

Alstonville Reclaimed Water Scheme

Ballina, New South Wales, Australia

The Alstonville Sewage Treatment Plant services the towns of Alstonville and Wollongbar with a sewered population of approximately 6000. Prior to the development of the scheme approximately 1.5 ML/day of effluent was discharged into Maguires Creek.

Ballina Shire Council developed the Reclaimed Water Scheme to improve the health of Maguires Creek, especially during low flows, and to recycle a valuable resource, providing a commercial quantity of recycled water for irrigation purposes.

The aim of the scheme is to provide for 100% use of reclaimed water in the dry times to minimise effluent and nutrient discharge into Maguires Creek.

The Scheme will supply recycled water to seven enterprises located near the treatment plant. The properties include nurseries, grazing and horticultural enterprises and Council playing fields. Currently, four commercial nurseries are using the reclaimed water.

HydroScience staff worked with Ballina Shire Council in collaboration with the local enterprises and relevant state government agencies to put in place a *sustainable, safe and environmentally sound scheme*.

HydroScience staff worked on many aspects of the of the scheme including,

- ❑ Development of the policy, infrastructure and operational framework for the scheme,
- ❑ Liaison with Council's planning staff, landholders, government agencies, and the community,
- ❑ Soil and site investigations, assessment of the scheme against state and national guidelines, management of preparation of environmental assessments, establishment of baseline assessment and ongoing monitoring of groundwater
- ❑ Preparation and negotiation of agreements with landholders,
- ❑ Preparation of scheme and individual environmental management plans, and Section 60 Approval requirements,
- ❑ Development of SCADA controlled automated water allocation distribution to optimise reuse, and
- ❑ Induction of nursery owners and staff in the safe use and management of reclaimed water

The Alstonville Reclaimed Water Scheme commenced operation in May 2008.

Project Overview

Highlights

- ❖ Improving the health of Maguires Creek
- ❖ 100% reuse in dry times
- ❖ Reliable alternative source of water
- ❖ Sustainable, safe and reliable scheme

Details

Completion Date: 2008

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