



Caption here

The Urban Water Cycle

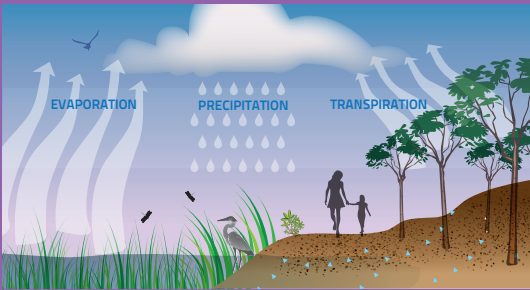
Moving water through the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay

Water comes out of the tap. Dirty water runs down the sink or flushes away in the loo. We don't often stop to think about where our water comes from before we use it or where it goes after we use it. Water is so much part of our everyday lives that we don't think about it much at all.

Where did all our water come from? Where is it going?

Water is old...really old!

The water that you used to brush your teeth this morning is as old as the Earth itself – it has always been here! Throughout history, the same water has naturally cycled around our planet continuously, allowing earth to reuse the same water through the Natural Water Cycle



Caption here

What happens when the people start to use water in cities and towns?

In modern cities and towns, water is used for everything! Water is used for drinking, cooking, cleaning, building, manufacturing – every part of our lives use water! When humans take water out of the natural water cycle, it becomes part of the Urban Water Cycle.

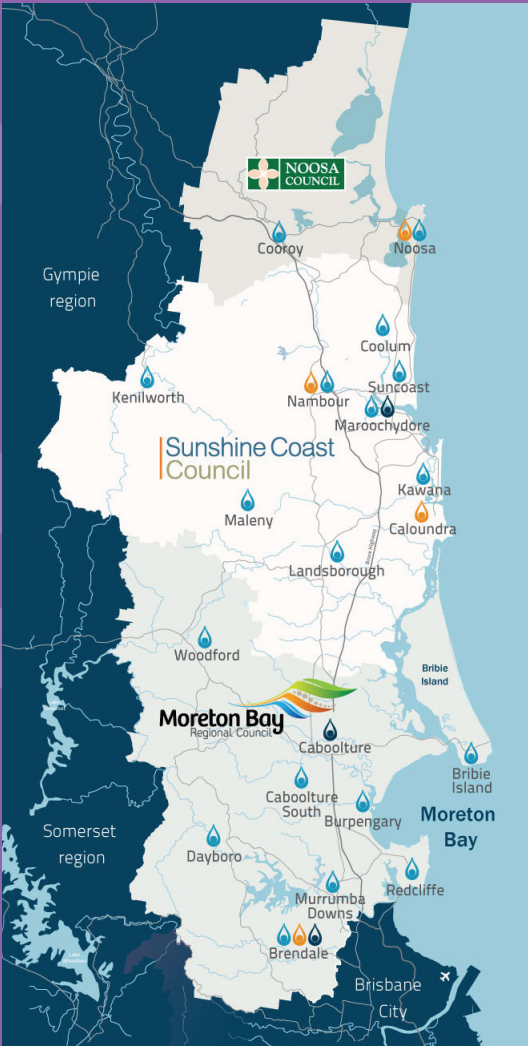
Through the Urban Water Cycle, humans store, supply, use, remove, clean and treat water so it can be returned back to nature.

Where does our water come from?

When rain falls from the clouds, some falls into the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay water reservoirs, where it is stored before it is needed in homes and businesses.

Water is pumped through underground pipes to water treatment plants, where it is cleaned by SEQwater to become safe drinking water.

The clean water travels through Unitywater's underground pipes to more than 300,000 homes and businesses across the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay.



Caption here



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The Urban Water Cycle

Moving water through the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay
- CONT.

FAST FACTS

DEFINITIONS

Water reservoir –
a large dam that stores water

Sewage –
all the used water that goes down our
sinks, out of the shower, from our washing
machines and even from our toilets.

Sewerage network –
the network of pipes, pumps, equipment
and treatment plants that removes and
cleans sewage.

Unitywater -
is the water distribution and retail business
serving the Moreton Bay and Sunshine
Coast communities by managing and
maintaining the town water supply and
sewerage infrastructure.

SEQwater -
provides bulk water storage and treatment
services to the SEQ Water Grid.

Where does our dirty water go?

After water has been used inside homes and businesses, it is called sewage. Unitywater removes and cleans the sewage through a network of pipes, pumps and treatment plants called the sewerage network.

Sewage from homes and businesses connected to the sewerage pipes travels to one of 18 sewage treatment plants in the Sunshine Coast-Moreton Bay region. Here the sewage is cleaned and treated before the water is either recycled or released into a waterway.

Recycled water can be used for irrigating parks, gardens and playing fields or by businesses for making things.

Some homes and businesses in the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay regions are not connected to the pipe system. These homes treat their sewage using a sewage treatment system at their house such as a septic tank.

For more information

Watch your water waste

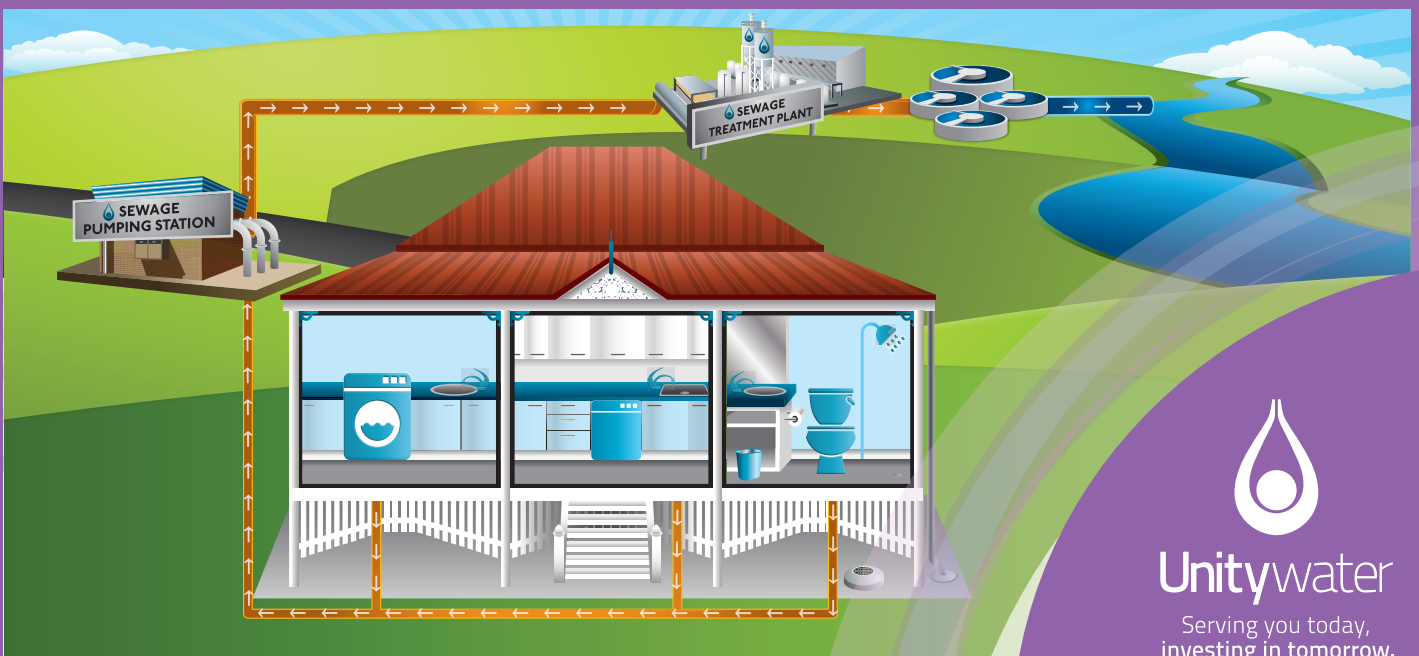
How can dirty sewage become clean water

Water cycle games and online resources

Interactive Water Cycle enables students to explore the natural and urban water cycles (Healthy Waterways).

Animated Water Cycle has a wise old scientist explaining 12 stage of the cycle (Water Corporation of WA).

Water Cycle games and activities showing different aspects of the cycle (Sydney Water).



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