



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

WASTEWATER QUARTERLY REPORT

Quarter 4 – APRIL - JUNE 2021

OUR WASTEWATER NETWORK

Mount Barker District Council operates the largest South Australian Council-owned wastewater scheme.

It is a licensed water industry entity and is well-positioned to provide wastewater solutions to the district's existing and future growth areas.

The Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant provides services to the towns of Mount Barker, Littlehampton, Nairne and Brukunga. Council also operates treatment facilities at Meadows, Macclesfield and Echunga.

Maximising the beneficial reuse of recycled water is a priority for Council, and the Little Dublin Road storage and water treatment facility (at Mount Barker) plays a pivotal role in this process.

Council's goal is to reach 100 per cent recycled water reuse. We continue to work towards this by using recycled water on our parks, gardens, reserves and sports ovals. We're also supplying high-quality recycled water to schools for irrigation, to landowners for crops and agriculture and to households in Meadows for reuse.

5



TREATMENT FACILITIES

Mount Barker x 2, Meadows, Macclesfield, Echunga

20



PUMPING STATIONS

390



KILOMETRES OF WASTEWATER PIPELINES

1.6



BILLION LITRES OF WASTEWATER TREATED PER YEAR

2020/21 MOUNT BARKER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TREATED WATER

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant inflow in Megalitres (ML)	420	367	326	365
Recycled water usage (ML)	6	31	72	24
Treated water released to Laratinga Wetland (ML)	450	341	310	352
Mount Barker Creek natural flow volume (ML)	2815	1317	294	1052

OUR PERFORMANCE

The district's wastewater collection and treatment network **operated successfully throughout Quarter 4.**

The focus during this time has been on **progressing the planning, scoping and design of major projects** to increase the capacity and efficiency of the wastewater network.

Council introduced an **updated Trade Waste Policy and Trade Waste Management Plan** on 1 July 2021. Staff are working with business and industry operators throughout the district to ensure all comply with the updated requirements for trade waste discharges into Council's wastewater collection network.

The **Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant's interim upgrades are also complete.** Council has delivered all actions required under its Environmental Improvement Plan with only two remaining tasks being to develop a Recycled Water Reuse Strategy and deliver the Mount Barker WTP Stage 1 upgrade (construction to begin late 2022).

Council is **continuing to investigate new opportunities for beneficial use of recycled water** and the possible expansion of the recycled water network.



TRADE WASTE

Updated Trade Waste Policy + Management Plan

- New Trade Waste Management Plan and Trade Waste Policy adopted by Council in June 2021.
- Updated Trade Waste Policy in effect from 1 July, 2021.
- Communication to customers will occur throughout September.
- Trade Waste team currently liaising with businesses to increase compliance.
- Virtual info session planned for September/October.

HAMPDEN ROAD

Tender closed, evaluations under way

- Tender closed for trunk line and pump station project.
- Short-list of contractors currently under evaluation.
- Contractor appointment anticipated in December 2021
- Direct engagement continuing with key stakeholders.
- Community to be notified in advance of disruptions to road and trail access following contractor appointment.

RECYCLED WATER

Investigations into new reuse opportunities

- Recycled Water Direction and Interim Strategy adopted by Council.
- Investigations into new reuse opportunities for Callington, Hay Valley, Langhorne Creek and Mount Barker parks and gardens.
- Information session planned for Hay Valley landowners.

PLANT + INFRASTRUCTURE

All operating successfully

- All wastewater treatment plants and infrastructure operating successfully.
- No issues to report.

TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

Developing strategy for Stage 1 upgrade

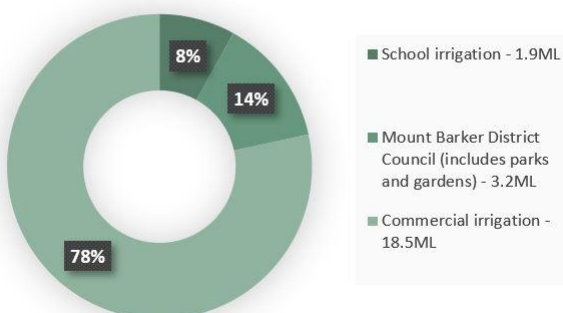
- Development under way of the strategy for procurement and construction of the Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) Stage 1 upgrade.
- Stage 1 estimated construction late 2022 - early 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Environmental Improvement Programme nears completion

- Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant Environmental Improvement Programme actions almost complete.
- Remaining tasks are to develop a Recycled Water Use Strategy (currently in development) and Mount Barker WTP Stage 1 upgrade (scheduled tender release December 2021/January 2022).

RECYCLED WATER REUSE BY SECTOR - Q4 FY2021



OUR PROJECTS

Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade/Renewal



Scope and purpose: Renew and upgrade existing Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant on Springs Road to increase operating capacity to meet current and forecast demand due to ongoing population growth.

Project funding: Project costs will be funded via a combination of developer contributions, user charges and wastewater financial reserves.

Benefits: Increasing capacity and operational efficiency will ensure ongoing delivery of high-quality wastewater services, and create future revenue and environmental benefits through recycled water reuse.

Q4 status: Interim upgrades complete. Planning for procurement and construction processes under way.

Construction: Estimated late 2022 – early 2024.

Mount Barker/Littlehampton/Nairne Collection Network Expansion

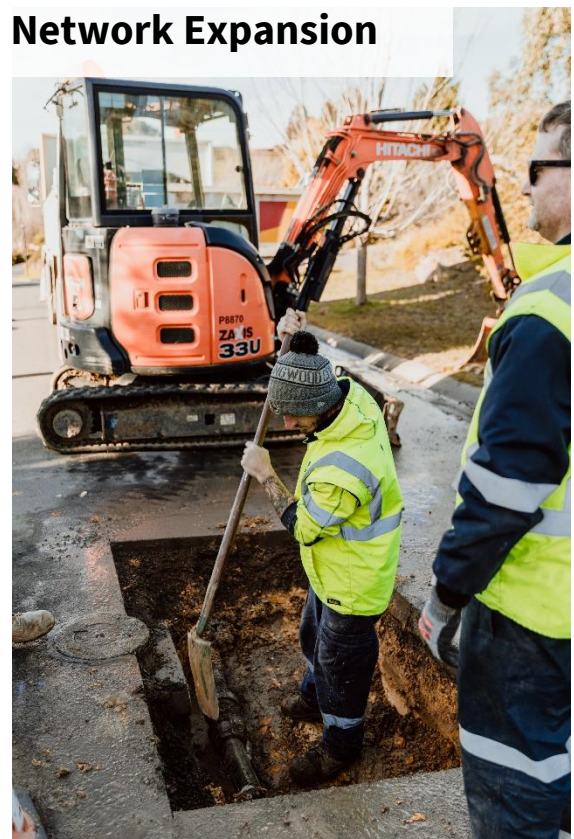
Scope and purpose: Install new pipes and pump stations across stages to service Mount Barker, Littlehampton and Nairne (Nairne, Hampden Road, Central and Eastern Stage 2 sectors) to meet the needs of the expanding towns.

Project funding: This project will be funded through a combination of developer contributions, user charges and wastewater financial reserves over an anticipated 10-year period.

Benefits: Continued delivery of high-quality wastewater services to Mount Barker, Littlehampton and Nairne. Environmental benefits with recycled water opportunities.

Q4 status: Hampden Road stage tender closed, short list of contractors under evaluation. Planning and scoping continues for other future sector stages.

Construction: Hampden Road stage estimated early 2022 – early 2023.



OUR PROJECTS



Recycled Water Storage and Reuse

Scope and purpose: Explore opportunities to increase recycled water use, particularly in Callington, Hay Valley, Langhorne Creek and on Mount Barker parks and gardens. Council is aiming to significantly increase the reuse of recycled water as a priority.

Project funding: Council is exploring funding opportunities, and recently secured some external grant funding towards two possible projects (which are subject to further investigations and final decision by Council).

Benefits: Significant environmental benefits with increased recycled water use. Community and industry benefits with increased access to a cost-effective, sustainable irrigation water source, promote circular economy.

Q4 status: Investigations into options to extend Callington's recycled water infrastructure are ongoing.

OUR PRIORITIES – Q1 JULY – SEPTEMBER 2021/22

Continuing to plan, progress and deliver our major capital infrastructure projects as well as other initiatives to improve our wastewater and recycled water services are the focus of our priorities for Quarter 1 2021/22.

These include:

- Progressing planning for the Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant Stage 1 upgrade.
- Advancing planning for stages of the Mount Barker/Littlehampton/Nairne Collection Network Expansion. Appointing a contractor to the first stage of this project (Hampden Road).
- Engaging with stakeholders and community about upcoming infrastructure projects.
- Investigating opportunities to expand recycled water infrastructure.
- Meeting with Hay Valley landowners to explore recycled water opportunities.
- Continuing liaising with business owners regarding their trade waste requirements under the revised Trade Waste Policy.

Latest news

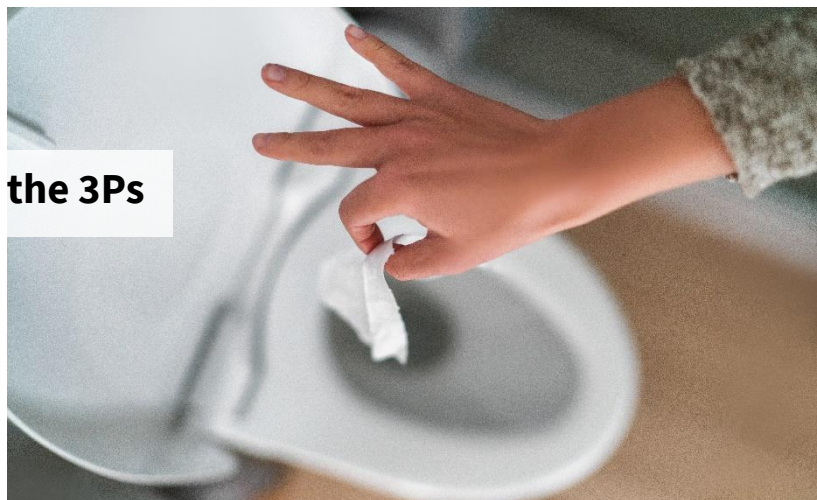
Think before you flush – remember the 3Ps

Before you hit that flush button, ask yourself if what you're sending down is actually healthy for our wastewater system.

Flushing the wrong items can create big problems later – including blockages in your pipes and septic tank which may lead to sewage overflows. On a larger scale, it can also clog up Council's wastewater collection network and damage our infrastructure – meaning the need for costly repairs and disruptions to services.

An easy way to remember what's flushable is to **think of the 3Ps – pee, poo and paper (toilet paper only please!)**.

One of the biggest blockage causing culprits is wipes, including wet wipes, baby wipes and so-called 'flushable wipes'. Despite what the label says, they don't break down well enough and cause big problems in our systems.



Things you should never, ever flush include:

- Wet wipes – all kinds including those that claim to be 'flushable'
- Face masks
- Facial tissues
- Paper towel, including paper hand towels
- Sanitary items
- Cotton buds
- Dental floss
- Fats and oils
- Food scraps
- Medications.



Grant funding for recycled water projects

Council has welcomed more than \$1.43m in Commonwealth Government grant funding as contributions towards two projects to expand the district's recycled water network.

The National Water Grid Fund – Connections Pathway program grants were announced this month. They require matched funding from Council for the projects to proceed.

The **Callington connection project** has been allocated \$790,930 to assist with the design, construction and project management of a 2km pipeline connecting Council's existing recycled water network to a proposed recycled water storage facility to supply water to primary producers. The **Nairne recycled water pipeline stage 1** project was allocated \$643,500 to construct a 1km pipeline from Council's Little Dublin Road recycled water storage facility.

Both project concepts are still being developed by Council and are subject to further decisions, including the preparation of business cases, and the endorsement of Council.