Resident’s strategy survey on a new end use of recycled water in Australia

R. Limb, A. Listowskic

*School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Technology Sydney, Broadway, NSW 2007, Australia
Tel. +61 (2) 95141693; Fax +61 (2) 95142633; email: h.ngo@uts.edu.au
#Institute of Water and Environmental Resource and management, University of Technology Sydney, Broadway, NSW 2007, Australia
Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127, Australia

Received 24 March 2009; Accepted 31 August 2009

ABSTRACT

The concept of using recycled water for washing machine was introduced as a new end use. As there is a noticeable lack social research in understanding the general public perceptions of this application, the resident’s strategy survey was carried out at some selective suburbs in Sydney with demographically based significant differences of general, gender, age, education, and property style and ownership. The survey indicates that the majority in the community considers the use of recycled water for washing machine is indispensable in view of continuing drought and the associated water shortages. Given safety assurance and demonstration, recycled water for washing machine has a considerable proportion within the responses. The general level of knowledge in community clearly understand that recycled water is more environmentally friendly option, whereas from cleanliness and public health point of view, higher quality water is required to be reused in washing machine. Moreover, the residents reckon to have a small unit for pre-treatment (point of use) before recycled water entering washing machines might assure the quality and safety. The survey also shows the major concerns for a resident to use recycled water for washing machine are public health, water cleanliness and washing machine durability.

Keywords: Recycled water; Water shortages; New end use resident’s strategy survey; Public health; Water cleanliness; Washing machine durability

* Corresponding author.