

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FACT SHEET

No. 513

RECYCLED WATER IRRIGATION: INFORMATION GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

This fact sheet details the information to be provided when making an application to Department of Health and Families (DHF) for approval to use high quality recycled water suitable for unrestricted irrigation. It is intended for use by third parties accessing recycled water from DHF approved recycled water systems. The recycled water provider will provide you with information on the range of approved uses.

A Risk Management Plan (RMP) based on elements of the DHF *Guidelines for Management of Recycled Water Systems* and *Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Health Risks (Phase 1)* and should include information as follows:

COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF RECYCLED WATER QUALITY

1. Statement on responsibilities for management of the scheme (owner/operator/user) i.e. who does what and who is the contact for DHF enquiries.
2. Evidence of a recycled water agreement with the supplier of recycled water.

ASSESSMENT OF THE RECYCLED WATER SYSTEM

Site details

3. A location plan providing accurate details to locate the site.
4. A scaled site plan showing:
 - boundaries and slope of the site including areas to be wetted by irrigation
 - position and use of all nearby buildings, public areas and public roads
 - type, location and capacity of the recycled water storage facilities (where applicable)
 - location of watercourses, water bodies and other sensitive areas such as the coast, rivers, creeks, bores, drinking water supplies and storages (e.g. rainwater tanks)
 - location of special use sites/facilities such as barbeques, play equipment, drinking fountains.

Use of recycled water

5. The source of recycled water and its approved uses.
6. Proposed use of recycled water (municipal irrigation, crop irrigation, passive use/ornamental, other, e.g. dust suppression).
7. Type and proposed use of the vegetation, crop or pasture to be planted/irrigated (where applicable).

Infrastructure

8. Method of application (e.g. inward throwing/large droplet/low throw sprinklers, drippers or subsurface irrigation).

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PREVENTATIVE MEASURES FOR RECYCLED WATER MANAGEMENT

9. OH&S precautions (e.g. advice to employees/users of the water on hand washing after working with recycled water and before eating, smoking, etc, and do not drink).
10. Proposed watering hours.
11. Type and location of signage to be used e.g. "RECYCLED WATER: DO NOT DRINK".
12. Precautions to minimise public access (e.g. locked valve boxes, tap handles removed)
13. Marking of pipework and fittings (e.g. signage/colour coding of pipework, valves and fittings (note: existing below ground pipework will not need to be colour coded).
14. Protection of drinking water supply through cross connection control and backflow prevention (e.g. specify type and location of backflow prevention devices and nominated auditing regime prior to commissioning and ongoing).

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND PROCESS CONTROL

15. Irrigation system maintenance and checks (e.g. spray irrigation function, check that water is not being delivered beyond designated irrigation areas).
16. Information on automatic or manual controls (e.g. not watering in windy conditions, use of anemometer switching).

MANAGEMENT OF INCIDENTS AND EMERGENCIES

17. Contingency plans for flooding, high rainfall periods, malfunction, spills, algal blooms (only where recycled water stored in open storage or used in ornamental or recreational water bodies), power outages or other impacts on the system.

Note: This information will generally meet the requirements of DHF. However, there may be cases where additional information is required. DHF will advise applicants accordingly.

APPLICATION FORM

- Recycled water irrigation application form is available at:
www.nt.gov.au/health/envirohealth > wastewater management

Application for wastewater systems and reclaimed water reuse schemes for towns, subdivisions and communities

Information in this Fact Sheet is sourced from SA Health

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