

ALICE WATER SMART REUSE PROJECT

What is Alice Water Smart?

Alice Water Smart (The Plan) is a \$15 Million program which aims to extend the life of the finite groundwater water supply resource of Alice Springs and secure the long-term sustainability of Alice Springs water resources.

The Project aims to save up to 1600 megalitres of potable water each year through an integrated suite of projects including:

- The installation of smart water meters;
- A water supply pressure management and leak reduction program;
- Upgrades to the irrigation systems of several community parks and ovals;
- Water audits of homes, businesses and accommodation providers;
- Extra provisions for rebates and retrofitting of water conserving devices such as showerheads and rainwater tanks; and
- An upgrade to the wastewater reuse scheme that will enable high quality recycled water to be made available to local users for irrigation and other purposes.

The Plan is a cooperative joint venture lead by Power and Water Corporation involving five organisations:

- Power and Water Corporation (project manager and major capital items);
- Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (expanded rebates program);
- Alice Springs Town Council (smart irrigation to parks & open spaces);
- NT Tourism (hotel audits and retrofits); and
- Arid Lands Environment Centre (homes and businesses)

The Plan will help to reduce water extraction levels below the published cap of approximately 10.7GL per year from the Roe Creek Borefield (Alice Springs water supply) and supports the NT 2030 Strategy to achieve a 20% reduction in residential consumption by 2015 and a further 10% by 2020.

Alice Water Smart has the support of the federal government and has attracted a grant of \$7.5 million under the National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns.

What is the Alice Water Smart Reuse project?

The Alice Water Smart Reuse project will be delivered by Power and Water Corporation and forms part of the Alice Water Smart Plan (The Plan).

Alice Water Smart Reuse is a \$6.5 million project that aims to reduce water consumption by 220 megalitres per annum by supplementing potable water supply with recycled wastewater for irrigation purposes.

This project will expand the capacity and treatment processes at the Alice Springs wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to improve the quality and quantity of the recycled water; expand the supply pipe network to deliver recycled water to more customers south of Heavitree Gap, and; help customers to connect to the recycled supply pipe.

A new storage tank, new pipework and additional filtration will be required to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant for the Alice Water Smart Reuse project.

The new storage tank will be the same size as the existing tank and will be used to store recycled water ready for use by new customers engaged under the Reuse project.

New pipework will be required to extend the existing recycled water pipeline to reach all of the customers south of Heavitree Gap and across the other side of the Todd River just South of The Gap. New connections from the recycled water pipeline to the consumer's properties will also be provided.

In order to upgrade the quality of the recycled water to the required health standard for unrestricted irrigation under the Reuse project a new filtration process is required. The additional filtration process will refine the treated wastewater from the existing treatment system – the DAF plant.

Who can become part of the Alice Water Smart Reuse project?

Power and Water Corporation currently operates a recycled water scheme that transports recycled water from the Water Recycling Plant down along the Stuart Highway to the Arid Zone Research Institute.

The Alice Water Smart Reuse project will offer customers in the vicinity of this scheme the opportunity to become part of the Alice Water Smart Reuse project.

What can I use the recycled water for?

Power and Water Corporation aims to provide a high quality of recycled water that will be able to be used for 'unrestricted' end uses such as irrigation purposes. The recycled water will supplement these water uses that currently use the drinking water supply.

How do I sign-up?

Power and Water Corporation will enter into a recycled water supply contract with each customer, which is similar to the other recycled water schemes Power and Water Corporation operate in NT.

The contract will provide the conditions of supply including costs, mutual obligations for recycled water uses and security of supply.

What is the cost?

Under the Alice Water Smart Reuse project Power and Water Corporation will provide at no cost to each customer;

- A supply connection from our recycled water supply network,
- A recycled water supply meter arrangement near the drinking water meter arrangement on the customer's land,

- Modify the drinking water meter arrangement if required.

If project funds allow, Power and Water Corporation at its discretion may provide assistance in connecting customer's plumbing to the recycled water meter arrangement. However, customers will generally be required to modify or install new plumbing to facilitate connection from the end uses to the recycled water meter arrangements.

When can I start using recycled water?

Alice Water Smart Reuse project will run for 2 years. During this time Power and Water Corporation must upgrade the WWTP and build new recycled water supply pipes.

As a result, Power and Water Corporation intend to have the recycled water supply ready for customer use by June 2013.

Where can I get more information?

More project information can be found at www.alicewatersmart.com.au or please feel free to contact The Alice Water Smart Project Officer on (08) 8951 7323.