

# Council implements recycled water reuse strategy



**Tweed Shire Council is committed to the development of viable recycled water schemes where possible.**

## Commitment

The Tweed Shire Council Recycled Water Initiative is part of Council's Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy. This strategy includes the preparation of an Effluent Reuse Opportunities Report.

## Recycled Water Opportunities

Tweed Shire Council is currently investigating implementing several potential reuse projects:

- ◆ Arkininstall Park Municipal Oval
- ◆ Tweed Heads Cemetery
- ◆ Barry Sheppard Oval, Bogangar
- ◆ Cabarita Beach Pony Club
- ◆ The Les Burger Field, Bogangar
- ◆ Murwillumbah Race Course
- ◆ Mooball Wastewater Treatment Plant Riparian planted areas

## Sustainability benefits

With the increase in population occurring in the Tweed Shire Council area, there is an increase in demand on the potable supply system. Recycled water use will have a number of important water conservation and sustainability benefits, the key ones being:

- ◆ Substitution of potable water currently used for irrigating Council parks and reserves.
- ◆ Reduction in ground water extraction by private land owners.
- ◆ Economic benefits from developments in irrigated agriculture and industry able to access a reliable recycled water supply for restricted (non-potable) uses.
- ◆ Redirection of the nutrient loads from discharging into local waterways to a beneficial application to irrigated pastures and crops.
- ◆ Reduction in the volume of treated water released into local waterways.
- ◆ Reduction in the volume of raw water extracted from river and groundwater sources, providing enhanced protection of environmental flows and dependent ecosystems.

Continued over page

# Council implements recycled water reuse strategy continued . . .

## Existing recycled water users

Recycled water projects already in use include:

- ◆ Irrigation of the Coolangatta-Tweed Heads Golf Club which has been using recycled water for more than 20 years.
- ◆ Irrigation of the Chinderah Golf Course which was approved in January 2009 using recycled water direct from the Kingscliff Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- ◆ Council operated koala feed tree eucalyptus plantation at Uki.
- ◆ Irrigation of pasture at Tyalgum.
- ◆ Use of recycled water for cooling at Murwillumbah Sugar Mill reusing up to 100 per cent at dry weather flow from Murwillumbah Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## What is recycling?

Recycling is the use of treated wastewater for beneficial use other than drinking, such as irrigation of parks, sports fields and crops, domestic garden watering and toilet flushing.

## What does it involve?

There are a number of non-potable recycling options available including:

- ◆ Providing water for irrigation to local farmers, through the development of a treatment, storage and delivery system.
- ◆ Developing schemes to irrigate council-owned lands such as parks and sports fields with recycled water rather than from the drinking water supply.
- ◆ Installing 'third-pipe' systems in new developments. These systems provide recycled water to homes for use in toilets, laundries and gardens. 'Third pipe' refers to the additional pipe installed to each home, along with drinking water and sewerage pipes.

## Further Information

For further information on the Recycled Water Reuse Strategy visit Tweed Shire Council's website:

[www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/RecycledWater](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/RecycledWater)

or phone Council on (02) 6670 2400 or 1300 292 872.

