

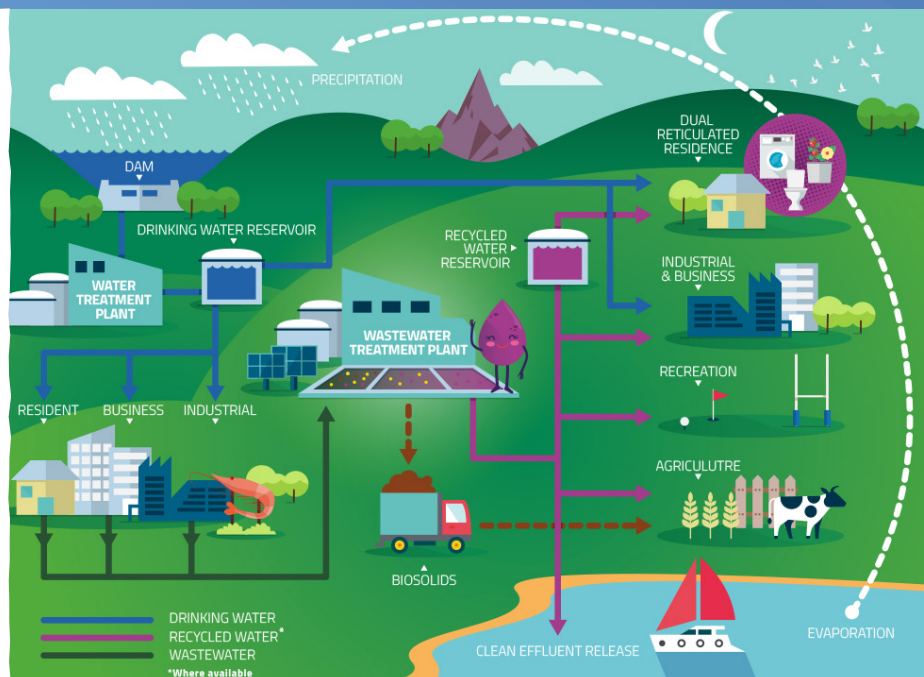
HELP SAVE WATER

LOVE IT OR LOSE IT

Water is key to survival. All living things, including us, depend on water. We need it to drink, wash, cook, clean and grow food. Across the Richmond River catchment we are lucky enough to have great quality water. But it's also easy to take this precious resource for granted. Understanding the importance of water will help us all save water and create better waterways for future generations.

The Water Cycle

Do you know where your water comes from? Before it comes out of your tap, hose or shower water has already gone on a long journey. In fact, the same water that was on Earth millions of years ago is still here. For all that time, water has been moving from one place to another. This is called the water cycle.



The *urban* water cycle is the way water is collected, used and managed. Within the Richmond River catchment this cycle includes drinking water, recycled water and wastewater. Water is piped to treatment plants where impurities are removed and it is made safe for drinking and household use.

Water used for flushing toilets and household water that goes down the drain is called wastewater. Within the Richmond River catchment, council's treat and recycle wastewater to help save precious drinking water and reduce discharge into waterways.





Rainwater tanks

Rainwater tanks are available in a variety of shapes and sizes. They can be installed to rural or urban areas and are great long-term investment for saving water.

Before installing a rainwater tank, contact your local council for possible rebates and requirements.

A rainwater tank can help to:

- Provide water for flushing toilets, washing clothes and the pool.
- Reduce your water consumption.
- Reduce your water bills.
- Irrigate your garden during dry periods.



How to save water at home

- Flush less or use the half flush. It may not seem like much but using the half flush can save the average household 35,000 litres of water a year!
- Use water-efficient appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers. Look for appliances with five-star rating. Some front-load washing machines can save 50% less water! This saving is good for the environment and your family's finances.
- Fix leaky taps and toilets quickly.
- Find your water meter. Knowing where your water meter is located and monitoring your use could save you thousands! A water leak within your property's plumbing can result in a hefty bill and often go undetected between billing periods. Keeping an eye on your meter will detect this unwanted water loss and cost!
- Turn off the tap. If you're brushing your teeth then remember to turn off the tap!
- Install a rainwater tank.
- Connect to recycled water where available.
- Cut your shower time. Having shorter showers or opt for a bath if you plan on showering longer than five minutes.





Recycled water

Some council areas offer residents and businesses the opportunity to connect to recycled water. Recycled water is wastewater that has been treated to such a high standard it can be delivered back to properties for particular uses. Within the Ballina Shire Council, some businesses and residents receive recycled water through special purple taps for irrigation, toilet flushing, washing clothes and cars.

Contact your local council to find out more about recycled water.

How to save water at work

- Make your staff water wise. Educate your employees on the importance and practices of water efficiency.
- Install water-efficient taps and dishwashers. Wait until dishwashers are full before washing.
- Set a goal. Setting a water use benchmark and working towards it as a team will help motivate water saving across your organisation.
- Replace single-flush toilets with dual-flush toilets.
- Install dual-flush toilets.
- Check your meters at night or when no water is being used to monitor leakage.

How to save water in the garden

- Wash your car, bikes and caravans on the lawn with a bucket and not the hose.
- Mulch, compost and be strategic. Keep your garden healthy and well hydrated by using mulch and planting according to the plants water needs.
- Ditch the hose. Use brooms or a blower to clean pathways and driveways.
- Cover up pools and spas. Keeping your pool or spa covered when it's not in use will significantly decrease evaporation. Just remember to lift the lid when it rains!
- Go native. Native plants are suited to our climate and will require less water than non-native plants.
- If you need to water your garden do it in the morning or afternoon. But remember hosing uses approximately 20 litres a minute.



More information

For more information please contact your local council.

The Love it or Lose it campaign is a collaboration between Ballina Shire Council, Lismore City Council, Kyogle Council, Rous County Council, Richmond Valley Council and North Coast Local Land Services.

ballina
shire council

lismore
city council



ROUS
COUNTY COUNCIL

Richmond
Valley
Council



**Local Land
Services**
North Coast



This project has been assisted by
the New South Wales Government
through its Environmental Trust.

