

Environmental Levy
Sustaining our City
for the next 20 years



WATER SAVING

Blackwater treatment and reuse

Conserving our precious water



BLACKWATER TREATMENT AND REUSE

FUNDING AREA
Water Saving

BUDGET
\$2M

TIMEFRAME
2024-29

LOCATION
Various

STATUS
New project

DID YOU KNOW?

Council currently irrigates 25 of its parks and sports fields with recycled stormwater saving between 350 and 450 million litres of potable water a year and about \$1M in water costs.

Smart technology provides the potential to mine blackwater (sewer) and sterilise, treat and reuse the water for irrigation of sports fields and toilet flushing.

WHAT IS IT

Randwick Council has been investing heavily through its Environmental Levy program in the capture, treatment and re-use of wastewater from a number of sources to reduce the reliance on using drinking water, where this quality of water is not required.

Drinking water requires high quality treatment and monitoring to ensure the highest standards are met for consumption by communities across Sydney. However, not all uses require this high standard of treatment especially if the water is used for non-potable consumption i.e. irrigation of parks and playing fields, toilet flushing in community or Council amenities or similar.

Capture, treatment and re-using wastewater (subject to all necessary regulatory and health controls) for the purpose of Council's operational water consumption could further reduce Council's reliance on potable water and costs.

BENEFITS

Communities around the world face cycles of drought with climate change expected to strongly influence these cycles into the future. Droughts also affect the volume of stormwater run-off available to capture and to re-use so relying solely on this form of wastewater for re-use purposes can be problematic. Blackwater re-use, primarily from the sewer, is available on a continuous basis. This project would investigate in conjunction with Sydney Water, opportunities for small-scale capture, treatment and re-use of each of the different forms of wastewater available.

Information current as at October 2023. Project is proposed for funding as part of Council's Environmental Levy Special Rate Variation, which Council is seeking to continue from 2024 to fund important sustainability programs and infrastructure.