



# Purple Pulse

Spring 2013

**Customer News** 

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## Your recycled water news

Purple Pulse is a newsletter aimed to keep recycled water users informed about the beneficial, safe uses of recycled water in the community. Feature articles and handy hints for using recycled water will help you keep you finger on the pulse and your gardens will benefit too. To register your interest in a topic about recycled water please email

westport@westernportwater.com.au

# About the Phillip Island Recycled Water Scheme

The Phillip Island Recycled Water scheme has been delivering Class-A recycled water to residents and commercial customers through the purple pipe network since August 2012.

The aim of the recycled water scheme is to reduce the use of valuable drinking water. Recycled water will be used for such things as flushing toilets, watering gardens, washing cars, fire fighting and other outside uses like water features and ornamental ponds. Recycled water is also used for commercial applications such as watering sporting facilities, parks, gardens and agricultural applications.

New estates in the Cowes and Ventnor areas on Phillip Island have been the first residents to tap into the purple pipe and have made a significant contribution to sustainability on Phillip Island.

Over the past year, Westernport Water has found that recycled water from residential properties has reduced the demand on drinking water resources by about 30% in each home. Using recycled water doesn't only benefit your back pocket, your veggie patch and gardens with nutrients, but also provides environmental benefits by conserving our water supply and reducing disposal of treated wastewater to the ocean.



Phillip Island Golf Club has invested significant funding and resources, with support from the State Government's Small Business Grant Scheme and Westernport Water, to secure the use of a water source that does not rely or impact on our precious drinking water supplies.

Golfers have come to expect and enjoy playing on well-manicured lush green turf, and due to the forward thinking of the Phillip Island Golf Club, enthusiasts will be playing on a superbly maintained, evergreen course, well into the future. The 18 hole golf course spanning over two sights can use well over 35 million litres of water per year for irrigation alone. Many years prior, they connected the course to Class-B recycled water, however due to the close proximity of residential zoning, they were only able to irrigate 50% of the course. Now with access to high quality Class A recycled water, they are able to connect and irrigate 100% of the course, saving a minimum of 14 Olympic size swimming pools worth of drinking water per year.

Ryan Hall, Course Superintendent who initiated and managed this venture, speaks of his satisfaction "I used to feel quite guilty when we had to use drinking water in the past, but now I am very proud of what we have achieved, and can carry on my work with a clear conscience. This recycled water is going to benefit everyone on the Island for years to come".

## **Recycled water news**



#### **New commercial customers**

Recycled water is now available to new agricultural customers who have tapped into the purple pipe network along Pyramid Rock Road and Ventnor Road, this will provide stock with drinking water.



### Watering your veggie patch

Recycled water will provide your garden with valuable nutrients and a sustainable water supply to keep your garden green! The nutrients in recycled water means you don't need to fertilise your veggie patch or garden bed. Just remember nutrient-rich water needs to be carefully applied to ensure runoff from excess watering does not cause any detriment to the environment such an algal bloom.



#### **Community Orchard & Garden**

Planning has commenced for a community run project that aims to build awareness and demonstrate the benefits of recycled water, through a unique large scale orchard and garden that will benefit the Phillip Island community.

Westernport Water has made a site available at Wimbledon

Westernport Water has made a site available at Wimbledon Heights, and will provide more information and opportunities for community input over the coming months.



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