



Environment and Heritage Expertise

Technical Guideline

TG 0875.33 – Recycled water

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**Government of
South Australia**

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Significant/major changes incorporated in this edition

Not applicable - this is the first edition of the Technical Guideline.



Document controls

Version history

| Version | Date | Author | Comments |
|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|
| 1.0 | 28 August 2025 | Various | Issued for Use |

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Approvers

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Reviewers

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|---|----------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Environment and Heritage Expertise Team | Team review of guidelines. | 1.0 | 28-08-2025 |

1 Introduction

This guideline relates to the management and use of recycled water for non-potable uses which may be encountered during a project's planning, construction, operations or maintenance activities.

It forms part of the TG 0875 - Environment and Heritage Technical Guidelines and is designed to provide insight into regulatory obligations associated with vegetation, as well as suggested approaches to manage risk.

Note the guideline is not exhaustive, and additional requirements may be necessary based on project- or site-specific activities, geographical location, or approval conditions.

1.1 Environment and Heritage Technical Guidelines Suite

The SAWG-ENV-0875 Environment and Heritage Technical Guidelines suite includes:

- TG 0875.00: General requirements
- TG 0875.11: Aboriginal heritage and Native Title
- TG 0875.12: Non-Aboriginal heritage
- TG 0875.21: Vegetation
- TG 0875.22: Fauna
- TG 0875.23: Weed hygiene
- TG 0875.24: Phytophthora
- TG 0875.31: Surface water
- TG 0875.32: Groundwater
- **TG 0875.33: Recycled water (this guideline)**
- TG 0875.34: Sediment, erosion and stormwater
- TG 0875.35: Dewatering, dredging and earthworks drainage
- TG 0875.41: Site contamination
- TG 0875.42: Acid sulfate soils
- TG 0875.43: Hazardous substances
- TG 0875.51: Dust
- TG 0875.52: Odour
- TG 0875.53: Noise and vibration
- TG 0875.61: Spoil management
- TG 0875.62: Recycling
- TG 0875.63: Waste management

This guideline must be read in conjunction with TG 0875.00: General requirements

1.2 General requirements

TG 0875.00: General requirements apply to all aspects of the work:

1. Purpose
2. Application
3. Scope
4. Statutory obligations
5. Strategic alignment
6. Terms and abbreviations

2 Recycled water

2.1 Overview

| MANAGEMENT | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Commitment | The generation and use of recycled water is important in protecting and sustainably managing our water resources. Recycled water management is regulated by state-based legislation. |
| Strategic objective | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Corporate Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our culture creates empowerment, increased accountability for environmental decisions and demonstrates proactive leadership. Asset Management Corporate Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An integrated approach enables the sustainability outcomes our customers, community and owner expect. |
| Key Performance Indicator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KPI 1: No breaches of regulatory requirements with respect to recycled water management KPI 2: Opportunities to use recycled water are considered in construction and operations. |
| Legislation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015 (SA) Environment Protection Act 1993 (SA) – EP Act Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA) Local Government (Stormwater Management Agreement) Amendment Act 2016 (SA) South Australian Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013 (SA) South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (SA) Water Act 2007 (Cth) Water Industry Act 2012 (SA) |
| Regulatory approvals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycled Water Supply and Use approvals Water Affecting Activity permit Water Irrigation Management Plan (WIMP) via EPA licence condition (for EPA-licensed facilities) |
| Statutory obligations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Environment Protection Act 1993 (SA)</i>, Section 25: A person must not undertake an activity that pollutes, or might pollute, the environment unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise any resulting environmental harm. <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA)</i>, Section 8: A person must act reasonably in relation to the management of natural resources within the State. |
| Reference material | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Water Quality Management Strategy: Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risks (Phase 1) EPA (SA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Guidelines - Reclaimed water irrigation of pasture for grazing of cattle and pigs EPA Guidelines - Wastewater irrigation management plan (WIMP) – a drafting guide for wastewater irrigators |
| Related guidelines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TG 0875.31 Surface water |

2.2 Planning and design

| MITIGATION MEASURES | STAKEHOLDERS |
|---|--|
| A preliminary assessment must be undertaken to identify water needs and potential sources of recycled water including availability, accessibility and quality, with consideration of potential use onsite and/or customer interest. | Environmental Officer Recycled Water Specialist Project Manager |
| Opportunities in design to replace potable (mains) water with alternatives such as recycled water should be considered including determining if the water quality is suitable for end use requirements. | Design Manager Environmental Officer Business Development Project Manager |
| Where application of recycled water is being considered, suitability of the receiving environment must be assessed. This may include any impact to groundwater, soil assessments, monitoring bores. | Environmental Officer Recycled Water Specialist Project Manager |
| Approval must be obtained from the Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW) to supply or use recycle water from a wastewater treatment plant, including the development of a Recycled Water Management Plan. | Recycled Water Specialist Environmental Officer Project Manager |
| A water affecting activity permit from the relevant Landscape Board may be required for certain activities using recycled water. Depending on the activity, an EPA permit may also be required. | Environmental Officer Project Manager |

2.3 Construction

| MITIGATION MEASURES | STAKEHOLDERS |
|---|--------------|
| Identify construction water needs and opportunities to reduce potable (mains) water demand and use recycled water, where relevant. | Contractor |
| Applying any recycled water to construction activities must be fit for purpose, meet public health requirements and be approved by Department of Health. The recycled water source also requires the relevant activity be included in the EPA license/permit. | Contractor |
| Apply control measures as specified in any relevant Recycled Water Management Plan including signage, employee awareness, distribution method, prevention of runoff and pooling etc. | Contractor |
| Maintain clear separation between potable and recycled water sources. | Contractor |
| Construction personnel should be inducted on the site and be familiar with all recycled water outlets, application of its use, and best practices when using recycled water. | Contractor |

2.4 Monitoring requirements

| DESCRIPTION | METRIC | FREQUENCY | ACCOUNTABILITY |
|---|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Recycled water metering | Volume (KL) | Continuous | Contractor |
| Water quality monitoring (as required any Recycled Water Management Plan) | Multiple | Continuous | Contractor |