

# Sunbury's Water Future

An integrated regional approach



## Natural and urban water cycle

The way our water cycles work

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### What are the water cycles?

As water moves between the land, ocean, rivers and atmosphere, it changes from solid to liquid to gas – this is our planet's way of recycling water. It's called the **'natural water cycle'**.

The natural water cycle still happens in cities and towns, but urban growth has changed how water flows through the environment. This is called the **'urban water cycle'** and includes water supply, wastewater, recycled water and stormwater.

### What's the difference between stormwater, wastewater and recycled water?

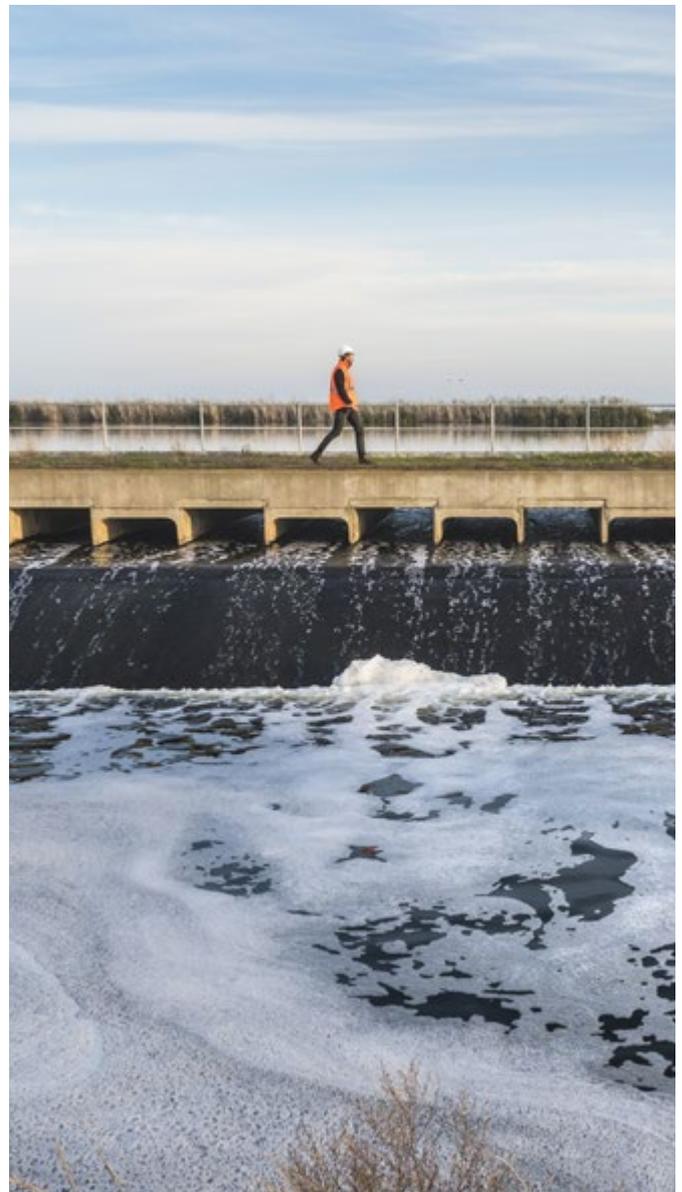
Rainfall that runs off roofs, roads and other hard surfaces into gutters, drains, creeks and rivers, and eventually into the sea is called 'stormwater'.

Water that's been used in the home, in a business or an industrial process is called 'wastewater'. It's captured in the sewerage system which has different pipes to stormwater.

When wastewater goes through a treatment process, it becomes 'recycled water' that can be reused for other purposes. The Sunbury Recycled Water Plant is one of seven recycled water plants operated by Western Water.

Recycled water can have different levels of treatment depending on what it is to be reused for. Recycled water is also released to waterways.

[Read more: Western Water's approach to recycled water](#)



To find out more about Sunbury's Water Future go to:  
[yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/Sunburys-Water-Future](https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/Sunburys-Water-Future)



