

9. GOLF COURSES

An average 18-hole golf course uses 100 megalitres of water a year. The wastewater recycling scheme supplies two golf courses in Hervey Bay. This source substitution conserves enough town water resources to supply the needs of about 600 homes.

HERVEY BAY SEWAGE TREATMENT NETWORK

LEGEND

- 1 Pulgul Sewage Treatment Plant
- 2 Pulgul storage basins
- 3 Pulgul farm
- 4 Hardwood plantations
- 5 Turf farms
- 6 Flower farm
- 7 850mL storage
- 8 Cane farms
- 9 Golf courses
- 10 Eli Creek Sewage Treatment Plant
- 11 Sports Precinct
- 12 Nikenbah Sewage Treatment Plant



GENERAL LANDSCAPING

The city's airport, Wide Bay Water offices and a local cricket ground are just some of the landscaped areas that stay green and lush through irrigation from the wastewater reuse scheme.

4. HARDWOOD PLANTATIONS

Wide Bay Water is establishing hardwood plantations around each scheme's major storage dam to ensure the 100% reuse target can be achieved - particularly when demand from the cane industry diminishes during the non-growing season.

8. CANE FARMS

The success of Pulgul Farm led to the establishment of the Eli Creek irrigation scheme - developed with cane farmers in mind. An 850mL storage facility was created to ensure consistent supply, and eight farms connected. A ninth farm has connected via the pipeline linking the two irrigation schemes. Irrigation has seen cane yields increase by more than 40% and dollar return increase by 80% compared with previous dryland practices. Cane farmers have effectively drought proofed their operations and improved their competitiveness at a time when the state's sugar industry is in crisis.

5. TURF FARM

The wastewater irrigation scheme has provided opportunities for farming operations that traditionally struggled to exist in the Hervey Bay region, because of its lack of rivers and groundwater supplies. A turf farm near the Eli Creek treatment plant has been able to use the treated water to irrigate for some time, while the construction of the pipeline connecting Eli Creek and Pulgul has enabled another turf farm to establish - the farmer specifically buying land alongside the pipeline to connect to the scheme.

3. PULGUL FARM

With no major rivers or groundwater supplies in the area, sugar cane was farmed using dryland methods. Wide Bay Water entered into a share farm arrangement with a local farmer on 70ha of land at Pulgul to investigate the opportunities for irrigation using wastewater. The farm had been one of the worst performers in the district. In 1992 the wastewater was connected to the property. Within five years, the farm went from being the least productive to winning the Maryborough Cane Productivity Award for the highest sugar cane yield per hectare. The success of Pulgul Farm led other cane farmers to connect to the scheme.