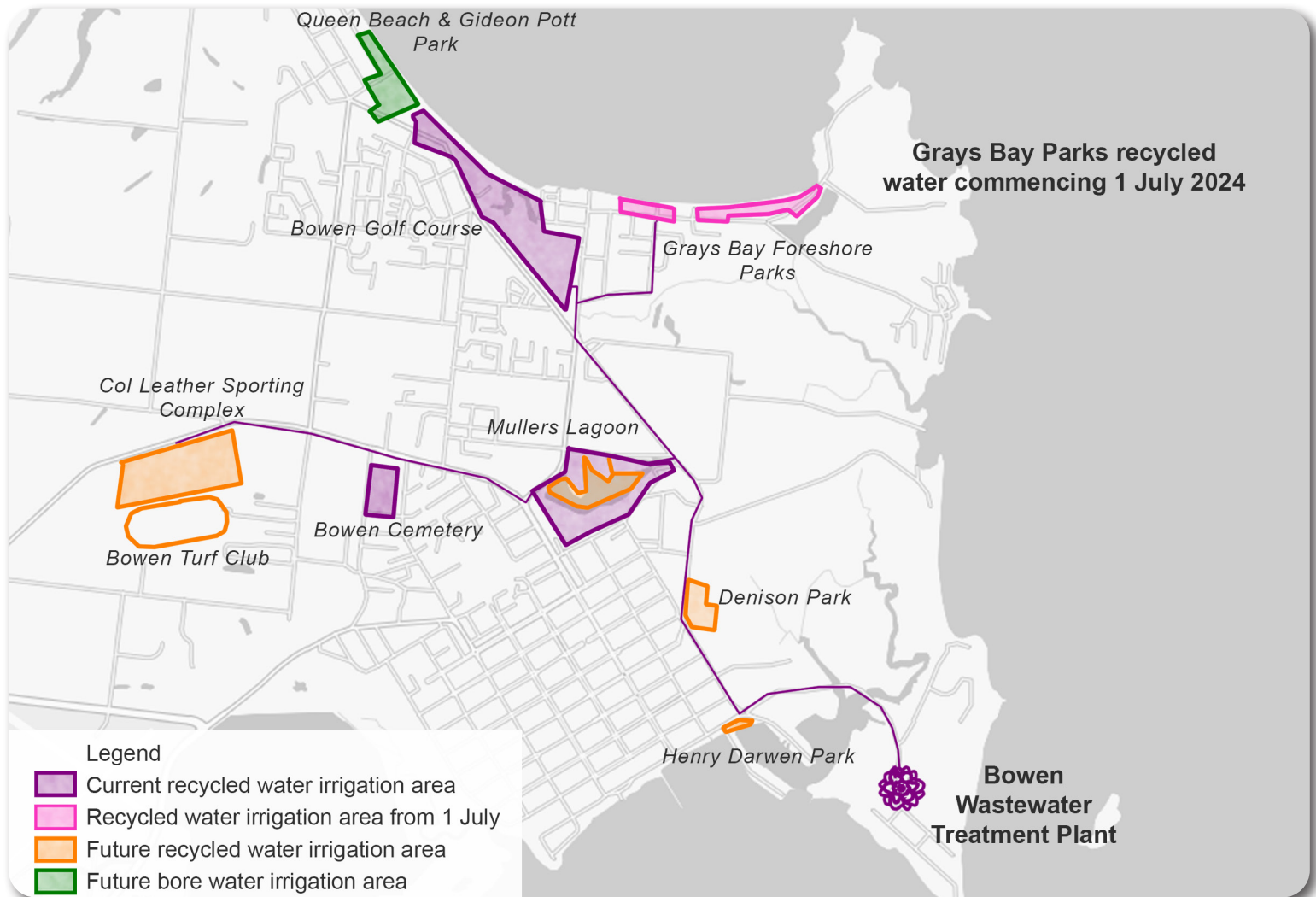


Greening & Growing Bowen Recycled Water Program

Fact sheet



What is recycled water?

- The \$32M Greening and Growing Bowen project completed 2019 - 2020 included an upgrade to the Bowen Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and installation of recycled water network of pipes/pumps to parklands.
- Recycled water is a product of the wastewater treatment process that includes a state of the art treatment approach to remove pathogens and other contaminants so that we can re-use the valuable water to irrigate our public spaces.
- Recycled water is not available for private domestic use, and will be expanded to more parks as our population and associated wastewater supply increases.

Recycled water benefits

- Recycled water use saves over \$250k per annum in operational costs.
- It also generates substantial cost and energy savings over the long term by reducing expensive infrastructure upgrades to supply potable water to the community, like storage reservoirs.
- No wastage! Treated water would otherwise be disposed in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

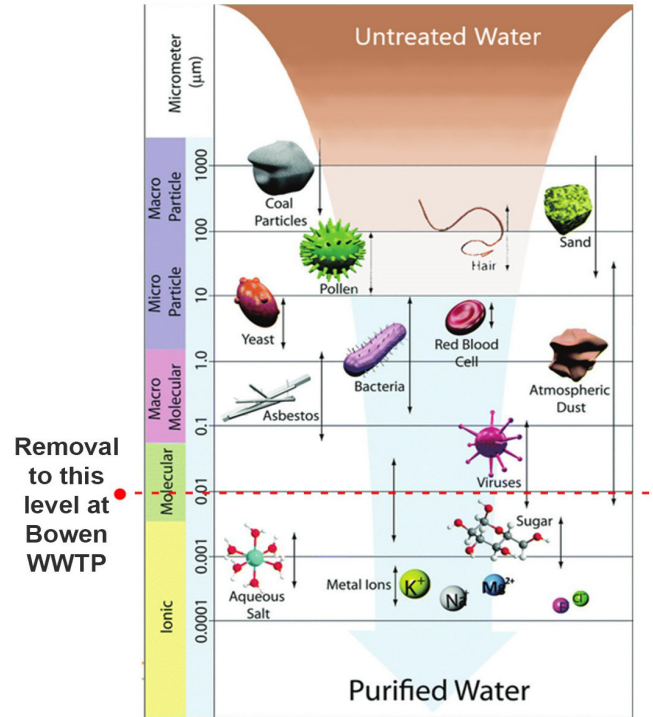
Greening & Growing Bowen Recycled Water Program

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Is recycled water safe to use in our parks?

There are several controls in place to ensure public safety with the use of recycled water:

- 1. Treatment train** includes biological treatment, membrane filtration and disinfection with Ultraviolet light and Chlorine to comply with stringent water supply regulator requirements.
- 2. Infrastructure** separated and isolated from the potable water system. Spray drift is mitigated, recycled water signage installed and locked taps to avoid mis-use.
- 3. Irrigation** occurs only in suitable soils within Council controlled spaces to avoid mis-use. No irrigation if raining to avoid pondage, and timed irrigation to ensure absorption before use by the community.
- 4. Monitoring** above controls to comply with water supply regulator requirements.



Recycled water classes	Recommended uses	Description
Class A+	As below, plus dual reticulation; car washing, irrigation of minimally processed crops	No pathogens should be detectable. Safe for many uses other than human consumption.
Class A (Upgraded Bowen WWTP)	As below, plus irrigation of residential gardens	Very low levels of microbiological indicators. Safe for most end uses, including occasional human contact.
Class B	As below, plus dust suppression; road works	Only to be used with appropriate control measures.
Class C (Bowen WWTP before upgrade)	As below plus watering parks, playing fields, footpaths, public open spaces	Only to be used with appropriate control measures.
Class D	Irrigating of heavily processed crops (e.g. sugar cane), turf	Has the highest allowable microbiological quality.

MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to learn more about our Bowen Recycled Water Program, *Greening and Growing Bowen*, watch the video that explains our new Wastewater Treatment Plant and upgraded recycled water infrastructure via the QR code right.

We are excited to roll out recycled water to Grays Bay Foreshore parks from 1 July 2024 and assure the public that our controls in place prioritise public safety and allow us to get the most benefit out of our wastewater.

