

SUSTAINABLE WATER PARTNER PROGRAM



The Beach Hotel – A Sustainable Water Partner

CASE STUDY

MAKING THE SWITCH TO RECYCLED WATER

The Beach Hotel has reduced demand on our region's potable water supply by over 4 million litres per year – this is equivalent to more than 1.5 Olympic swimming pools! They have accomplished this by connecting the Hotel's toilet and garden irrigation systems to Byron Shire Council's recycled water network through their purple pipes scheme.

Drinking water, also known as potable water, is used in our homes and businesses, and is supplied to the community through a network of water mains fed from sources like Rocky Creek Dam, located north of Lismore.

We can reduce stress on our potable water supplies by switching to recycled water or collecting rainwater to flush our toilets.

To make the switch, Rous County Council in partnership with the Beach Hotel, alongside Byron Shire Council and REID Environmental, embarked on a project to investigate the Hotel's water use, associated costs and a range of measures available to improve water efficiency.

The first step focused on understanding the Hotel's current use by undertaking a detailed water audit. This was completed by collating and analysing previous water bills, current water-use data and con-

ducting an onsite assessment to identify where and how water was being used for both the Hotel and the Hotel's accommodation complex which includes gardens, a pool and guest accommodation.

Considering the Hotel's size, popularity, and patron numbers, the onsite assessment, data gathering, and planning process for this project was comprehensive.

Through this process, a Water Saving Plan was developed identifying priority activities and water saving projects that the Hotel and Rous agreed were feasible, cost effective and provided the water saving benefits sought to enhance sustainability whilst reducing future costs.

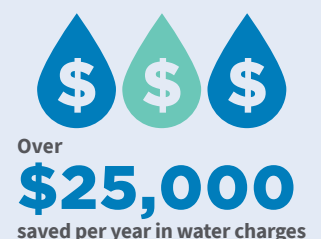
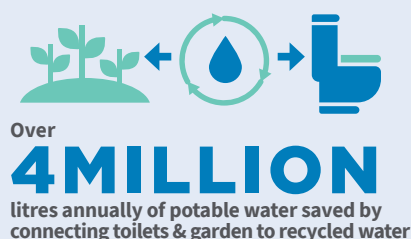
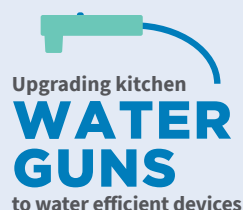
These projects included:

- Continuing to upgrade shower heads to water efficient devices rated under the Water Efficiency Labeling and Standards (WELS) Scheme;
- Upgrading water guns in the Hotel kitchen to water efficient devices;
- Investigating outdoor water consumption and opportunities to improve efficiency;
- Connecting the male and female toilets of the Hotel to recycled water.

The Water Saving Plan identifying these projects was fully funded through Rous County Council's Sustainable Water Partner Program.

The Beach Hotel, Byron Bay, is a proud partner of Rous County Council through the Sustainable Water Partner Program. Rous County Council has recognised the Beach Hotel for its commitment to water efficiency and sustainability, which it has achieved by switching to recycled water.

PROJECTS & ACHIEVEMENTS – WATER EFFICIENCY AND COST SAVINGS



Achievements – water efficiency and cost savings

The Hotel agreed that the connection of the male and female toilets and outdoor garden irrigation to recycled water were priority projects due to the potential annual water and cost savings.

A switch to recycled water was possible for the Hotel as Byron Shire Council has a recycled water program, known as the purple pipes scheme, available to businesses near the recycled water infrastructure in the Byron CBD.

Taking advantage of the location of the recycled water main, the Beach Hotel coordinated, progressed, and completed this project.

The switch to recycled water for the Hotel's toilets alone will reduce demand on our potable water supply by more

than 4 million litres annually, saving the Hotel more than \$25,000 every year in water charges.

We are extremely proud to partner with Byron Shire Council and Rous County Council to implement the new system that allows us to utilise recycled water in key areas throughout the venue. The project has many benefits, it is a win-win for the Beach Hotel, our patrons and the community.

Clear signage of the purple pipes, recycled water scheme not only communicates important information about the use of recycled water but will hopefully generate more conversations around the value of water, where our water comes from and ways we can conserve it.

**Anthony Brady, General Manager,
Beach Hotel, Byron Bay**



GET INVOLVED IN THE SUSTAINABLE WATER PARTNER PROGRAM

The aim of the Sustainable Water Partner Program is to support businesses to make changes that will have lasting benefits for the business and broader community – not only saving water but increasing business profitability through lower water and sewer costs.

As part of the program, Rous County Council can offer businesses with an annual water consumption >5ML a fully funded Water Saving Plan as well as rebates of up to \$25,000 annually to implement water saving projects.



THE BEACH HOTEL

Beach Hotel, Byron Bay is a large open pub including a restaurant and 25 accommodation rooms. It is located on Main Beach, Byron Bay, and is a well-recognised venue in the popular east-coast tourism destination.

www.beachhotel.com.au



ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL

Rous County Council is the regional water supply authority providing bulk water to the Council areas of Ballina, Byron, Lismore Shires and the Evans Head area. We work closely with our constituent councils across these local government areas to deliver the Sustainable Water Partner Program in partnership with local businesses like the Beach Hotel.

www.rous.nsw.gov.au

THIS PROJECT IS REGIONALLY SUPPORTED BY



Contact Rous County Council for eligibility details phone (02) 6623 3800 or email council@rous.nsw.gov.au

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