

## Quality of Recycled Water

Recycled water is fully treated and can be safely used for a variety of purposes appropriate to the level of treatment it has undergone. Melbourne Water currently supplies Class A and Class C recycled water from its treatment plants in accordance with government environmental and health and safety guidelines.

## Classes of Recycled Water

In Australia, recycled water is classified according to its quality and range of uses.

### Class A

This is the highest quality of recycled water and is achieved after a tertiary treatment process combined with pathogen removal.

The Department of Human Services Open this link in new window has classified Class A recycled water as safe for use on irrigation for food crops – including those eaten raw. The Department of Human Services requires an extensive verification process to ensure Class A water can be guaranteed. EPA Victoria Open this link in new window also supports its use.

Class A recycled water has the widest range of uses including:

- \* residential garden watering
- \* closed system toilet flushing
- \* process/cooling water for industry
- \* fire protection stores and reticulation systems
- \* irrigation of municipal parks and sportsgrounds
- \* water for contained wetlands or ornamental ponds
- \* food crops that are consumed raw or sold to consumers uncooked or processed
- \* all of the uses listed for classes B, C and D

### Class B

A secondary treatment process, combined with some pathogen reduction is used to produce Class B recycled water. With strict management practices it may be used for the following:

- \* irrigation of dairy cattle grazing fodder
- \* livestock drinking water (not including pigs)
- \* wash down water for dairy sheds and stockyards (not including milking equipment)
- \* urban (non-potable) uses with restricted public access
- \* closed industrial systems
- \* all of the uses listed for classes C and D

### Class C

A secondary treatment process combined with minor pathogen reduction is used to produce Class C recycled water. With strict management practices it may be used for the following:

- \* cooked/processed human food crops
- \* selected (raw/unprocessed) crops not directly exposed to recycled water (eg. apples)
- \* grazing/fodder for cattle, sheep, horses, goats etc.
- \* grazing for dairy cattle (subject to a five day withholding period after irrigation)
- \* urban (non-potable) uses with restricted public access
- \* closed industrial systems
- \* all of the uses listed for Class D

### Class D

A secondary treatment process is used to produce water of this quality. Class D recycled water may be used for the following uses:

- \* non food crops such as woodlots, turf growing and flowers

