

» recycled water facts alstonville and wardell



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Ballina Shire has four wastewater treatment plants that supply recycled water for different purposes. The treatment plants are located at Alstonville, Ballina, Lennox Head and Wardell. This factsheet focuses on the Alstonville and Wardell schemes.

» Alstonville Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Alstonville Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1976 and upgraded in 1983. In 2008 the Alstonville Wastewater Treatment Plant started recycling water for irrigation purposes.

The recycled water is treated to a high quality for use in irrigating local nurseries and crops, however it cannot be used for general household uses. To use this recycled water, customers must enter a user agreement with Council.

» Wardell Wastewater Treatment Plant

Wardell's Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1997. Located at Kays Road, the treatment plant delivers recycled water to an adjacent turf farm and the Wardell Recreation Ground.

Similar to Alstonville, recycled water produced at Wardell is of a high quality and can be readily used for irrigation. However it cannot be used for general household uses. To use this recycled water, customers must enter a user agreement with Council.

» Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1970 and upgraded in 1974 and 2013-14. Located in Fishery Creek Road, West Ballina, the plant produces recycled water of very high quality.

Currently, it provides water for irrigation and is expected to begin delivering recycled water for household use in 2017.

» Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plant, located at North Creek Road, Skennars Head, was constructed in 1981, upgraded in 1994 and again in 2013-14.

The Lennox Head plant produces very high quality recycled water which can be used for irrigation, industry and a number of general household uses. In July 2016 the treatment plant began delivering recycled water to households in newer Lennox Head subdivisions.

» What is the key difference between the treatment plants?

The key difference between the four treatment plants is the way the recycled water is used.

Recycled water produced from the Alstonville and Wardell Wastewater Treatment Plants is for irrigation purposes only. Recycled water produced from Ballina and Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plants is for both irrigation and household use.



Wardell Wastewater Treatment Plant

»» How do the treatment plants work together?

Together the four treatment plants treat and clean wastewater before it is reused as recycled water or released back into the environment as treated wastewater.

Ballina Shire Council has to meet strict guidelines about the quality of recycled water and this is monitored by the NSW Environment Protection Authority, the NSW Office of Water and NSW Health.

»» How do the charges for recycled water differ?

Recycled water produced at the Alstonville and Wardell Treatment Plants is currently free.

In 2017, Council started to charge customers a small amount (approximately 17 cents per 1000 litres) for recycled water. This rate will increase annually up to a maximum of 40 per cent of the drinking water rate in 2022.

The current fees and charges schedule can be viewed at Council's website ballina.nsw.gov.au

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

While we aim to maximise recycled water use, none of the recycled water produced in Ballina Shire should 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 Alstonville and Wardell recycled water schemes. For information about the Lennox Head and Ballina recycled water schemes please refer to Factsheets No 1 to 7.



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