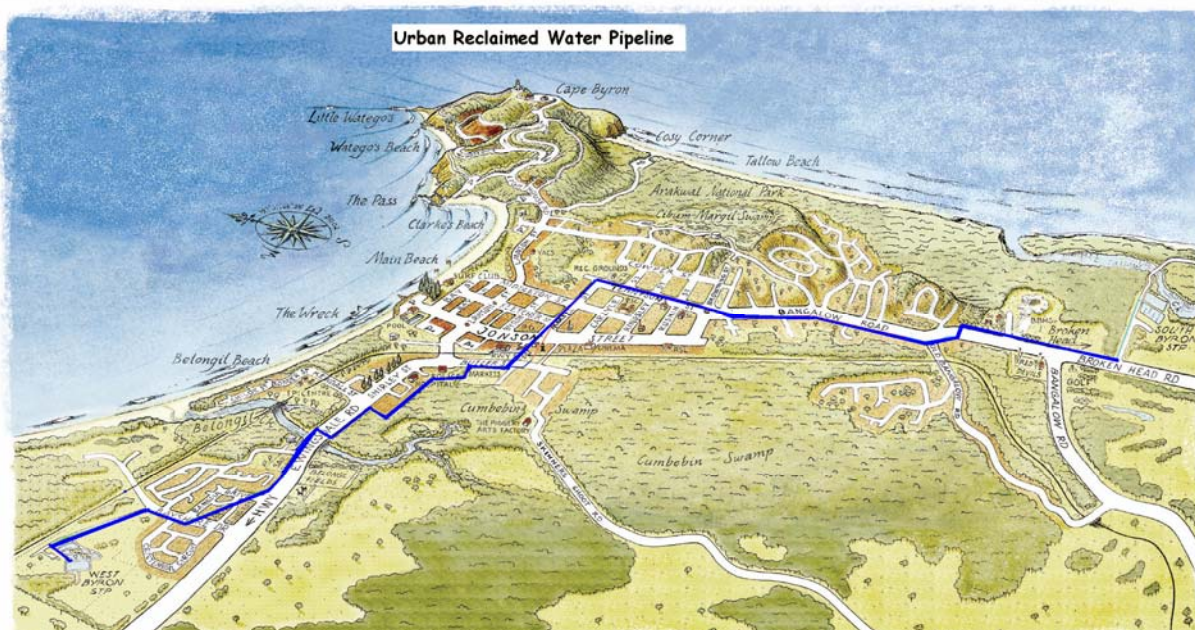


Urban Reclaimed Water for Byron Bay – creating a sustainable future



Byron Shire Council has been contributing to the sustainable management of water resources in the shire since the early eighties. In a bid to reduce the impact of the effluent discharge from the South Byron Sewage Treatment plant on the Tallow Creek estuary, the Council, in partnership with the Byron Golf Course, implemented an effluent reuse program involving irrigating the tees and fairways.

Over twenty years have passed since Council's first foray into reclaimed water reuse and the precious resource continues to climb in its value to the community. Council now also provides reclaimed water for **rural reuse at Mullumbimby** and through the National award winning **Byron Bay Integrated Water Management Reserve**. The Reserve continues to provide reclaimed water for the Golf Course via the reclaimed water pipeline constructed through Byron Bay as part of the recently completed sewerage augmentation scheme. The scheme includes a reclaimed water treatment plant designed to deliver high quality water that meets NSW Department of Health and NSW Department of Environment and Conservation guidelines for reclaimed water use in an urban setting.

The scheme offers the community and the environment many benefits including:

- Reducing the demand on potable water supplies from Rocky Creek dam, extending the service delivery capacity of our regional potable water supply.
- Cessation of effluent discharges to the Tallow Creek Estuary.
- Reducing effluent discharges to the Belongil Estuary and ultimately the Cape Byron Marine Reserve, thereby protecting the health of our waterways and ecosystems for the fisheries and tourism industries.
- Reducing the impact of water restrictions on playing fields and improving the playing surface quality.

- Increasing the economic viability of water dependent industries such as nurseries,
- Making reclaimed water available to a greater number of potential reclaimed water users now and in the future.

By the end of 2006 Council anticipates connecting the Byron Bay Bowling Club to the Urban Reclaimed Water Scheme, and in 2007, Council, in conjunction with the Federal Government Community Water Grants program, plans to make reclaimed water connections with:

- Byron High School,
- Red Devil's Playing Fields,
- Byron Bay Herb Nursery
- EnviTE native plant nursery
- Tennyson St playing fields



Byron Golf Course – uses the effluent reuse program to irrigate the tees and fairways.

Reclaimed water is also being used to irrigate over 750,000 melaleuca trees at the Byron Bay Integrated Water Management Reserve. This project not only reuses reclaimed water it helps manage acid sulphate soils, sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and provides habitat and connectivity along a regionally significant wildlife corridor.