Kyneton Water Reclamation Plant

What area does the Kyneton Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) service?
The Kyneton WRP treats wastewater from approximately 3,800 connections in Kyneton, Malmsbury, Trentham and Tylden – approximately 7,500 people (according to 2016 Australian Census Data).
The wastewater is collected via 13 pump stations and a sewer network comprising of 80 kilometres of gravity mains and 11 kilometres of rising mains. The sewer network also collects wastewater from the Kyneton industrial estate, which includes an abattoir and the livestock exchange.

Are you allowed to release water to the Campaspe River from the Kyneton WRP?
The Kyneton WRP has an Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria Licence that outlines the operational requirements of the plant, and permits the release of treated wastewater to the Campaspe River during periods of natural river flows.
The plant is designed to treat water to an appropriate standard for irrigation, or for release to the Campaspe River.
The release needs to meet both quality and dilution requirements to meet Coliban Water’s Licence conditions. The plant is operated to reuse recycled water in summer, and discharge to the Campaspe River in winter as well as store recycled water in lagoons when there is no flow in the river.

Why are water releases from the Kyneton WRP to the Campaspe River currently needed?
There are two key reasons.

1. The first is increased inflows at the Kyneton WRP.
2. The second is we have been storing water in lagoons at the Kyneton WRP waiting for flows in the river to be at a level for us to release water. These releases need to be within the dilution requirements of our EPA licence.
   The lagoons were reaching capacity and therefore we had to notify the EPA. Initially we were releasing outside the dilution requirements of our EPA licence due to the low flows in the river. Currently, we are releasing within the dilution requirements of our EPA licence.

The conditions of our EPA licence can be found on the [EPA website](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/).

What is the treatment process at the Kyneton WRP?
There are four classes of water once it is treated. Each class has its own water quality parameters and acceptable uses.

More information about each class of recycled water and permitted uses is available on our website or from the EPA Publication 464.2 - Guidelines for Environmental Management Reclaimed Water.
The Kyneton WRP produces both Class B and Class C recycled water. The production of Class B is separate to the production of Class C.
Wastewater from domestic residences is collected and treated, via a biological nutrient removal process, to a Class B recycled water standard.
Trade waste from businesses is collected separately, and treated through a series of storages to a Class C recycled water standard.

Where is Class B recycled water being used?
During summer Class B recycled water is used to irrigate a number of local sites, including the Kyneton Racecourse, sporting ovals and the Kyneton Botanical Gardens.
When there is no demand for Class B recycled water it is stored onsite at the treatment plant.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Where is Class C recycled water being used?
Class C recycled water is used to irrigate land within the boundary of the Kyneton WRP. When Class C recycled water cannot be used for irrigation, it is stored in onsite storages.

These storages are limited to a maximum capacity of 80 per cent of capacity to allow some additional capacity for normal inflows or inflows during rainfall events into the Kyneton WRP.

Can Class C recycled water be turned into Class B?
Yes, this is possible. Significant investment would be required to do this. It is not currently planned or budgeted. We are investigating solutions to create additional storage capacity for recycled water.

Where does the water blending occur?
Class C recycled water is blended with Class B recycled water prior to release to the river. The blending takes place at a pump station and is pumped via a pipeline from the plant to the river before being released at the designated release point.

Where is the designated release point to the Campaspe River?
The designated release point to the Campaspe River is specified in the EPA Licence and is located on Wards Lane, on the eastern side of the river.

Is there an approved mixing zone for releases to the river?
There is no EPA approved mixing zone for recycled water releases from the Kyneton WRP to the Campaspe River under our current EPA Licence.

What is the current ratio of the blended water release to the Campaspe River?
On average it is 60 per cent Class B and 40 per cent Class C. This may vary during rainfall events to 40 per cent Class B and 60 per cent Class C.

All controlled water releases to the Campaspe River are either Class B recycled water or a blend of Class B and Class C.

Class C recycled water is not released on its own to the Campaspe River as part of a controlled water release.

When will the current release to the Campaspe river stop?
A date when releases will stop has not been set.

When will the EPA remove the advice regarding the water released to the Campaspe River?
Water quality data is being collected, both upstream and downstream of the designated release point. EPA will assess ongoing risk posed to the public and the environment.

At present, Coliban Water is meeting the dilution requirements of our EPA Licence due to the flows that are in the Campaspe River. The EPA health warning advice remains in place until it is lifted by the EPA.

When can stock go back on land with river access?
As soon as EPA determines to lift the health warning advice.

Will compensation be paid to landowners for feed and water following the advice to remove livestock from water access?
We do not have an answer to this question yet.

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Why not create more storage on the WRP site?
There is not enough land at the Kyneton WRP for more storage as well as the irrigation area. Placing storages on the irrigation area will reduce the amount of water we can reuse onsite.

Can the Kyneton WRP continue to service the growth in the region?
There are two answers to this question.
Yes – for the domestic treatment there is capacity for population growth projections out to 2040.
No – for the trade waste treatment there is not adequate capacity currently or for future growth. Treatment systems will be upgraded and additional storage capacity is needed. We are working on solutions to accommodate current and future capacity needs.

How is run-off from the Kyneton WRP managed?
During the summer months when there is run-off from irrigation it collected via a drainage system and returned to the onsite storages at the Kyneton WRP.
Every year, the first rainfall event after irrigation has finished is collected and captured in onsite storages at the Kyneton WRP. For rainfall events that follow, the stormwater is diverted to flow naturally into Snipes Creek.

Water releases to Snipes Creek

Is water released to Snipes Creek?
Only stormwater flows from the Kyneton WRP are diverted to Snipes Creek.

Have you had a controlled release to Snipes Creek previously?
Since the flooding event in 2010/2011, the instances where water was released to Snipes Creek via a controlled releases include:

- Two instances (July 2012 and July 2013), the EPA granted emergency discharge approval to release to Snipes Creek.
- In September and October 2016, following multiple storm events and significant high flows at the site, there were releases to Snipes Creek.

The current EPA Licence for the Kyneton WRP

What is EPA role in managing the Kyneton WRP?
The EPA regulates sites across Victoria that pose a significant risk to the environment.
Coliban Water has 12 water reclamation plants that have a Licence, and the Licence is used to regulate the operation of each plant.
The Kyneton WRP has an EPA Licence that outlines the operational requirements of the plant, and permits the release of recycled water to the Campaspe River during periods of natural river flows.

How does the EPA audit our Licence compliance?
Each year we submit an Annual Performance Statement to the EPA for their review. The EPA also conducts site inspections of Licenced facilities.
Is the current Licence for the Kyneton WRP sufficient?
We are currently working with the EPA on appropriate Licence requirements.

Are you seeking a change in the dilution requirement of your EPA Licence?
We are seeking a review of all requirements in our Licence with the EPA, including the dilution requirement.

Has Coliban Water ever been fined by the EPA in regards to Kyneton WRP?
Coliban Water received what is called a Pollution Infringement Notice (PIN), in 2013 for the Kyneton WRP.

What is the timeframe for the current investigation by the EPA for Kyneton WRP?
Currently we are responding to requests from the EPA regarding its investigation, and we do not currently know the timeframes.

Why have we never received notification previously?
This is the first time Coliban Water was requested by EPA to provide health warning advice.

Where is the flow measurement of the Campaspe River taken?
There is an existing flow station located at Redesdale as part of our EPA Licence conditions.

We have received requests for flow measurement closer to the Kyneton WRP. We will seek a review of this location in consultation with the EPA or consider putting in additional flow measurement not required by our EPA licence.

Kyneton Offsets Project

What is the Kyneton Offsets Project?
Ten kilometres of land along the Campaspe River and Post Office Creek in Kyneton will benefit from environmental improvement works as part of this project to offset the impact of releases from the Kyneton Water Reclamation Plant to the Campaspe River. The project commenced in April this year and is being delivered in partnership with the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

The project will involve the removal of willows, and subsequent fencing and revegetation along these waterways and will contribute to waterway health through the removal of willows and stock from the waterway and revegetating the area with native species. More than 20 hectares of river frontage will be revegetated as part of the project and 12 kilometres of fencing will be installed to keep livestock out of the waterway.

How will the Kyneton Offsets Project benefit plant operations and landowners?
Preventing nutrients entering the river improves water quality upstream of the designated release point, allowing Coliban Water to release treated wastewater without a change to downstream water quality.

How will you measure the benefits of the Kyneton Offsets Project?
Coliban Water has engaged experts in aquatic pollution research to design and undertake an extensive monitoring program upstream and downstream of the designated release point.

What’s the value of keeping cattle away from the river permanently?
Preventing cattle from directly accessing waterways reduces faecal contamination, sedimentation from erosion and protects riparian vegetation.