of alternative supply options like recycled water. It also recognises the environmental benefits to our receiving waters and the communities and industries that rely on our clean rivers and beaches.

### » What is the price of recycled water for households?

The current price of water in Ballina Shire is \$2.08 per kilolitre for the first 350 kilolitres per property/meter per annum and \$3.13 per kilolitre thereafter. Recycled water is \$1.66 per kilolitre with unlimited usage (as at 2015/2016).

Water rates charges are issued quarterly with your rates notices. The current fees and charges schedule can be viewed at Ballina Shire Council's website at [ballina.nsw.gov.au](http://ballina.nsw.gov.au)

### » How does recycling water keep capital works costs down?

Through the provision of recycled water services, Council is generating savings to the wider community through the deferment of capital works and water supply upgrades that would normally be required with a growing population in the absence of alternative supply options like recycled water.

With Ballina Shire's population now more than 41,640, Ballina Shire Council currently supplies drinking water to more than 16,000 properties. In 2016 Council began rolling out a recycled water service to households.

### » How does recycling water deliver environmental and social benefits?

Recycling our water reduces the impact of wastewater discharge on the environment. This generates environmental and social benefits to communities and industries, like tourism and our famous seafood producers, that rely on clean rivers and beaches.

## »» How much recycled water is currently being produced?

The Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plant collects and treats sewerage from a mix of 11,000 residential homes and a small number of commercial premises. The volume varies depending on the weather but is usually around four million litres a day.

Recycled water is then generated with the Lennox Head plant capable of producing up to 4.5 million litres a day.

## »» How does recycling water benefit communities during drought?

During drought, the use of recycled water for general purposes such as washing cars, bikes and boats, flushing toilets and irrigating gardens is not restricted, and residents can use recycled water to keep their plants healthy.

What this also means is that more potable (drinking) water will be preserved for drinking, cooking and bathing hence reducing the impact of a drought on our drinking water supplies.

## »» Did you know water is a limited resource?

The overall amount of water on our planet has remained the same for two billion years. Water moves around the earth in a water cycle which has five parts: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, infiltration and surface run-off, naturally cleansing itself as it goes through this cycle. Only one per cent of the earth's water is drinkable. Recycled water is vitally important to alleviating pressure on our precious drinking water.

## »» How can I save water?

There are many easy ways to save water in and around the home, business or school. Looking at ways to reduce water consumption will not only save money, but will help reduce the impact on the environment.

Creating a low water consumption garden for example would mean choosing plants which are best suited to local environmental conditions. For a list of plants which are best suited to local environmental conditions download Ballina Shire's Urban Garden Guide at [www.ballina.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au) (under 'Environment' and 'flora and fauna').

## »» Did you know how recycled water can be used?

### Recycled water can be used for:

- cold water washing machine taps
- irrigating gardens, food crops and sports fields
- filling ornamental ponds
- toilet flushing
- washing cars, bikes and boats.

### Recycled water cannot be used for:

- drinking
- cooking or other kitchen purposes
- baths, showers or other personal washing
- swimming pools or other leisure water use
- rainwater tanks.

**The information in this factsheet only applies to the Lennox Head and Ballina recycled water schemes. For information about the Alstonville and Wardell recycled water schemes please refer to Factsheet No 8.**



**Need more info? Visit our water website [ballinawater.com.au](http://ballinawater.com.au)**

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