

Water Treatment Plant Operator

Job guide

Water Treatment Plant Operators play a vital role in making Australia's water safe to use. They treat water to meet appropriate standards and regulate the pumping of water and wastewater to ensure there's enough clean water for people to use. This helps protect public health and the environment.

What work do Water Treatment Plant Operators do?

As a Water Treatment Plant Operator, you would:

- operate computerised and manual equipment to control and regulate water flow
- use appropriate chemicals to treat water and wastewater
- collect and test water and wastewater samples
- monitor water quality
- ensure quality safety standards are met by cleaning and maintaining equipment
- record operational data and prepare reports
- follow regulatory requirements set by NSW Environment Protection Authority and other regulators.



Who is it for?

A career as a Water Treatment Plant Operator is ideal for those interested in water and wastewater operations, manual skills and labour, mathematics, analysing and solving problems, processes and procedures. You will gain an understanding of water industry standards and guidelines, knowledge of safety measures and equipment and how to perform water treatment processes such as clarification, chemical dosing and membrane filtration.

What will I earn?

The median full-time yearly salary is up to AUD \$84,500 (before tax, excluding super). A water operators' salary is largely dependent on the Local Government Award (base) and the amount of overtime done.

What qualifications do I need?

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available through Registered Training Organisations:

- **Certificate II (NWP20122)** in Water Industry Operations (Water Operator) (available as school based traineeship)
- **Certificate III (NWP30222)** in Water Industry Operations (Water Operator) (2 years, full-time, available as a fee-free traineeship)
- **Certificate IV (NWP40120)** in Water Industry Operations (Water Operator) (12-18 months full time).

These qualifications include on the job training.

Are there fee-free training programs?

The NSW Government is offering up to 900 fee-free training placements across NSW. Aboriginal people can access these targeted programs:



Other career opportunities within the water industry

- Water or wastewater network (reticulation) operator
- Wastewater treatment plant operator
- Water quality officer
- Water engineer
- Laboratory technical officer
- Water asset planner.



For more information about working in the water industry and training options, contact water.lwutrainig@dpie.nsw.gov.au