Measures

	Millilitres (mL)	Litres (L)	Kilolitres (kL)
One teaspoon 	5 mL	0.005 L	
One tablespoon 	20 mL	0.02 L	
One cup 	250 mL	0.25 L	
Two cups 	500 mL	0.5 L	
Three cups 	750 mL	0.75 L	
One milk carton 	1000 mL	1 L	0.001 kL
One wheelie bin 		240 L	0.24 kL
Four wheelie bins (almost one cubic metre) 		1000 L	1 kL
One mega litre (ML) would almost fill a 50-metre pool 		1,000,000 L	1000 kL
One gigalitre One thousand pools		1,000,000,000 L (one billion litres)	1,000,000 kL

Acronyms and abbreviations

ADWG	*Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*
BPD	backflow prevention device
CCP	critical control point
CWP	*Community Water Planner*
ESO	Essential Service Officer
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Geographic Positioning System
kL	kilolitre
kPa	kilopascal
mg/L	milligrams per Litre
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NTU	nephelometric turbidity unit
ppm	parts per million
SLAP	Serviced Land Availability Plan
TDS	total dissolved solids

Glossary

Many of the terms in this glossary have been taken from the 2004 *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.*

Aerobic
With air, specifically oxygen. Can refer to micro-organisms (those that need air to survive) or water itself (e.g. when water from a bore becomes aerobic, the iron in it turns red).

Anaerobic
Without air. Some micro-organisms are anaerobic—they live without oxygen. Surface water that has gone anaerobic is typically stagnant and smelly.

Backflow
The reverse flow of water back into the main supply. Backflow can be caused by back-pressure or back-siphonage. Backflow of water can contaminate the drinking water supply.

Chlorine demand
The difference between the amount of chlorine added to water and the amount of residual chlorine remaining after a given contact time. Chlorine demand may change with dosage, time, temperature, pH and the nature and amount of any impurities in the water.

Chlorine residual
Chlorine residual is the amount of chlorine that is available for disinfection. It is measured in milligrams per litre (mg/L). The ADWG recommend that water have a chlorine residual of 0.5 mg/L and a contact time of 30 minutes.

Critical control point
A point, step or procedure at which control can be applied and is essential to prevent or eliminate a hazard or reduce it to an acceptable level.

Cross-connection
A link or point in the water system where potable water is exposed to non-potable water. Cross-connections are usually unintended and can be caused by plumbing errors such as connecting the kitchen sink outlet to the main.

E. coli
Escherichia coli is a member of the coli group of bacteria found in the gut of humans and other warm-blooded animals. *E.coli* is used as an indicator of faecal contamination of water.

Geographic Information System
Computer software and database that stores and analyses geographic data.

Hazard
A biological, chemical, physical or radiological agent that can cause harm.

Intake
A point where water enters a system (for example, a pump).

Microbiological
Microbiological contamination can be from bacteria, protozoa, viruses, and some fungi and algae.

Multiple barriers
The use of more than one preventive measure (planned activity, action or process) as a barrier against hazards.

Offtake
Channel, or similar, for taking water away from the larger body of water.

Preventive measure
Any planned action, activity or process that is used to prevent hazards from occurring or reduce them to acceptable levels.

Residual protection
Chlorine remaining in water after the water has been treated will kill any pathogens it encounters in, for example, the storage or distribution system. This ensures disinfected water stays uncontaminated and is known as 'residual protection'.

Risk
The likelihood of a hazard causing harm in exposed populations, in a specific time frame, including the magnitude of that harm.

Scale
Hard water can cause a white crust (scale) to build up, particularly on hot items like kettle elements. Scale is made of calcium carbonate and magnesium oxide. Scale reduces the operating life of appliances.

Sewage
Wastewater from household, commercial and industrial sites. It includes faecal waste and urine from toilets, shower water, bath water, laundry water, kitchen water and industrial wastewater.

Sewerage
The system (pipes, pumps etc) for disposing sewage.

Standing water level
The depth to groundwater (metres) below a datum point or reference point, usually from the top of casing or natural surface.

Stratified water
Water that is in layers instead of being evenly mixed is stratified. Water in dams and tanks can be of poor quality if it becomes stratified and the lower layers become anaerobic.

True colour
The colour of water after suspended solids have been removed.

Turbidity
Turbidity is a measure of water clarity. The higher the turbidity the dirtier the water looks and the harder it is to disinfect. Turbidity can be caused by algae, dust, stirred up sediments and run-off, among other things.

Wastewater
Sewage from the house containing both blackwater (from toilets) and greywater (from other fixtures such as showers).

Further information

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