

RECYCLED WATER

A D E L A I D E A I R P O R T L I M I T E D



Landscaping by Terminal 1 irrigated with recycled water

WHAT IS IT?

Recycled water, sometimes called *reclaimed water*, is former wastewater / sewage that has been treated to remove solids and other impurities. It is then used for non-potable uses such as irrigation reducing the volumes being discharged to the Gulf St. Vincent.

WHY USE IT?

South Australia is currently experiencing water shortages on a mass scale due to several years of below average rainfall. Predictions are for this trend to continue in the long term. These shortages have required the expanded use of alternative water sources to supplement mains water used in agriculture, industry, and residential developments. Using recycled water is one way to reduce mains consumption and reuse perfectly good water that would otherwise be pumped into the Gulf and further contribute to coastal pollution.

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Adelaide Airport receives recycled water from SA Water via a pipeline from the Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant.

HOW MUCH DOES THE AIRPORT USE?

Recycled water is used in toilet flushing throughout the Terminal 1 building and for most irrigation across the Airport site. In the 2006/2007 financial year just over 47,500 kL of recycled water was used by the airport (equivalent to ~20 Olympic sized swimming pools).

HOW CLEAN IS IT?

Adelaide Airport has used recycled water for a decade. It currently receives only the highest quality Class "A" recycled water from SA Water. Class "A" water must contain on average < 10 microorganisms per 100mL of water. The water is endorsed by the Department of Health as safe for use in irrigation and toilet flushing, and is supplied to the airport in separate lilac-coloured piping from mains water.

DOES THE AIRPORT MONITOR WATER QUALITY AND ITS USE?

SA Water monitors the quality of all recycled water to ensure it falls within Class "A" standards before it reaches the airport. Also, the airport reviews its irrigation management plan annually to ensure optimal use and monitoring of recycled water. Soil and groundwater sampling is routinely undertaken to assess any possible impacts that may arise from recycled water used for irrigation.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR ADELAIDE AIRPORT AND RECYCLED WATER?

The airport is planning to expand its recycled water network in the future through connection points to be installed in the soon-to-be developed Glenelg to Adelaide Pipeline. SA Water will complete construction of this pipeline by the end of 2009, supplying the Adelaide parklands, and other users, with recycled water for irrigation and other non-potable uses.

Sign at Adelaide Airport where recycled water is used for irrigation

