



## FACT SHEET



# Water Management at Sydney Airport

## Using Water More Efficiently

Water is one of our most precious natural resources. In recent years, the impacts of drought and climate change have brought into sharp focus the need to ensure we all use water wisely and as efficiently as possible.

With nearly 33 million passengers using Sydney Airport in 2008, around 56% of all water consumed at the airport was used to supply restroom and toilet facilities in the International and Domestic Terminals and other workplaces across the airport. Water was also used during construction and maintenance projects, for aircraft washing, for washing and cleaning rental cars, in airconditioning cooling towers, for landscaping maintenance and as part of fire training activities.

In 2008, a total of 2,830 kilolitres of water were used every day, or about 31 litres per passenger. This makes the airport one of NSW's biggest water users.

Sydney Airport is therefore committed to using water more efficiently, and to reducing the use of drinking quality (or potable) water for purposes where other cost-effective water sources are available and able to be used.

A number of important water savings initiatives have been completed or are underway, including:

- Implementation of the NSW Government-approved Sydney Airport *Water Savings Action Plan* (WSAP). This includes:
  - ✓ completion of an airport-wide leak detection program

- ✓ installation of water-savings devices across the airport
- ✓ installation of a sophisticated real-time water demand monitoring system

A massive 80 million litres of potable water has been saved through initiatives under the WSAP since the first year of implementation

- A Water Cycle Management Strategy was completed in 2009 which investigates and assesses opportunities to further improve Sydney Airport's water efficiency

## Protecting and Improving Water Quality

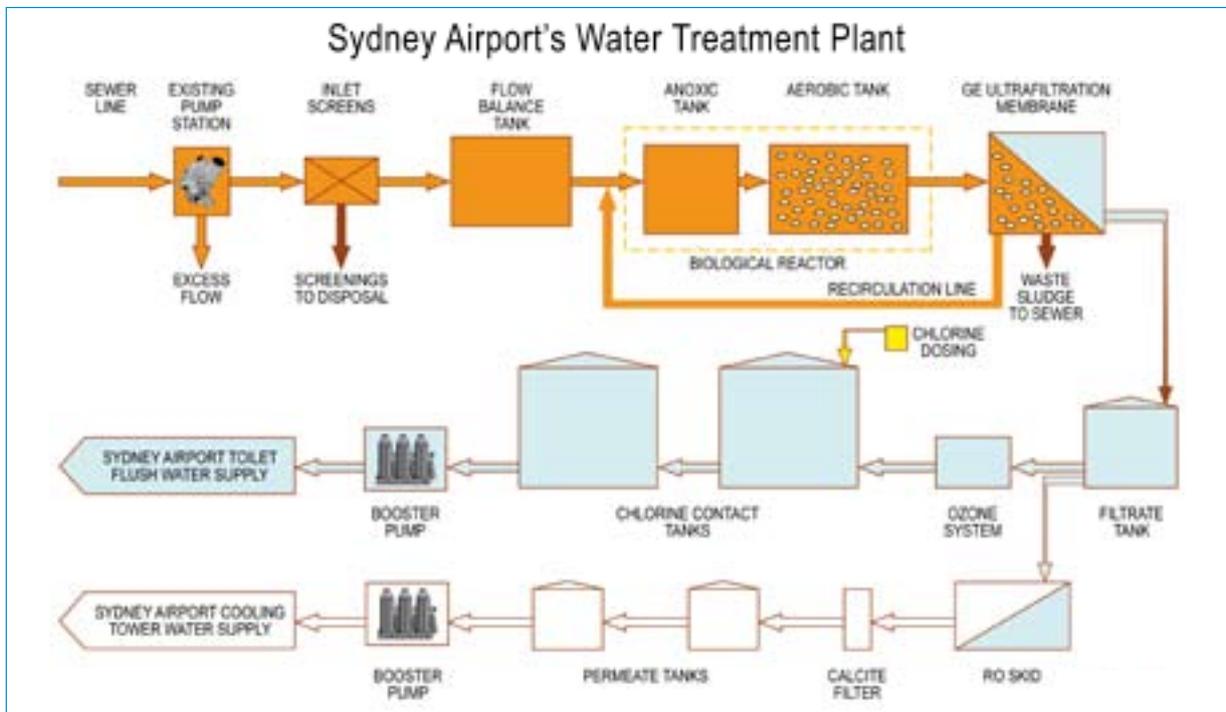
Sydney Airport is almost entirely surrounded by waterways, with Botany Bay to the south, Botany Wetlands (incorporating the Sydney Airport Wetlands) to the east, Alexandra Canal to the north and the Cooks River to the west.

A number of activities at the airport have the potential to impact on these surrounding waterways. These include:

- spills from aircraft servicing and maintenance
- urban stormwater run-off from areas where construction and/or maintenance activities are occurring
- bulk liquids and hazardous materials storage
- fire training exercises

Sydney Airport is committed to implementing proactive and effective measures to minimise pollution and reduce environmental impacts. To achieve this, a number of initiatives have been completed or are

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Sydney Airport Water Recycling Plant, completed during 2009

underway, including:

- installation of three Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices (SQIDS). These remove gross pollutants, sediment, oil and grease from stormwater run-off and improve water quality in Botany Bay, the Wetlands, Cooks River and the Alexandra Canal
- installation of an additional two SQIDS in the Domestic Terminal Precinct to improve the quality of stormwater run-off
- sustainable stormwater management measures are also implemented with relevant construction projects

- availability of a designated round the clock spill response vehicle and provision of 'spill kits' in aircraft parking bays to ensure any spills can be quickly and effectively cleaned up

## Recycled Water – Good for the Environment

Recycled water is water that has been used before, and is then treated and cleaned to remove impurities. Using recycled water for certain purposes can reduce the amount of potable water used, thus saving precious drinking water supplies. Recycled water is therefore good for our environment.

After securing a \$3 million grant from the NSW Government to retrofit a dual plumbing system, Sydney Airport invested in a new water treatment and recycling plant to reduce the amount of potable water used in the International Terminal.

The plant will treat and clean waste water using a series of physical, chemical and biological processes before it is used again in airconditioning cooling towers, for toilet flushing and for landscaping purposes.

Potentially, this new \$10 million plant will save up to one million litres of fresh drinking water every day over the next 20 years.



Aerial view of Sydney Airport, showing the proximity of waterways such as the Cooks River (foreground) and Botany Bay (background)