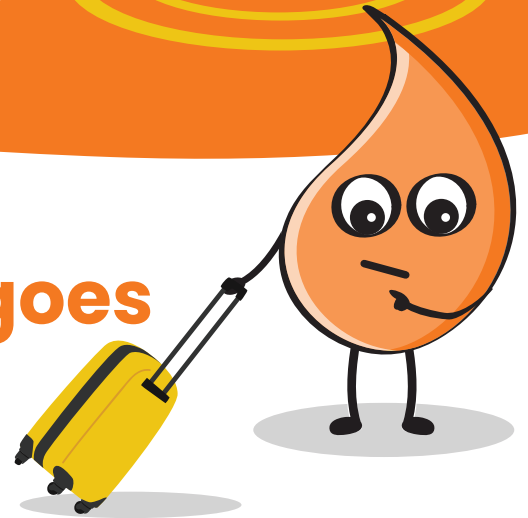


What is Wastewater?



Have you ever wondered **where the dirty water goes** once it leaves your home, school or business?



The water you use and wash down the drain is called wastewater or sewage. This wastewater travels through underground pipes to a wastewater treatment plant for processing before being released back into the environment or reused as recycled water.

Council currently operates **wastewater treatment plants** at:

- Rubyanna
- Millbank
- Thabeban
- Gin Gin
- Lake Monduran
- Bargara
- Childers
- Woodgate

Did you know?

Almost all sewage that arrives at a wastewater treatment plant is water.



Did you know?

Council has approximately **113 sewage pump stations** in our region that allow for remote monitoring of the underground sewerage network systems.



How is wastewater treated?

All wastewater is treated through biological and chemical means to **remove bacteria and inorganic matter** through the following steps:

- **Foreign objects are removed** (items that should not be in a sewer)
- The **large organic matter** (known as sewer sludge) settles to the bottom before being removed to drying beds for reuse. The resulting dry organic matter is known as biosolids.
- The **smaller matter** is digested by good bacteria before they are removed.
- The **remaining water is disinfected** then sent back to the environment or reused as recycled water.

Factors influencing wastewater volume

The amount of wastewater that arrives at the wastewater treatment plant varies according to the time of day.

The volume can also increase suddenly during wet weather events or when old or damaged sewer pipes allow for the intake of groundwater.

Did you know?

A percentage of our sewer sludge, transformed into biosolids, is used as **fertiliser** for local agricultural farmers.

