How Public Opinion Influenced the WCRWP

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What is the WCRWP?

- Western Corridor Recycled Water Project
- Third largest advanced water treatment project in the world
- $2.5 billion
- Designed for industrial and agricultural use, as well as to supplement drinking water supplies
- Climate independent
What does it do?

- 7 barrier process
  1. Source management
  2. Wastewater treatment
  3. Microfiltration
  4. Reverse osmosis
  5. Advanced oxidation
  6. Blending into body of water
  7. Water treatment plant
WCRWP Today

- Major drought in Queensland and surrounding areas ended
- Government decision to only use it as a last resort - when Wivenhoe Dam is at less than 40%
  - December 2010
- Currently providing water to Swanbank and Tarong power stations
- 112 Ml being produced, 232 Ml maximum
“Yuck!”

- Public Image
  - i.e. Toowoomba

- Less attractive to businesses, tourists, and potential residents

- Health concerns

- Agricultural Concerns
  - Diverting water for irrigation

- The “yuck” factor greatly inhibited the development of the WCRWP
Sources

- [http://epress.anu.edu.au/troubled_waters/mobile_devices/ch02s05.html](http://epress.anu.edu.au/troubled_waters/mobile_devices/ch02s05.html)