



WESTERNPORT
WATER™

Class A



Your recycled water guide



Introducing Class A Recycled Water...

Westernport Water will now be supplying Class A recycled water to new residential properties and developments on Phillip Island. The Phillip Island Recycled Water Scheme will help towards preserving existing potable water supplies by providing 'fit for purpose' recycled water, while promoting environmental sustainability in our region.

What is Class A?

Class A recycled water is wastewater that has been treated to the highest quality and has the widest range of uses. The Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Health (DH) follow stringent guidelines that classify recycled water based on its quality and range of uses. For example, Class A can be used in residential areas for toilet flushing, garden watering, and a number of other outdoor activities.

Government regulation stipulates that all pipes and taps used for recycled water must be marked a distinctive **purple** colour. This ensures that the community can easily recognise and identify Class A sources of water and use them efficiently.

The benefits of Class A recycled water...

- Class A is not subject to drinking water restrictions and can be freely used to maintain gardens and lawns and wash cars and boats. However, it is still a valuable resource and should be used wisely.
- As recycled water is a renewable resource, using Class A helps preserve drinking water supplies especially during times of severe drought and low rainfall.
- By using recycled water, you reduce the amount of waste water discharged to ocean outfall and at the same time preserve our drinking water supply.

Shearwater Estate,
the first residential estate to receive Class A recycled water on Phillip Island

This project is supported by the Australian Government's *Water for the Future* initiative through the *Water Security Plan for Cities & Towns*



The Recycled Water process...



Recycled Water in your home...

Your house will have 'dual reticulation', which means you have two separate water pipe networks and water meters. One network supplies drinking water, while the other supplies Class A recycled water.

Recycled water pipes and fittings will look very similar to your normal plumbing fittings. However, all taps and fittings with Class A are coloured purple for easy identification.

A 'Recycled Water: Do not drink' notice MUST be fixed to all Class A taps located outdoors.

All connection and installation work on your property must be performed by a licensed plumber. Westernport Water is only responsible for installation of the meter and all pipes and systems up to the meter. Recycled water can be connected to your toilet, front and back garden taps, and any garden irrigation systems.



Usage

Recycled water is ideal for a number of applications that would normally use valuable drinking water. By substituting Class A, we conserve our existing water supply and are able to provide an alternative supply in periods of low rainfall and high consumption.

Class A can be used for flushing toilets, watering gardens (including vegetables and fruit trees), washing vehicles on grass, external cleaning and maintenance, fire fighting, irrigating public parks and sports grounds, and filling ornamental ponds and water features.

Additionally, because Class A water is not subject to Permanent Water Saving Rules, it can be used to maintain gardens even during severe drought.

Can you drink recycled water?

Class A recycled water **MUST NOT** be consumed. Despite its high quality, recycled water is not suitable for personal use such as bathing cooking and drinking. If you accidentally drink it there is no need to panic, however please contact Westernport Water. The likelihood of getting sick is extremely low. If there are signs of illness seek medical advice.

A '**Do not drink**' notice must be fixed to all Class A taps located outdoors. These are supplied with the purchase of recycled water products.



Class A uses

Class A can be used for a number of applications that would normally involve drinking water, allowing us to reduce our valuable water consumption.

DOs



Washing cars on grassed areas



Flushing toilets



Watering vegetable patches and fruit trees



Watering lawns, gardens and open grassed areas



Filling ornamental ponds and water features



Fighting fires

DON'Ts



Drinking



Cooking or food preparation



Bathing or showering



Filling pools, spas and air conditioning



Filling children's water toys

How it works...

A map indicating Phillip Island's Recycled Water Network

Legend:



New estates to receive Class A Recycled Water



Phillip Island Golf Club



Phillip Island Recreation Reserve



Cowes Waste Water Treatment Plant (CWWTP)



Farming land



Amaze 'n' Things



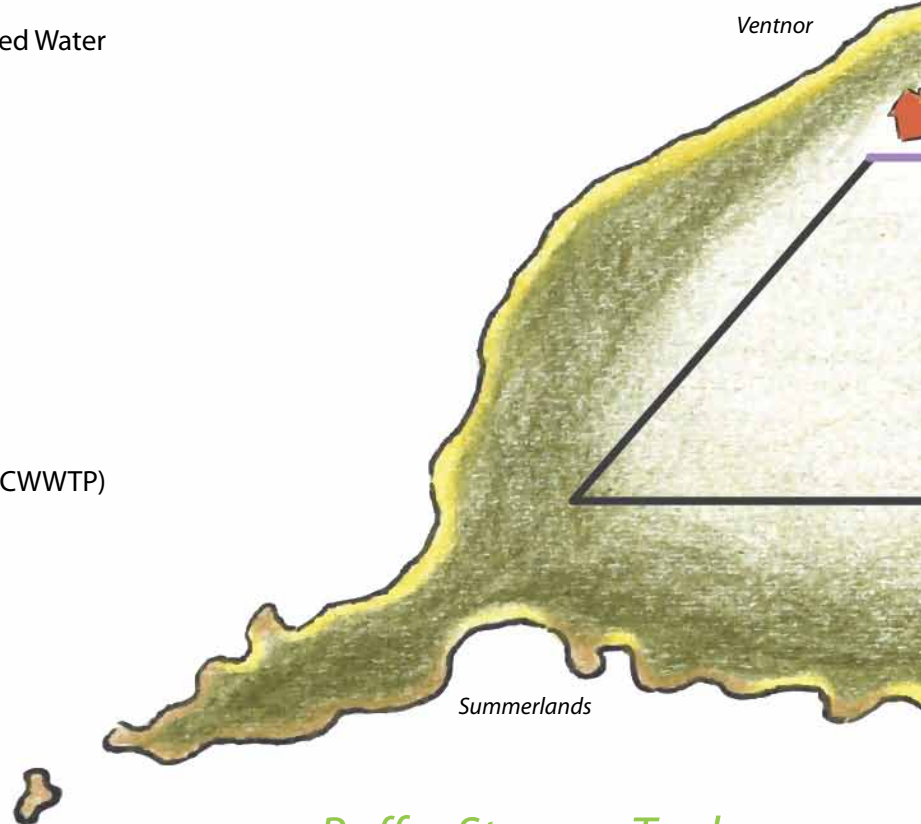
Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit



Main Road



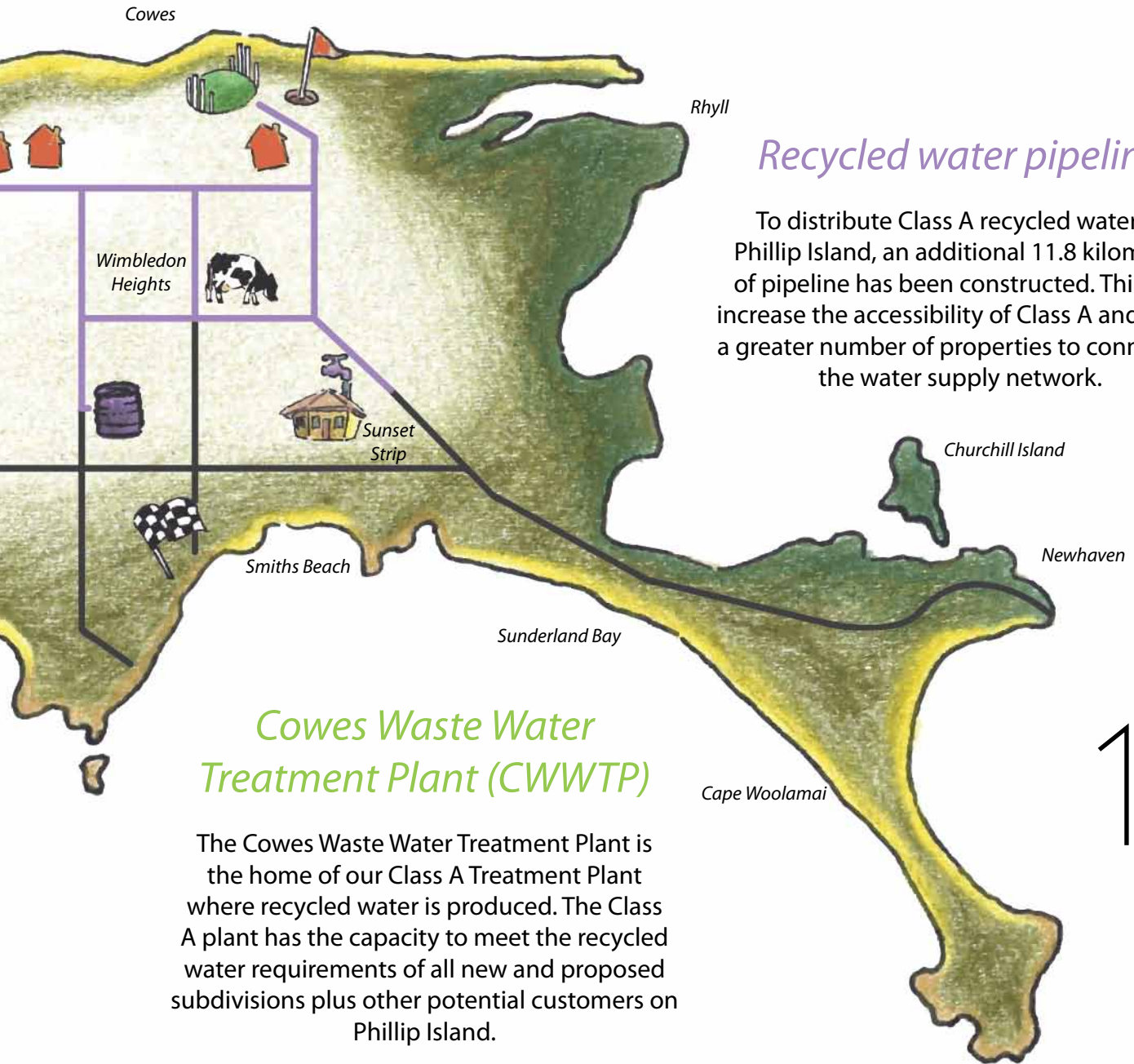
Class A pipe/supply



Buffer Storage Tank

To help accommodate demand and ensure adequate supply, a 2 megalitre storage tank has been constructed at a Westernport Water site in Wimbledon Heights. Class A recycled water will be pumped from the CWWTP to the storage tank, and then gravity fed through the pipeline to distribution points across the island.

Please note: Map not drawn to scale



Recycled water pipeline

To distribute Class A recycled water in Phillip Island, an additional 11.8 kilometre of pipeline has been constructed. This will increase the accessibility of Class A and allow a greater number of properties to connect to the water supply network.

Cowes Waste Water Treatment Plant (CWWTP)

The Cowes Waste Water Treatment Plant is the home of our Class A Treatment Plant where recycled water is produced. The Class A plant has the capacity to meet the recycled water requirements of all new and proposed subdivisions plus other potential customers on Phillip Island.

Information for commercial and agricultural customers

Food production, animal care and use for pasture and irrigation must be managed in association with Westernport Water through Customer Site Management Plans (CSMPS).

Customer Site Management Plans (CSMP)

CSMP's are to be developed by the customer / irrigator with the support from Westernport Water to ensure safety for human and animal health and the environment.

It is the responsibility of the commercial customer that Class A water is used in accordance with their CSMP. It is the responsibility of Westernport Water to ensure the CSMPs are adhered to and that the quality of the Class A water is maintained to the required levels suitable for these purposes.

CSMP Information Kit

An information kit can be collected from Westernport Water that contains information on CSMP's, including a checklist to ensure customers have included all the relevant information and a Usage Agreement to be signed by the customer.

Class A water is a renewable resource, therefore Permanent Water Saving Rules do not apply to its use, providing users with water security and piece of mind.

When using Class A water clear signage must be displayed informing visitors and the community.

For further information visit www.recycledwater.com.au. Click on the irrigation or publications link for further ideas, guidelines, and examples of current practices.

Commercial and agricultural uses

Class A recycled water can be used for a variety of non-domestic applications including:

- Irrigation and pasture management
- Food production
- Animal care
- Water features
- Outdoor cleaning and maintenance
- Fire fighting

Nutrient levels in Class A water reduce the necessity to fertilise flower/vegetable gardens and pastures for producing animal feed however, Class A water is not recommended for hydroponic production and pigs must not drink or be exposed to pasture irrigated with recycled water.

When using Class A water, clear signage must be displayed



Purple Dutch Carrots



Class A
recycled
water is a
great source
of nutrients
for your
veggie patch

Green Living

Phillip Island holds a unique place in Australia's landscape, featuring a wide range of native flora and being one of our most attractive natural landmarks. By utilising a renewable resource like Class A recycled water, we are taking a sustainable approach towards preserving our environment.

Gardening with Class A

Gardening with Class A recycled water has some differences to gardening with drinking water. Class A water is rich with nutrients and has some extra salinity, which means you will need less or no fertiliser. Keep an eye out for signs like 'yellow leaves' that indicate you may need to alter how much water and fertiliser you are using on your garden. Be sure to wash home grown fruit, vegetables and herbs with drinking water before eating.

Reducing the waste

The Phillip Island Recycled Water Scheme can treat approximately 200 ML of wastewater every year. This wastewater would ordinarily be discharged as ocean outfall, but with the upgrade to the Cowes Waste Water Treatment Plant, waste now becomes an alternative resource. Class A recycled water can beautify our local environment and at the same time provide nutrients for gardens and pastures.

Water savings

There will also be significant water savings by using Class A recycled water. The Phillip Island Recycled Water Scheme is estimated to save approximately 10% in potable water demand; this is equivalent to almost 100 ML a year! The savings will help preserve our potable water supply and improve our overall environmental sustainability.

Cross connection checks

The Plumbing Industry Commission (PIC) will need to conduct property inspections on your water supply connections. This is to ensure no cross connection between Class A and your drinking water pipework.

Cross connections can occur when drinking water is incorrectly connected to a recycled water pipe, or vica versa. As a connected customer to recycled water, *we strongly recommend that you check for cross connections on your property every 12 months, to ensure no contamination between water networks has occurred.* Westernport Water will also be carrying out audits for cross connections.

Plumbers are also required to conduct checks for cross connections when carrying out any new plumbing work at your home.



How to conduct a cross connection check...

The following steps explain how to conduct a cross connection check. If you are unsure of any of these steps, please contact Westernport Water.

Step 1: Turn off drinking water meter

Turn off your potable water service at the water meter outside your house. Keep your recycled water meter on.

Step 2: Taps inside your house

Turn on all sink, bath and shower taps inside your house (both hot and cold) one by one, and flush all toilets. Toilets should refill as normal to indicate they are correctly connected to the recycled water service. Other taps should run dry after a short time, meaning they are correctly connected to the potable water service.

Step 3: Taps outside your house

Turn on all the taps outside your house one by one. Taps that run dry after a short time are connected to the potable water service. Purple recycled water taps should run as normal.

Step 4: Appliances inside your house

Do not attempt to check appliances like dishwashers and washing machines with the drinking water turned off. Turn on the potable water service at the meter and turn off the recycled water meter, then turn on appliances to see that they fill. If not, they are incorrectly connected.

Step 5: After completing the test

Turn off all taps, then turn both your recycled water meter and potable water meter back on. When turning taps back on inside the house, let them run for a few seconds to allow any trapped air to escape.

If a cross connection has occurred, please contact your local plumber immediately and notify Westernport Water on **1300 720 711**



www.westernportwater.com.au

Where can I find out more about Class A?

Class A recycled water has a long history of use in Australia and there are a number of sources where customers can find more information:

Recycled Water in Australia www.recycledwater.com.au – Recycled Water in Australia is a great beginner's guide to recycled water and contains a range of helpful information and references.

Department of Health www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/water/recycle.htm – The Victorian State Government Health page covers the guidelines surrounding the use of recycled water.

EPA – www.epa.vic.gov.au/water/Reuse/default.asp – The Environmental Protection Authority helps regulate the distribution of recycled water and features the technical aspects on their site.

Additionally, customers are welcome to contact our Recycled Water Officer on 1300 720 711, or visit our website www.westernportwater.com.au/Services/Recycledwater/ for more information about the Phillip Island Recycled Water Scheme.