

Minister admits state's drinking water is part recycled waste

Author: By MATTHEW BENNS
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NINE sewage treatment plants are pumping recycled sewage directly into Sydney's **drinking water** supply.

Last month a whistleblower told The Sun-Herald that the sewage treatment plant at Bowral was pumping recycled sewage into the river feeding into the Warragamba Dam - Sydney's main **water** supply.

Now NSW **Water** Utilities Minister David Campbell has confirmed that it is one of nine plants engaging in the practice.

Another 15 treatment plants pump the same quality recycled **water** into the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment area.

This is despite of a pledge made last year by NSW Planning Minister Frank Sartor that: "There is no market for this **water**. It is not a practical answer."

Resident David Reid described the **water** quality downstream of the North Richmond **Water** Filtration Plant as "brown casserole soup".

He said the drought meant there was no other **water** diluting the waste.

"What we are copping down here is just terrible," Mr Reid said.

"We were told that we wouldn't have this treated **water** and now it is all we have got."

Mr Campbell said: "Sydney **Water** utilises a highly effective multiple barrier approach to **water** treatment at its North Richmond **Water** Filtration Plant."

He said the **water** pumped into the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment contributed to only 2 per cent of the **water** flow for that area.

Another 5200 megalitres of recycled sewage is pumped into the Sydney catchment from sewage treatment plants at Berrima, Braidwood, Bowral, Mittagong, Bundanoon, Lithgow, Moss Vale, Mount Victoria and Wallerawang. He said the **water** was tested for up to 70 health and taste factors and made up less than 1 per cent of the total stored in the dam.

"Once the **water** comes out of Warragamba it goes to the Prospect **Water** Filtration Plant where it is filtered to meet NSW Health guidelines and the Australian **Drinking Water** [Guidelines] developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council," he said.
