

THE NATIONAL OUTFALL DATABASE

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**National
Outfall
Database**

The National Outfall Database has been developed during the past three years by the Clean Ocean Foundation in a project supported by the National Environmental Science Programme Marine Biodiversity Hub.

The database tracks the volume and composition of wastewater discharged to Australia's ocean and estuaries. Data gathered in 2016 from 165 of the 175 ocean and estuarine outfalls provide the first national snapshot of these discharges to Australia's coastal environment.

Nitrogen and phosphorous are nutrients commonly found in wastewater streams. They can cause significant water pollution issues such as algal blooms, environmental oxygen deficits and negative changes to marine species composition.

Volume of wastewater discharged to Australia's oceans in 2016

Total discharge

1350 gigalitres = 2.7 Sydney harbours

Potential value of water if as little as 20% was recycled

More than \$1 billion*

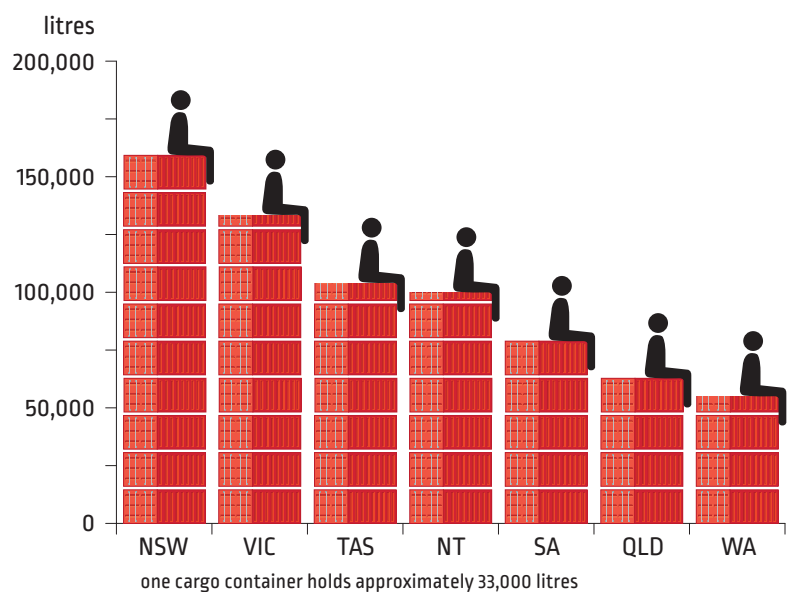
*Based on \$1.95/kL charge for recycled water by South East Water (Victoria).

About the National Outfall Database

The National Outfall Database initiative ranks Australia's ocean outfalls (and sewerage treatment systems) by relative pollutant discharges and fosters citizen science projects to understand local impacts on the marine environment and recreational users.

It supports integrated infrastructure planning and decision making by facilitating data sharing and communication between federal, state and local agencies and the community.

Wastewater discharged to oceans per person in 2016



Nitrogen and phosphorus discharged to the ocean by state/territory in 2016

