

3 Water resources

3.1 Average annual residential water supplied – W12

The average annual residential water supplied indicator (W12) reports the average volume (kL/property) of metered and estimated non-metered potable and non-potable water supplied to residential properties during the reporting year. It is derived by dividing the total volume of residential water supplied (W8) by the number of connected residential water properties (C2). The average volume is influenced by a number of factors, including:

- climate
- rainfall
- water conservation measures (for example, water restrictions)
- availability of water supply
- housing density
- water prices.

Rainfall is the most influential factor affecting residential consumption. An increase in rainfall should reduce demand and a decrease in rainfall should increase demand. A decrease in rainfall can result in a significant decrease in runoff into storages and trigger demand-management measures such as water restrictions.

Average annual residential water supply (W12) data for all utilities reporting in 2021–22 is given in Table A1, Appendix A.

3.1.1 Key findings

Table 3.1 presents a summary of the median average annual volume of water supplied to residential customers by utility size group.

Table 3.1 Overview of results: Average annual residential water supplied (kL/property)

Utility group	Range		No. utilities with increase/decrease from 2020–21		Median		Change from previous year (%)
	High	Low	Increase	Decrease	2020–21	2021–22	
Major	228	135	3	11	159	157	-1
	WC (Perth)	Logan					
Large	374	120	5	7	197	185	-6
	P&W (Darwin)	Shoalhaven					
Medium	461	113	5	17	174	166	-5
	Lower Murray Water	Eurobodalla					
Small	420	92	7	17	193	184	-5
	P&W (Alice Springs)	Westernport Water					
All size groups (national)	461	92	20	52	176	165	-6
	Lower Murray Water	Westernport Water					

Note: The median average annual residential water supplied (kL/property) for each year is calculated using data from all this year's active utilities providing water supply services in that reporting year.

Nationally, there was a 6% decrease in the average annual water supplied in 2021–22. This decrease is consistent with the increased rainfall experienced across most of the country.

The number of utilities reporting a decrease in the average annual residential water supplied was higher than the number of utilities reporting an increase in all size groups (overall 52 out of 72 utilities reported a decrease). Kempsey Shire Council reported the highest percentage decrease (28.6%) in average annual residential water supplied and Mackay Regional Council reported the highest percentage increase (16.5%).

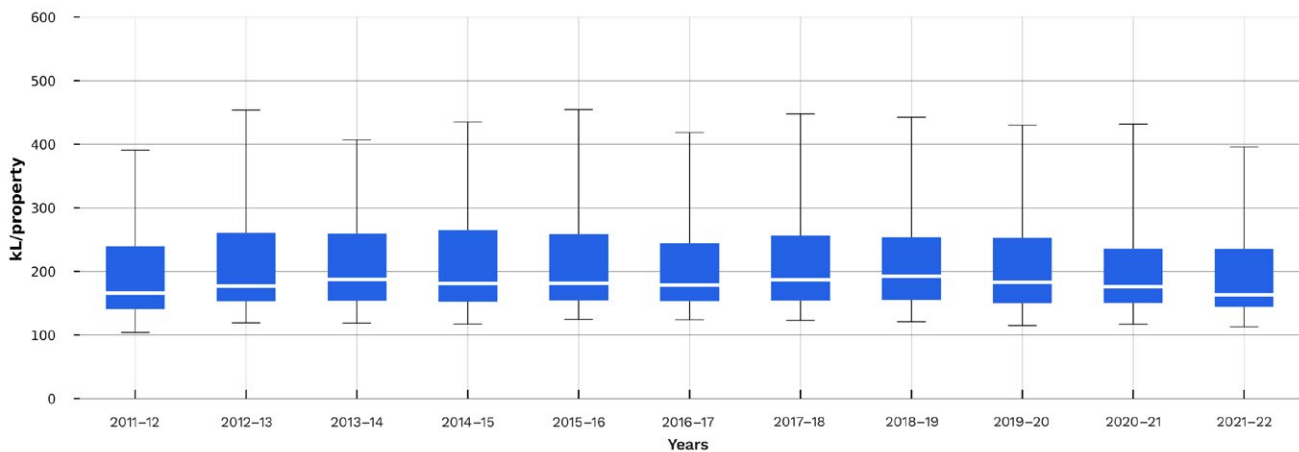


Figure 3.1 Average annual residential water supplied (kL/property)

Figure 3.1 shows a box-and-whisker plot of the average annual volume of residential water supplied for all utilities reporting W12. Across all utilities, the distribution of median residential water supply was the smallest it has been for 11 years due to the above average rainfall received across Australia over the last 3 years.

3.1.2 Results and analysis – Major utility group

Figure 3.2 shows a ranked breakdown of the average volume of residential water supplied for each utility in the Major utility group from 2017–18 to 2021–22.

The largest volumes supplied to residential customers occurred in the Water Corporation – Perth and SA Water Corporation regions (228 and 193 kL/property, respectively).

Variations ranged from a 11.4% decrease by Urban Utilities (Queensland) to a 0.9% increase by SA Water Corporation.

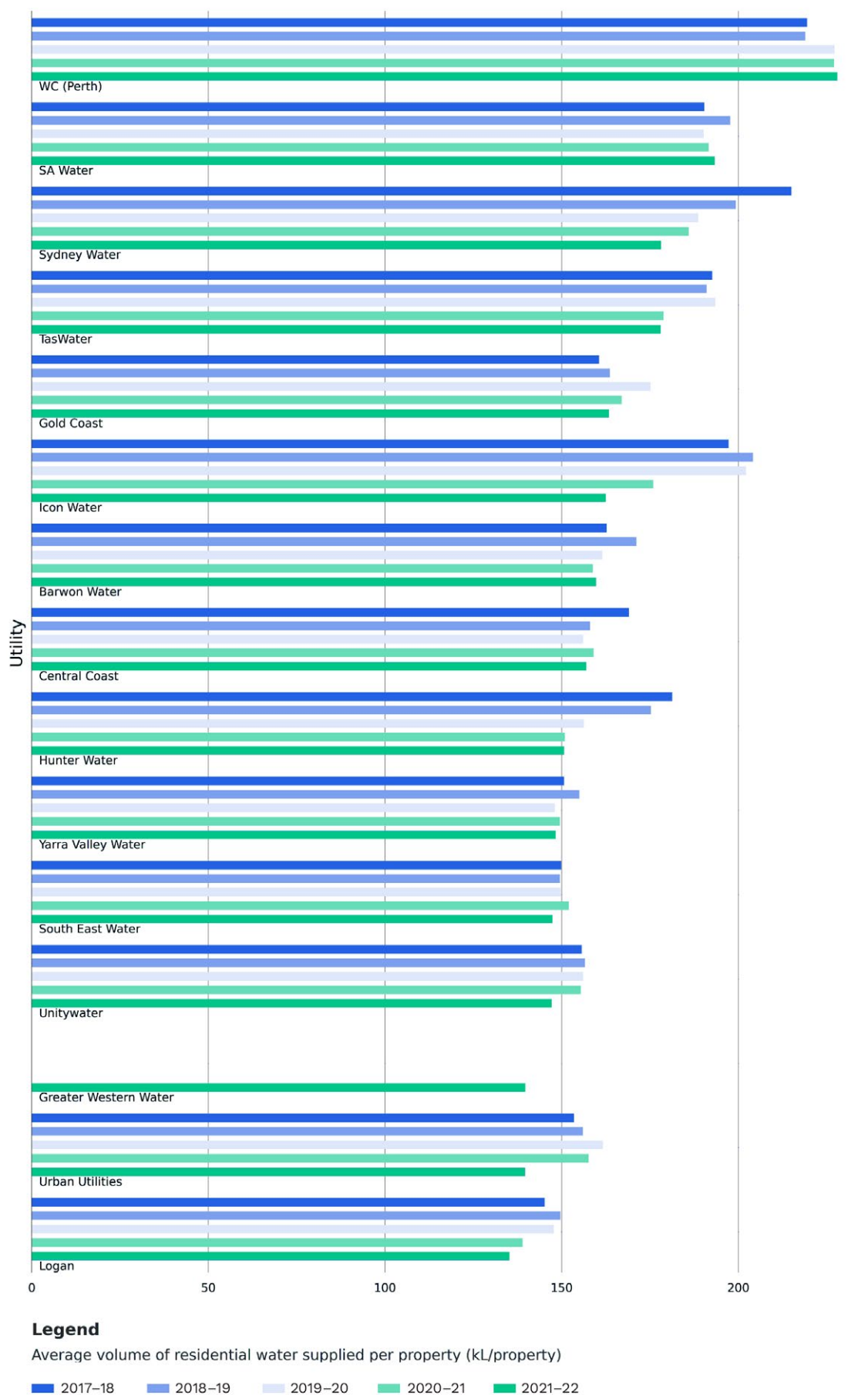


Figure 3.2 Average annual residential water supplied (kL/property) – Major utility group

3.2 Total recycled water supplied – W26

Total recycled water supplied (ML) is the sum of all treated sewage effluent used by the utility and its customers. It includes residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and environmental use as well as on-site use by the utility.

The volume of recycled water supplied is affected by a number of factors, including:

- availability of potable water
- size of the utility
- the utility's proximity to potential customers (for example, agricultural users, major industrial customers, and recreational facilities)
- fluctuations in sewage received and effluent available for recycling
- government policy.

Total recycled water supplied (W26) data for all utilities reporting in 2021–22 is presented in Table A2, Appendix A.


3.2.1 Key findings

Table 3.2 presents a summary of the total recycled water supplied by utility size group.

Table 3.2 Overview of results: Total recycled water supplied (ML)

Utility group	Range		No. utilities with increase/decrease from 2020–21		Median		Change from previous year (%)
	High	Low	Increase	Decrease	2020–21	2021–22	
Major	37,693	24	4	9	119,011	135,010	13
	Sydney Water	Icon Water					
Large	10,628	0	7	4	20,752	23,804	15
	North East Water	P&W (Darwin)					
Medium	5,458	102	9	12	33,851	33,354	-1
	Wagga Wagga (S)	Wingecarribee					
Small	2,351	0	9	16	17,554	16,513	-6
	WC (Albany)	Cassowary Coast					
All size groups (national)	37,693	0	29	41	191,168	208,681	9
	Sydney Water	Multiple utilities					

Note: The total recycled water supplied (ML) is calculated using data from all utilities that reported data for W26 in both the 2020–21 and 2021–22 reporting years.



Nationally, the total volume of recycled water supplied increased by 9% in 2021–22. The Major and Large utility group reporting showed increases of 13% and 15% respectively and the Medium and Small Utility Groups reporting decreases of 1% and 6% respectively.

There was a large variation in the changes between reporting periods, with Lismore City Council in the Small size group having the highest percentage increase in recycled water supplied 1,481% (change from 21 ML in 2020–21 to 332 ML in 2021–22), while Unitywater reported the highest decrease of 74.10% (change from 772 ML in 2020–21 to 200 ML in 2021–22).

3.2.2 Results and analysis – Major utility group

In 2021–22, the total volume of recycled water supplied was 208,681 ML, and over half of this was supplied by the Major utility group (65%). Sydney Water Corporation was the largest supplier of recycled water with 37,693 ML and Icon Water Limited reported the lowest level (24 ML) amongst utilities which provided recycle water.