



Education is the key

SYDNEY is facing potential water shortages and experiencing lengthy water restrictions.

Recycling has environmental benefits and could potentially provide a guaranteed source of potable water.

It appears, however, there is not enough demand or price incentive for non-potable use of treated effluent, which would allow full-scale recycling of wastewater generated in Sydney.

This could change dramatically if Sydneysiders can be persuaded to drink treated sewage, and if fully-treated wastewater can be piped back to the storage dams.

Sydneysiders are yet to be convinced and the psychological barrier in drinking treated sewage is difficult to overcome.

This is happening in other parts of the world, so we probably need more public awareness, consultation and education.

In the short term, a variety of water sources and solutions need to be considered, including gradual increase in recycling and reuse, with better management of water demand and reuse.

Desalination of ocean water should probably be the last option, and to be considered only if we fail to secure Sydney's long-term water supply from other sources.

**Helal Morshedi,
Hammondville**