



# WATER EFFICIENCY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HOTEL SECTOR

## Why improve water efficiency?

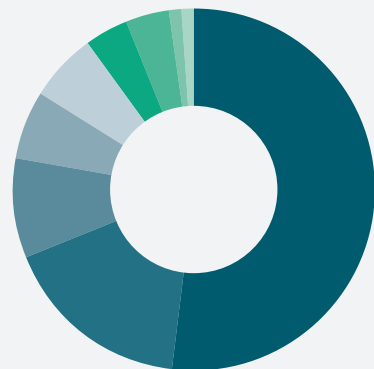
An increased focus on water efficiency is important for many reasons. With South East Qld experiencing a climate of extremes, there is the important sustainability consideration of ensuring there is enough water to meet future demand and ensuring people are not deprived of their essential supply. For a hotel there are also the associated financial benefits. Water efficient hotels save money through:

- Reduced water use charges
- Reduced trade waste charges
- Reduced energy costs associated with heating and pumping water around a site

## Where to start? – Create a benchmark

Establishing a water use benchmark is the best place to start for any hotel looking to improve their water efficiency. Industry recognised benchmarks for water use performance in hotels are litres per occupied room night (L/room night) or litres per guest night (L/guest night). Rather than total water used, this benchmark is the figure recommended to be tracked over time as a measure of water use performance as it accounts for any change in business activity.

**Average water distribution in water cooled hotels\***



Accommodation rooms & public amenities	52%
Cooling tower	17%
Kitchen	9%
Cleaning	6%
Unaccounted	6%
Pool/Spa	4%
Laundry	4%
Irrigation	1%
Bar/Café	1%

\*based on a 2017 study conducted across 17 Perth hotels.

## Water efficiency actions for hotels

The water management actions shown below are good points of focus for hotels wanting to achieve best practice in water efficiency:

- **Constantly monitor your water use.** One key to improving water efficiency in hotels is having a better understanding of end use patterns, so ongoing monitoring by reading your main meter and any internal sub-meters is vital. Any noticeable change in usage trends can then be quickly investigated.
  - **Sub-metering.** By knowing exactly how much water different areas of the hotel use will allow you to focus your efficiency efforts on the areas with the most potential. From a monitoring perspective sub-metering makes it easier to identify what area of the hotel might be responsible for a noticeable change in use. Suggested end use areas for sub-metering in a hotel include the kitchen, the swimming pool, the cooling tower and the laundry.
  - **Education and awareness.** Staff can be provided suitable training e.g. less water intensive cleaning practices and responsibility for reporting leaks in taps/toilets/showers with clear processes for follow up actions.
- Customers can be given in-room information about the current water situation in the region and any conservation projects the hotel has in place like, re-using their towel or taking shorter showers. Any customer actions should be framed as voluntary but there is a growing sustainability push in the community with many guests now taking note of a hotel's efforts in this area when choosing their accommodation.
- **Install efficient fixtures.** With accommodation rooms accounting for the largest portion of water use in hotels, installing water efficient appliances like 7.5L/minute showerheads, 3L/minute tapware, 4.5L/3L dual-flush toilets and waterless or low flow urinals, can lead to a large reduction in total water use. Water efficient showerheads have been developed to the stage now that a successful balance between water efficiency, shower pressure and guest satisfaction can be found. For suitable products visit [www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au)

For more information visit  
[urbanutilities.com.au](http://urbanutilities.com.au)  
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