



Long term recycled water release plan

Overview

As our population increases, so does the amount of recycled water the city generates.

Recycled water from our sewage treatment plants is used for various purposes throughout the city, with excess recycled water released at the Gold Coast seaway on an outgoing tide.

Due to the projected population growth of the city, a new long term release solution is now required to cater for the significant demand on the recycled water release system.

Key information

- We currently operate four sewage treatment plants located at Pimpama, Coombabah, Merrimac and Elanora which treat sewage and produce high quality recycled water.
- Up to 20 per cent of all recycled water produced is reused for irrigation, dust suppression and non-food processing industry.
- Excess recycled water is currently released at both sides of the Gold Coast Seaway via two underwater pipeline diffuser systems.
- The southern diffuser point releases excess recycled water from the Elanora and Merrimac Sewage Treatment Plants via the Benowa Re-Pump facility and up to The Spit.
- The northern diffuser point releases excess recycled water from the Coombabah and Pimpama Sewage Treatment Plants and runs along the Seaway wall at the western end of South Stradbroke Island.

This practice has been in place since the mid-1980s and is subject to conditions imposed by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES).

Staging

We have developed a long term plan that ultimately involves an offshore release for excess recycled water.

Delivered in multiple stages, the long term plan is flexible and adaptable to suit changing circumstances in growth and coastal development as well as maximising existing infrastructure to defer capital costs.

Stage one consists of upgrades and augmentation of the system at the existing Seaway release locations. Future stages will result in an off-shore solution.

Stage one scope of works

- Major upgrades to existing recycled water pump stations.
- Underwater pipeline installations in the Broadwater (from Quota Park, Biggera Waters to South Stradbroke Island) and Nerang River (from Winchester Street, Southport to Waterways Drive, Main Beach).
- Pipeline duplication on South Stradbroke Island.
- Installation of additional diffuser pipework at the southern Seaway wall



Project timetable

Anticipated dates	Phase	What you might notice
August to October 2018	Establishment of sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage erected advising of upcoming works • Establishment of works at Quota Park, Winchester Street, Waterway Drive and South Stradbroke Island
November 2018 to June 2020	Construction works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary exclusion zones implemented around Seaway walls, Broadwater and Nerang River • Delivery of equipment and materials • Broadwater and Nerang River works involving tunnelling and drilling • Sewage treatment plant works including pump station upgrades

For more information

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