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BLACK & VEATCH



# Trends in Wastewater Treatment

## E30: AAEE/AIDIS/WEF Breakfast

**WEFTEC 09**

Orlando, Florida

October 10–14, 2009

**James L Barnard**

# Contents

- Discovery of the Activated Sludge Process
- Major trends in wastewater treatment
- Drivers for Research and Development
- Wastewater as a Resource
- Possible Future Scenarios

# 1914 - Arden & Lockett Publish Activated Sludge Process





# The Activated Sludge Process



# Physical/Chemical Treatment

## Tertiary High Lime and Ammonia Stripping

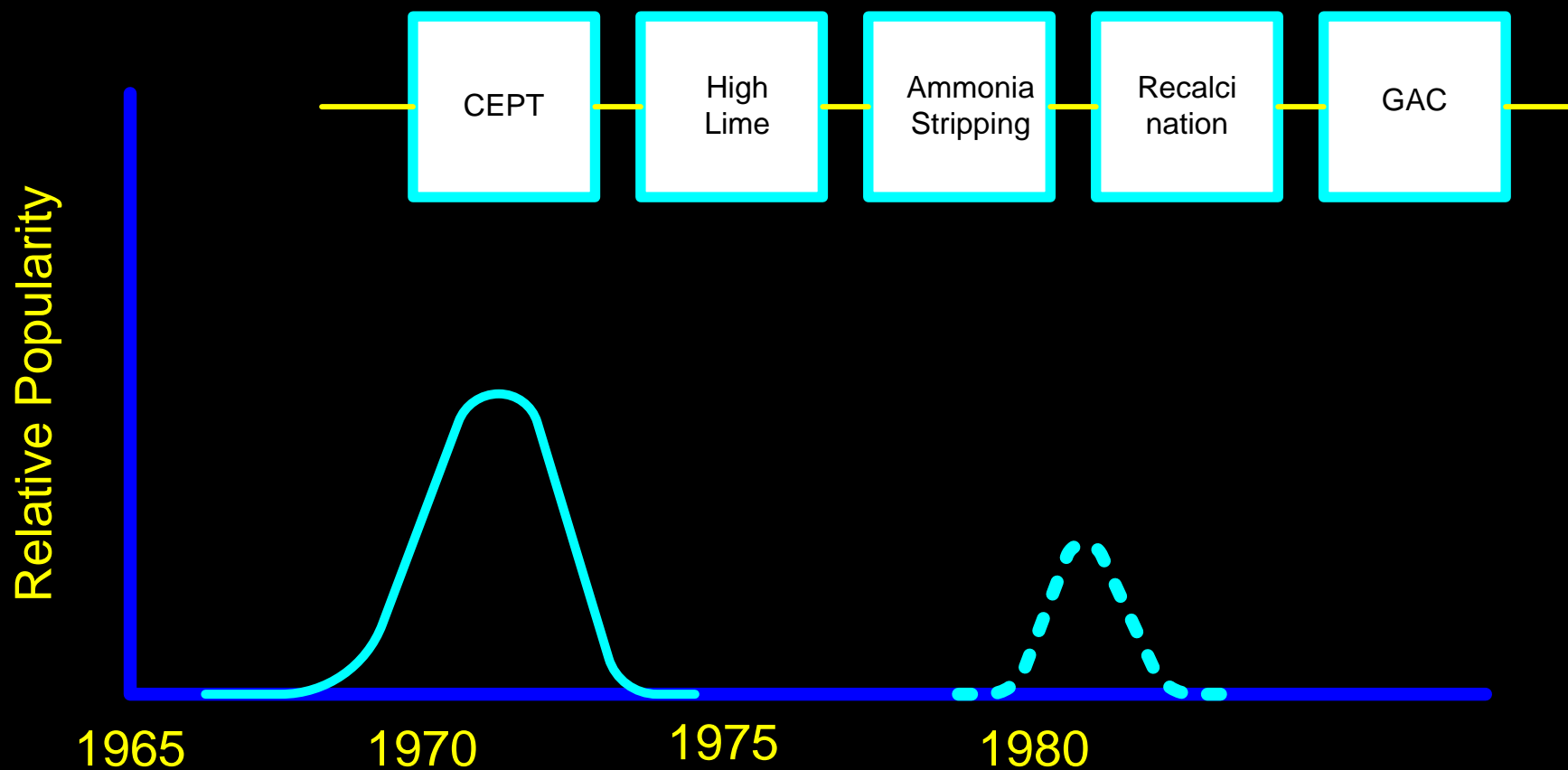
- Lake Tahoe – Right and Pretoria Left



# Ion Exchange for ammonia removal



# Trends in Independent Physical/Chemical



# Goudkoppies plant completed - 1975

60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the activated sludge process

85% N removal

90% P Removal

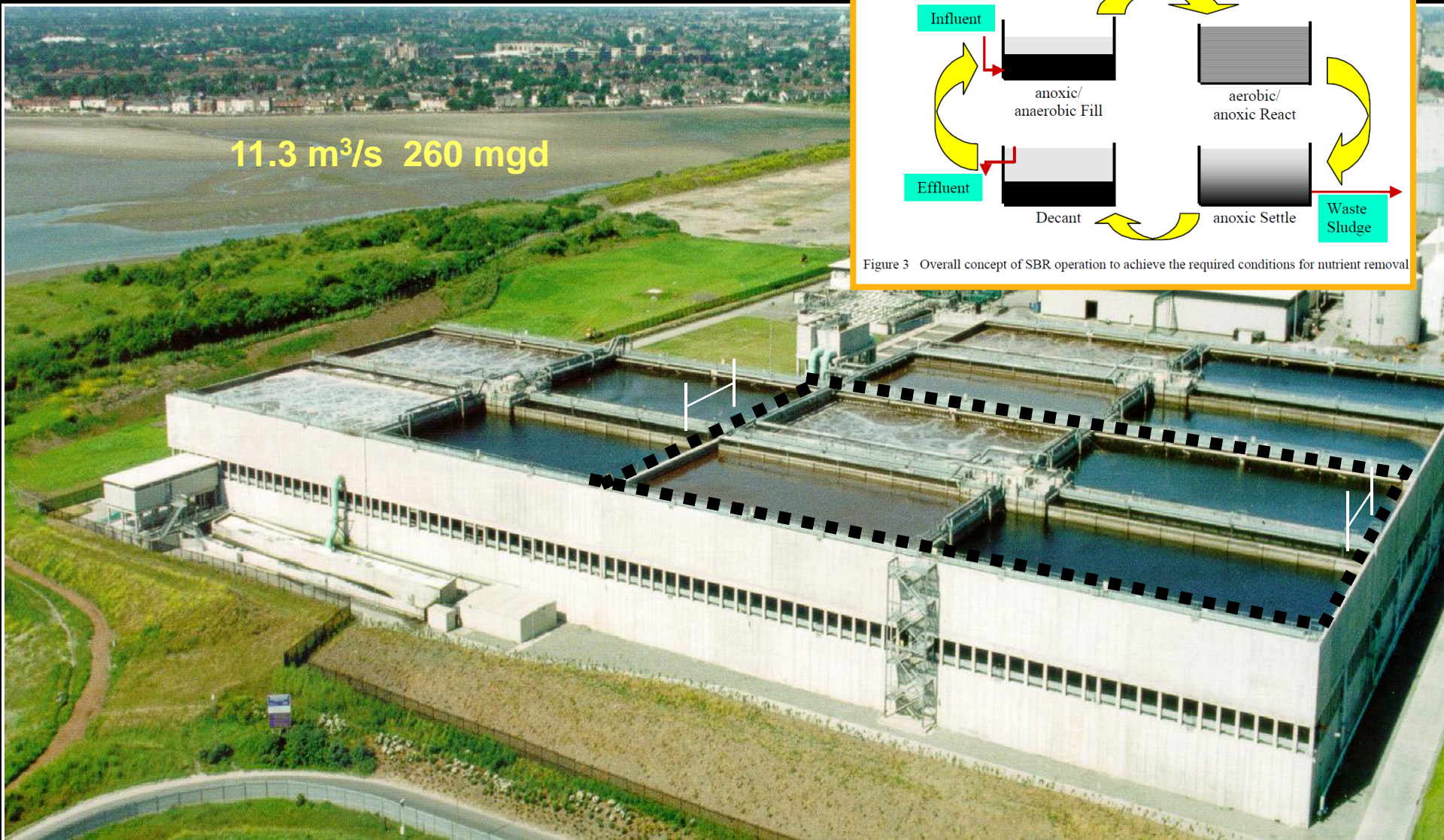
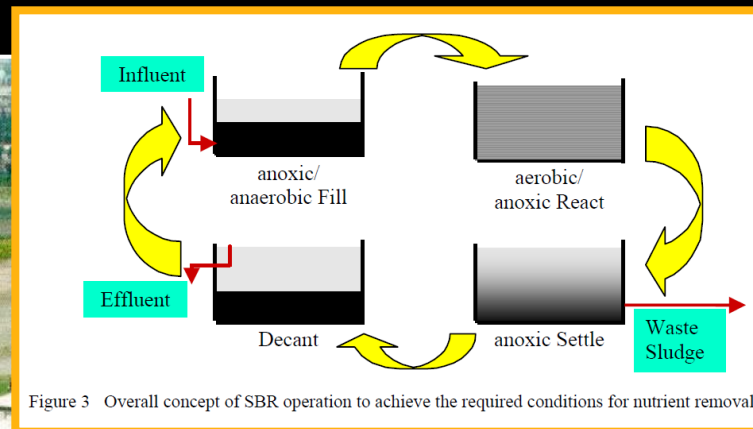
Anaerobic Zones  
added 1974



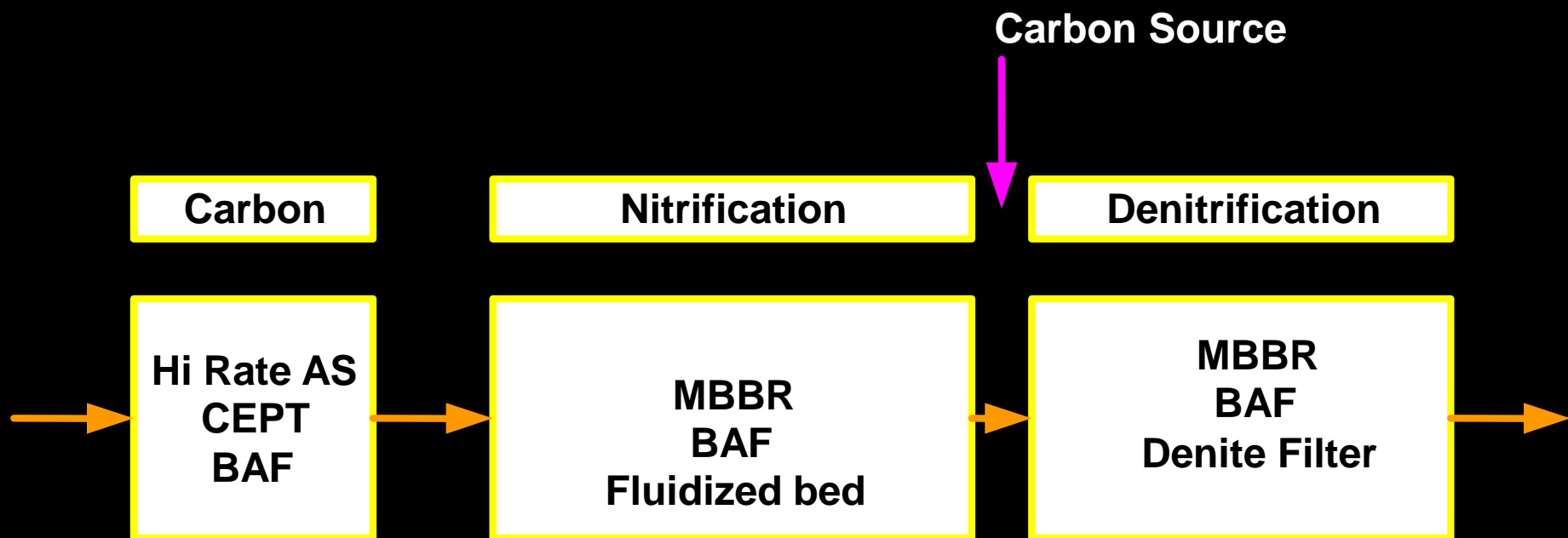


# Dublin Bay – View towards City

11.3 m<sup>3</sup>/s 260 mgd



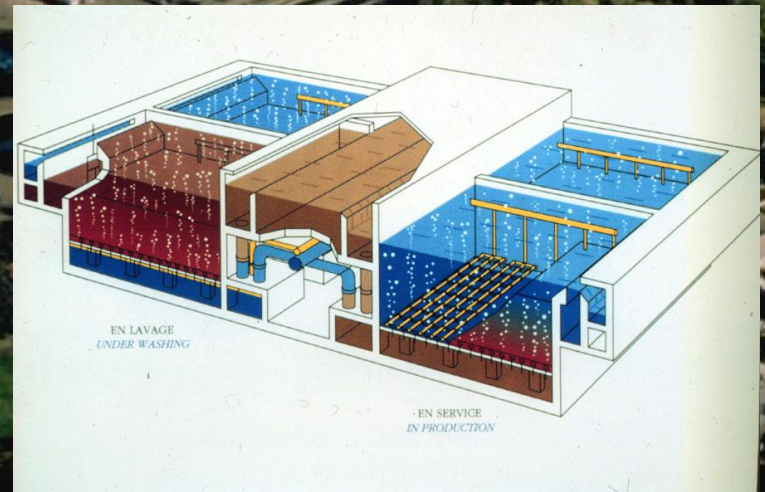
# Nitrogen Removal in Attached Growth systems



# Davyhulme plant, Manchester – Biological Aerated Filters

**Nitrification**

**Denitrification  
with Methanol**

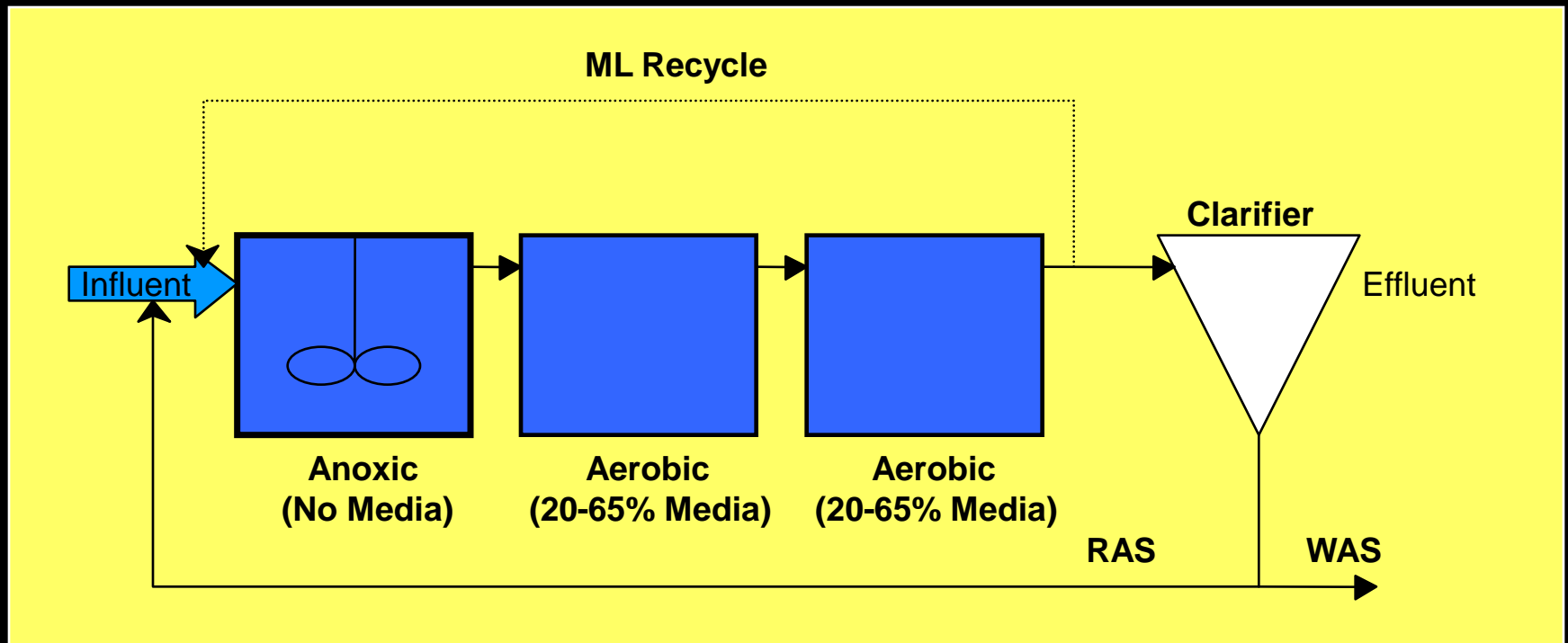




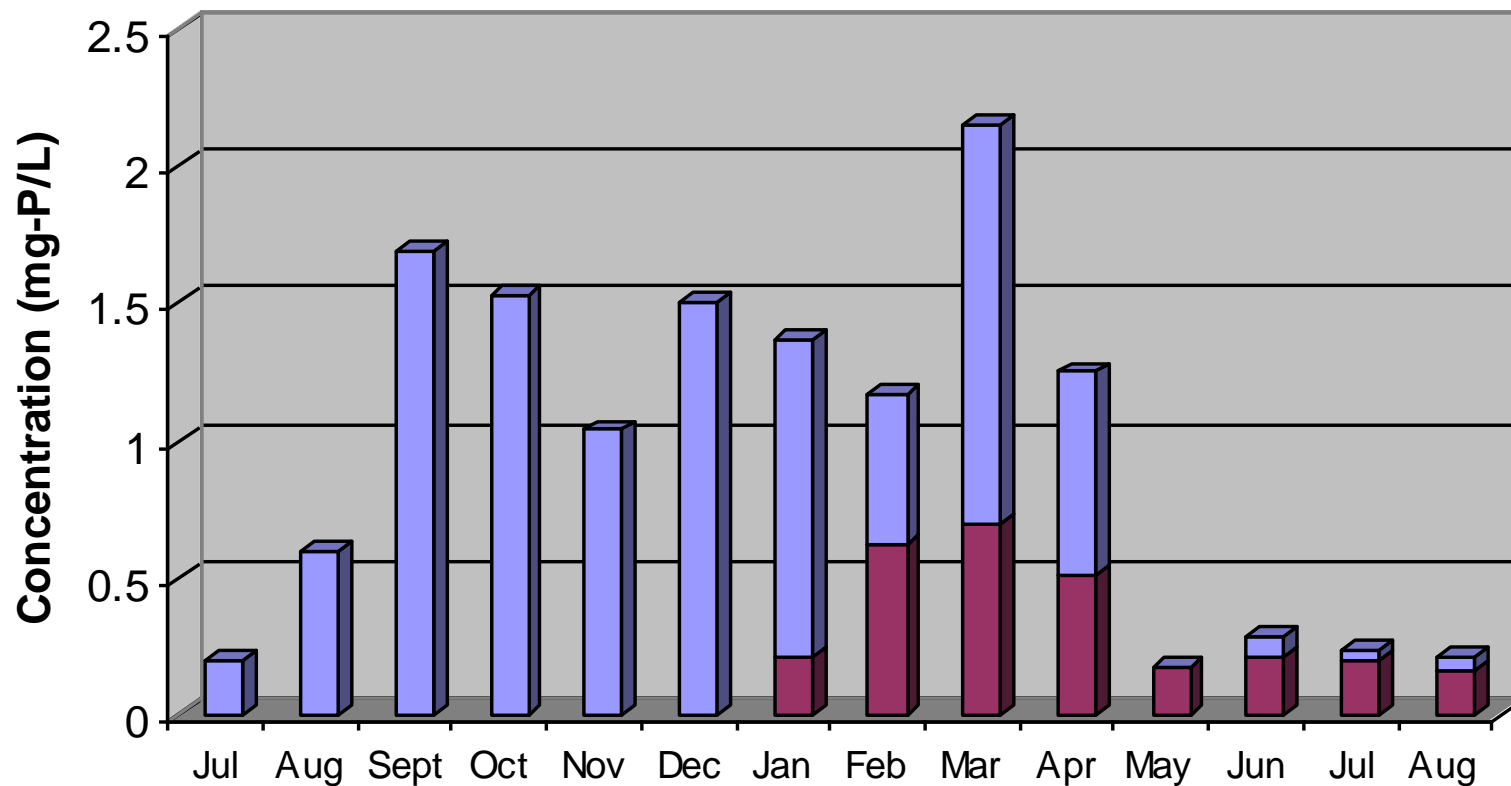
# The Activated Sludge Process #2



# IFAS Example Schematic



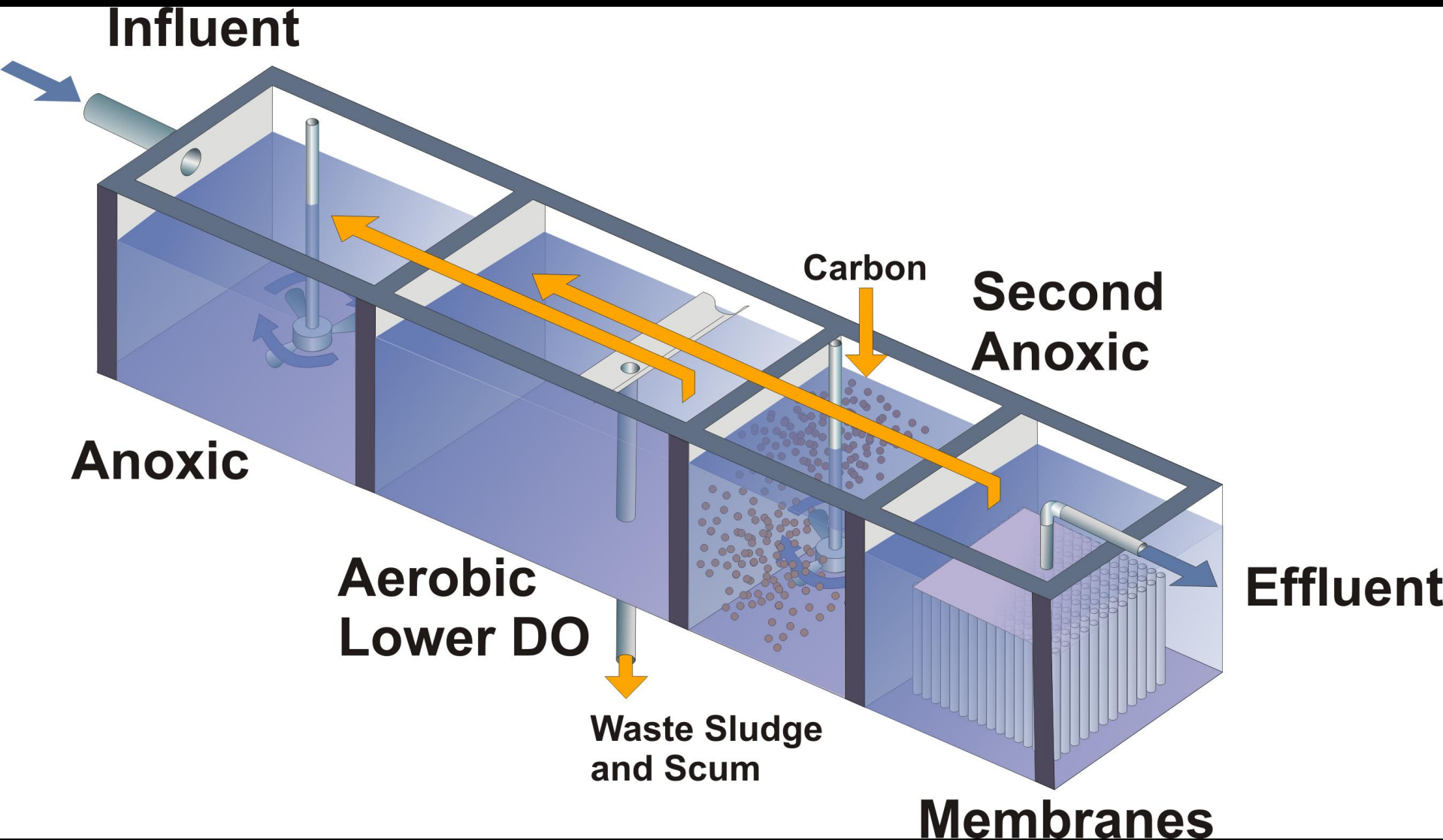
# Biological phosphorus removal still possible



# Application of Membranes to Wastewater - 1968



# MBR Lay-out with media in 2<sup>nd</sup> AX Zone

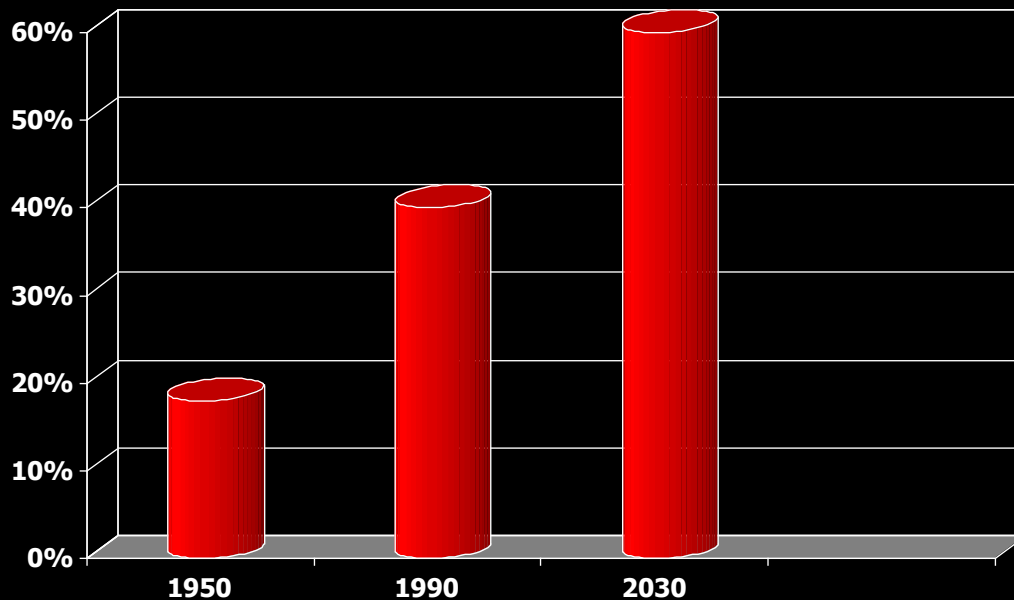




# Drivers for Development of New Technology

- Population Growth
- Eutrophication – Reduce N and P to lowest possible level
- Reduce energy cost and recovery of energy
- Reduce EDC and PCP
- Reduce GHG
- Recovery of resources

# Urbanization in the world



Within 2035 60 % of the global population will live in cities

World Watch Institute 2007: > 50 % is already living in urban areas

Town of Brits

# Johannesburg North Receiving Water



# Drive for Limits of Technology (LOT)

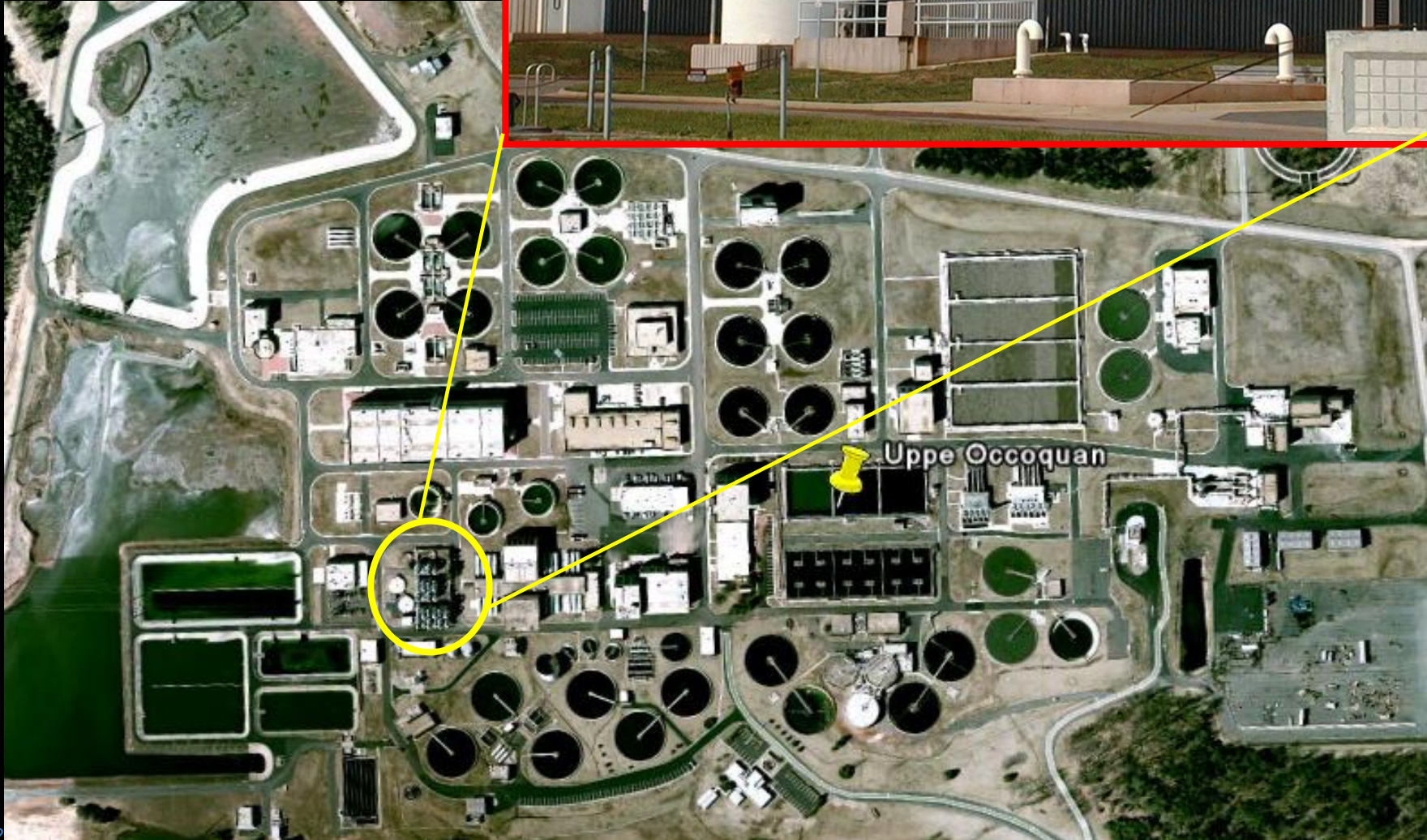
- LOT is meaningless and should not be used
- What is Sustainable
- What is economically justifiable
- LCA studies
- Nitrogen limits 2.5 mg/L? What is the role of the rDON? How is it removed?
- Phosphorus limits down to 0.01 mg/L.
- Should we apply strict nutrient limits when the impact is negligent or it is evident that it may harm the receiving water

# In inland freshwater, it was proven that phosphorus leads to algal growth



*Jezioro ELA 227 (Freshwater Institute, Winnipeg). Przegroda oddziela sekcje z dodatkiem P*

# Upper Occoquan Plant



**Unaddressed  
Violations  
Damage  
Waterways and  
Send the Wrong  
Message to  
Citizens,  
Developers and  
Neighboring  
Localities**



Up to 85% of the flow to the reservoir comes from Water Purification plants

In 1989, 60% all streams in the Occoquan Watershed were classified as high-quality streams

# Energy



# Global Cooling or Global Warming



1968



2009

# Comparative Energy Costs

Energy used for	kWh/c/a
BNR Wastewater Treatment	40
Switching one lamp to low energy fixtures	102
Pumping water from north to south of California	355
Household per person (2 persons)	14,000

**Most of the Energy in WWTP required for Nitrification**

PAUL COCKRELL

# Fuel Cells

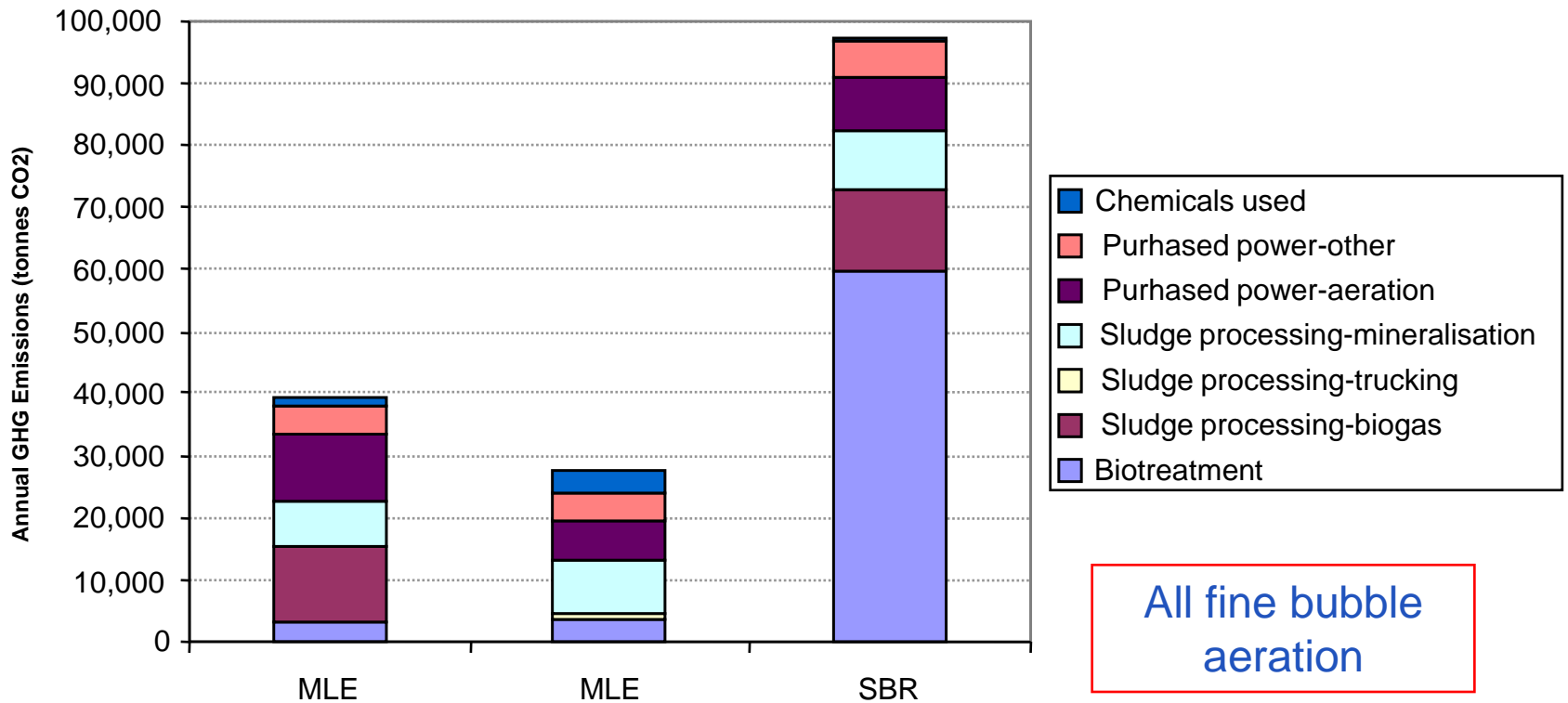
## FAD OR FUTURE?

An expert evaluates whether digester-gas-fed fuel cells and microturbines are cost-effective sources of power

Nicholas Mignone WE&T November 2008

# Green-House Gases

# GHG Emissions from three plants – (Dr Katie Third – W2W Alliance Perth)



# Sources of green house gases

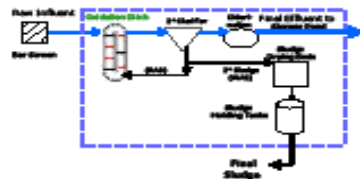
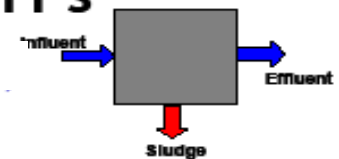
- 85 - 95% from water vapor
- 13% of remaining GHG caused by nitrous oxide (by effect)
- 12% of  $N_2O$  from anthropogenic sources
- 65% of that from domesticated animals
- 20% from industry including vehicles
- That leaves 15% for others including agriculture which would put wastewater treatment plants at most (guess) 0.1% of the remaining 15%. (from Foley et al 2008)
- The net effect of reducing  $N_2O$  at all WWTP may be a reduction of 0.000006% of GHG

# Endocrine Disruptors Personal Care Products

# Treatment of Emerging Contaminants Biological Treatment

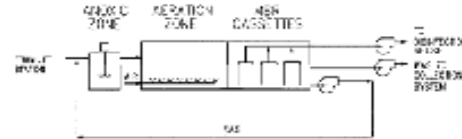
## Preliminary Comparison of six Arizona WWTPs

Overall estrogenic activity removal (%)



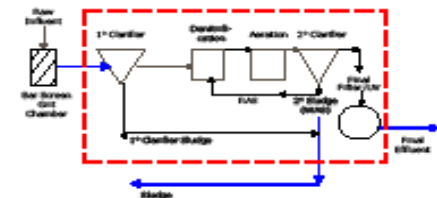
Oxidation ditch

97



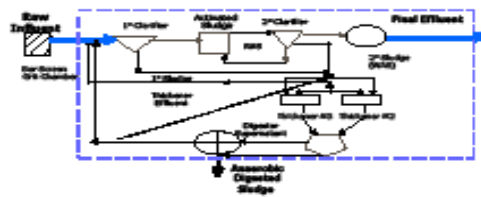
Membrane bioreactor

97



Nitrification/denitrification

99



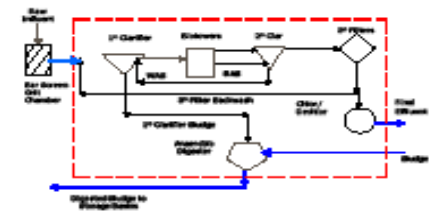
Activated sludge

65



Biotower #1

26

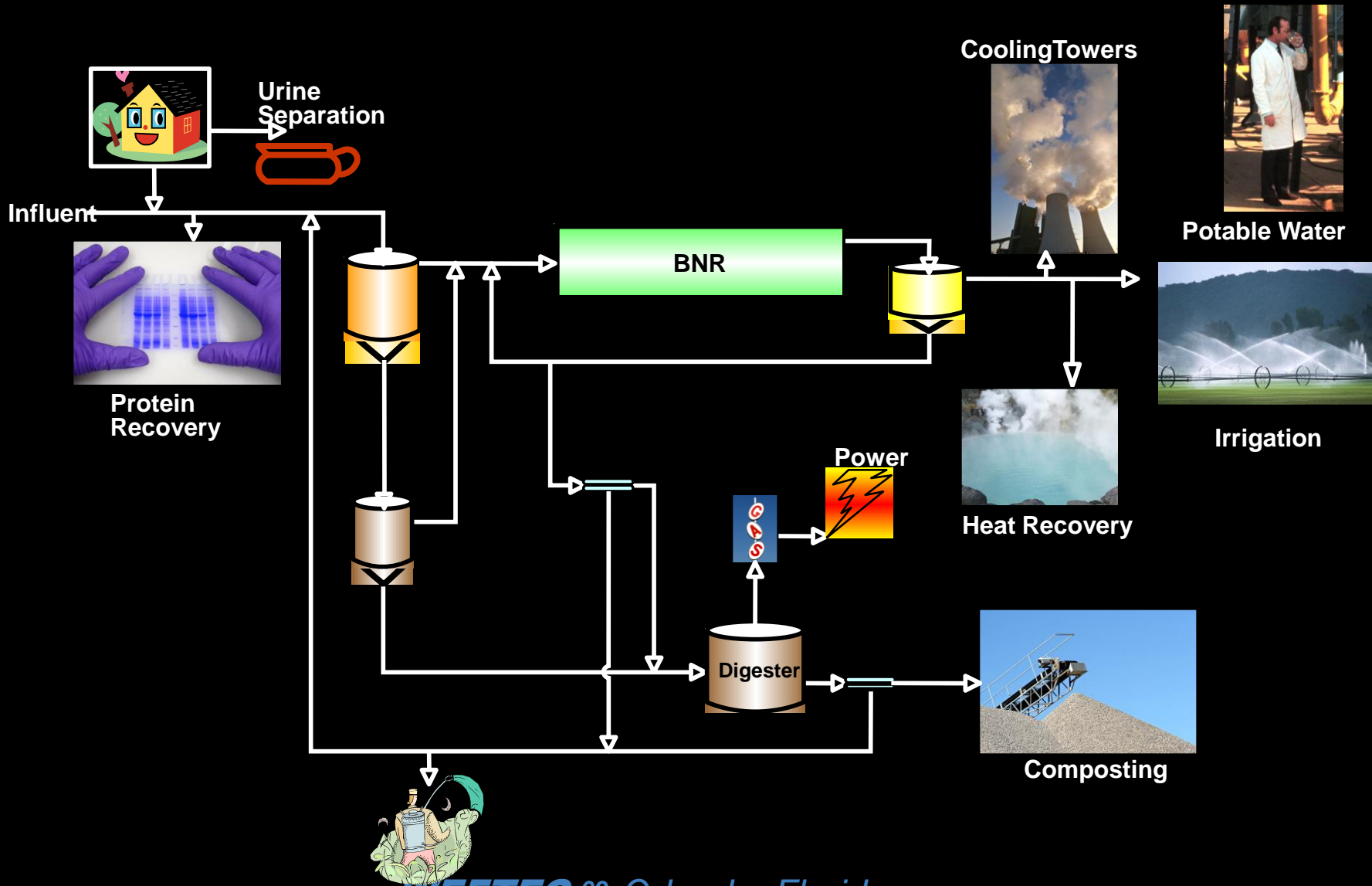


Biotower #2

54



# Possible Resource Recovery



# Phosphorus Removal and Recovery



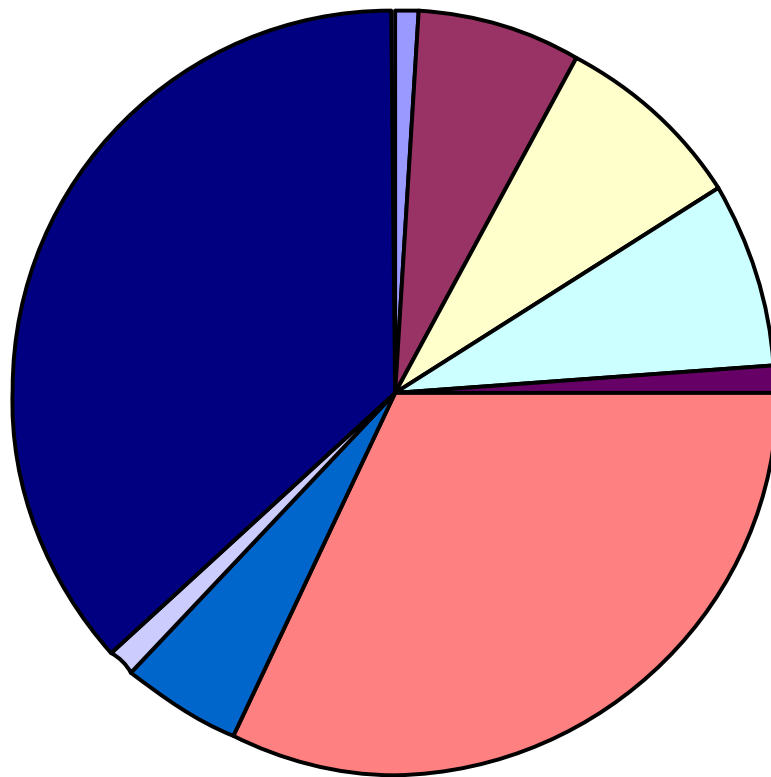
# THE DISAPPEARING NUTRIENT

Phosphate-based fertilizers have helped spur agricultural gains in the past century, but the world may soon run out of them. **Natasha Gilbert** investigates the potential phosphate crisis.

# Renewed Interest in Biological Phosphorus Removal

- **Cost of chemicals.**
- **Sludge production: S-T estimates saving of £4 million p.a.**
- **Better understanding of the mechanism**
- **Better overall economics in getting to really low levels**
- **Phosphorus recovery while still applying chemicals for polishing**

# Global Reserves of Phosphorus

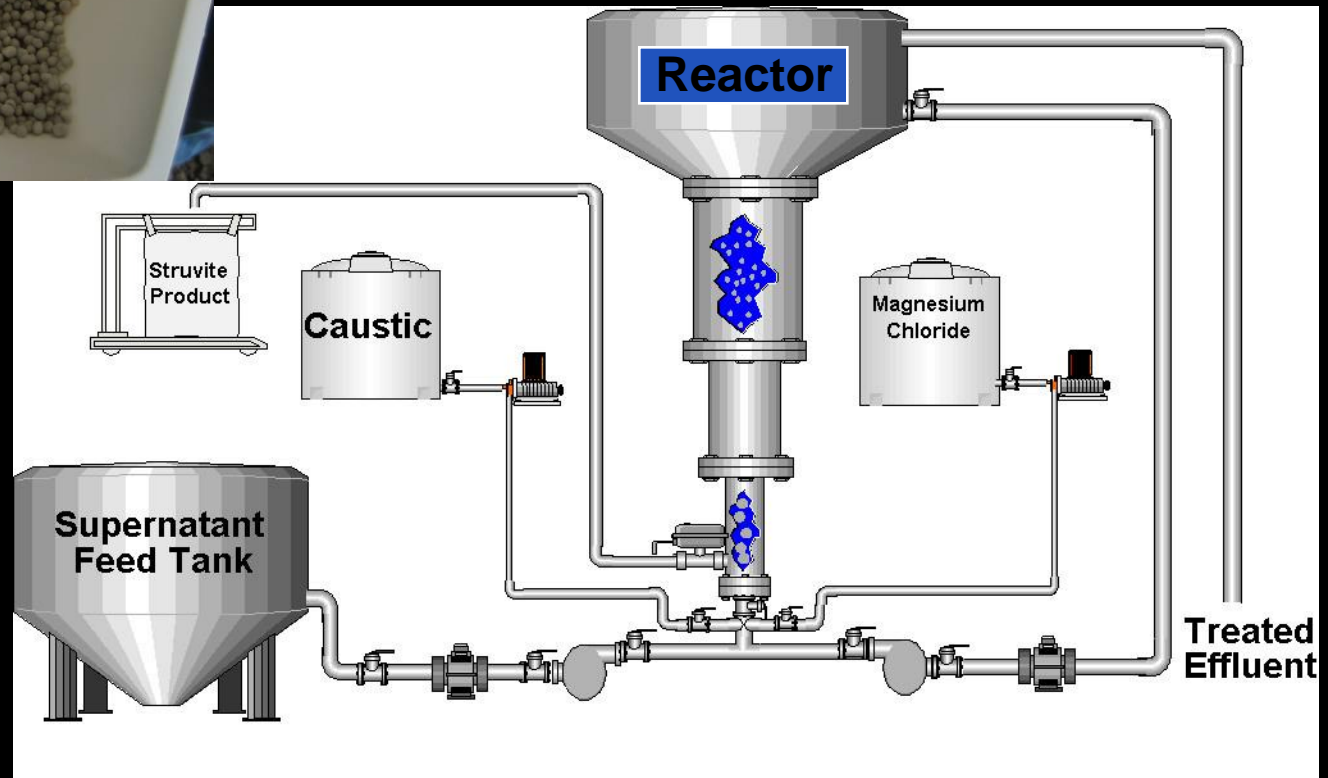


- Brazil
- USA
- Other Countries
- South Africa
- Russia
- Morocco
- Jordan
- Israel
- China

# Phosphorus recovery



**Struvite**



**Also recovers up to 20% of nitrogen**

# Water Re-use





# Water reclamation for Potable use



# Windhoek Water Reclamation

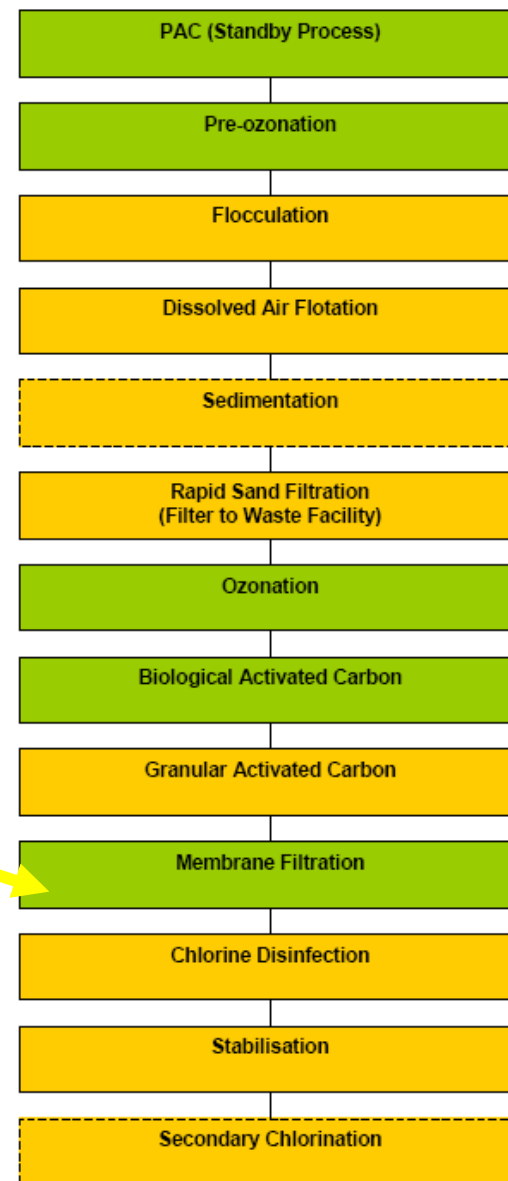
LEGEND:



Old Process Train



Additions to old train to collectively compose the process train



# Singapore - New Water



WESTERN CORRIDOR  
RECYCLED WATER PROJECT



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LEGEND

- LUGGAGE PT - BUNDAMBA (REV G)
- OXLEY - BUNDAMBA (REV G)
- BUNDAMBA - CABOONBAH (REV G)
- BUNDAMBA - SWANBANK
- + WATER TREATMENT PLANT
- LOCALITY
- RIVER/CREEK
- WATERBODIES
- URBAN AREA

SOURCE: GIS Data supplied by NRMHW  
DATUM: GDA84 (MGA) Zone 56  
DATE PRINTED: 22 September 2006  
FILE: G:\4\11897\gsm\100\_community\_consultation\4115897\_100\_rev\_0.mxd

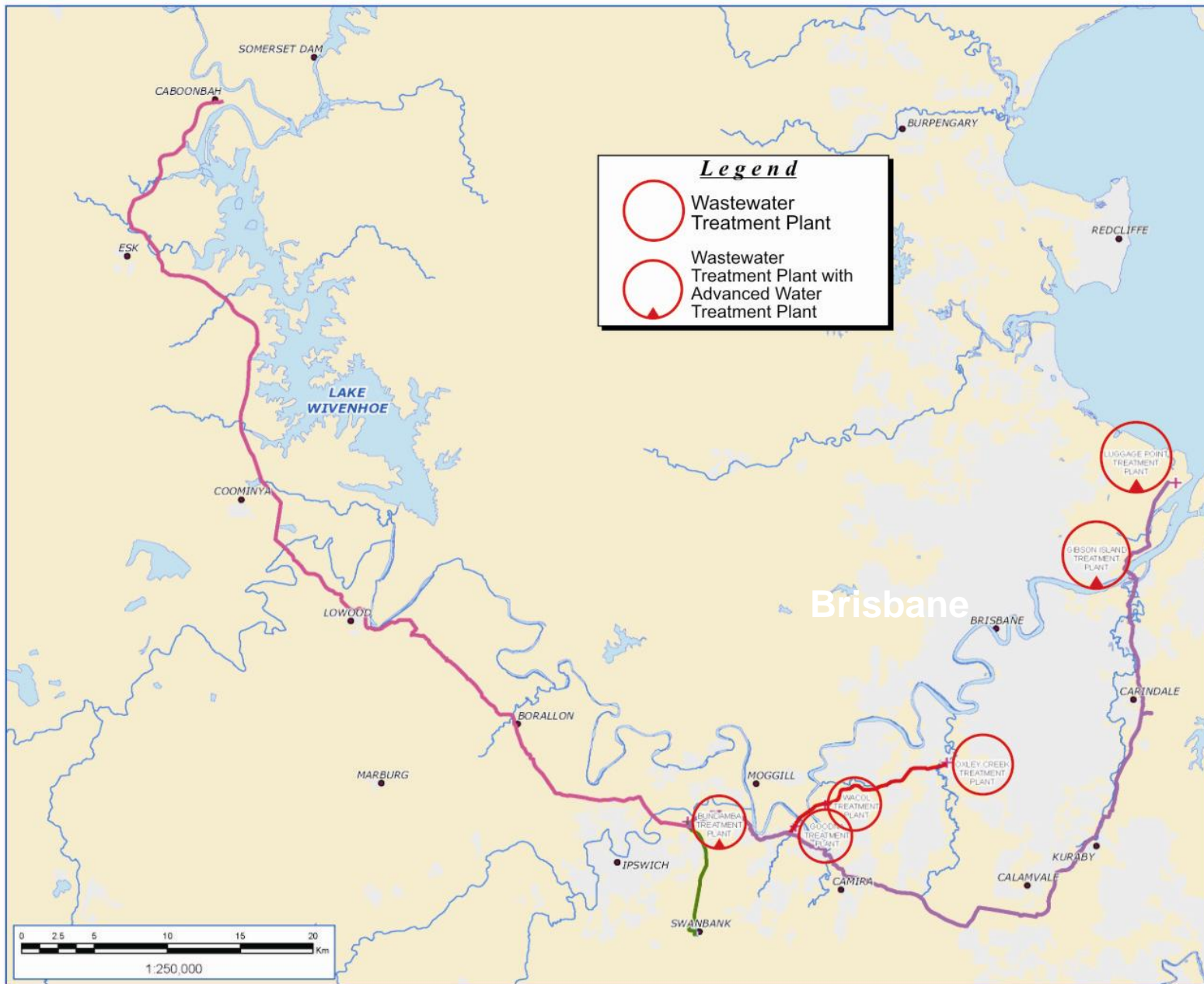
THE COORDINATOR  
GENERAL

WESTERN CORRIDOR  
RECYCLED WATER PROJECT

PROJECT  
OVERVIEW

A3  
ORIG

FIGURE 1



**Legend**

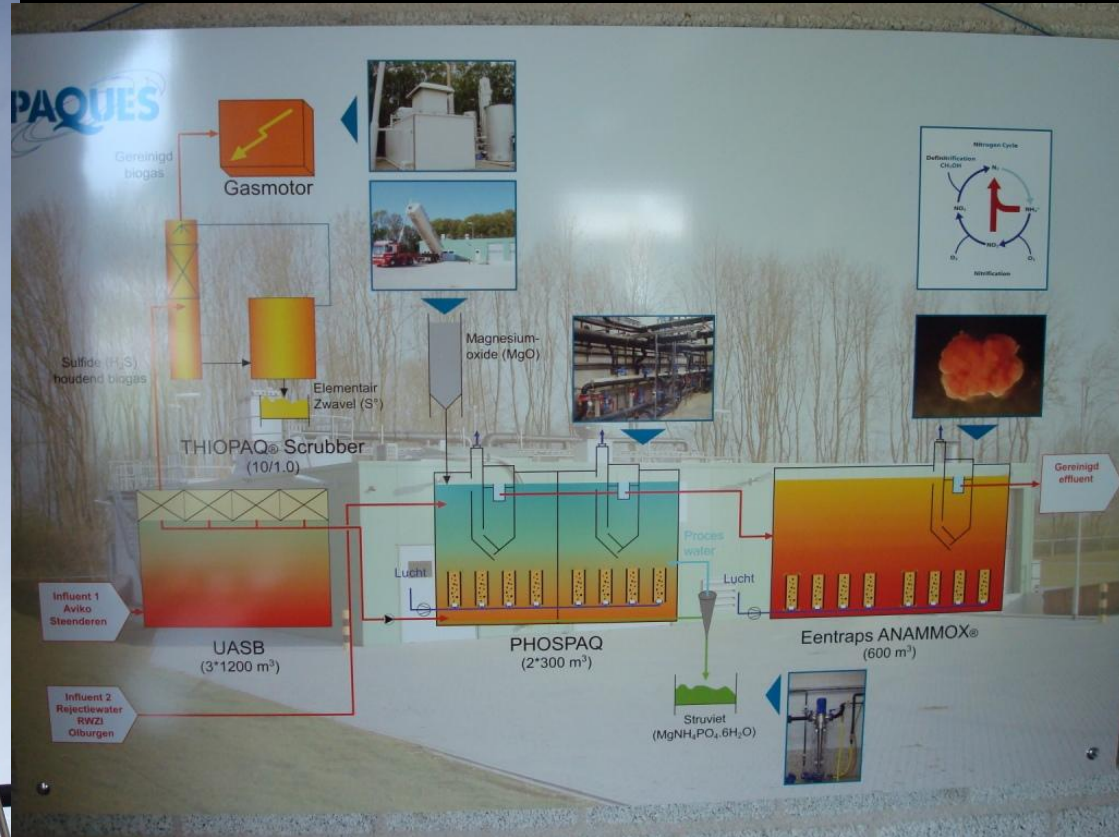
- Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Wastewater Treatment Plant with Advanced Water Treatment Plant

**Will the activated sludge plant  
be around for another  
30 years? 50 years? 100 years?**

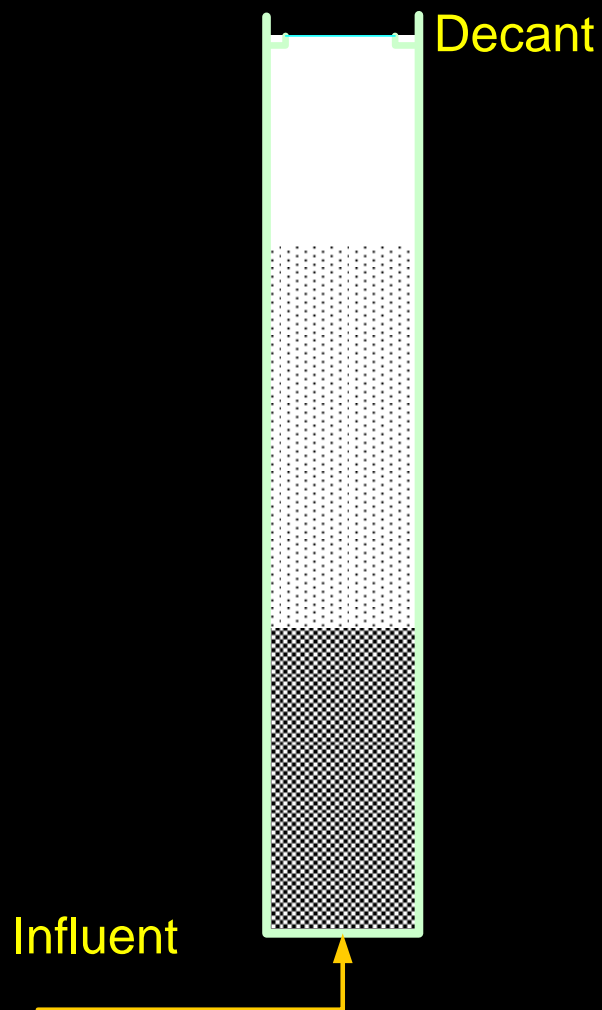
# Very Likely

- As MBR for low footprint
- With Membrane Filtration - Nanotechnology
- With maximum power recovery
- High removal rate of ammonia
- Relatively low GHG
- High removal rate of PCP&EDC
- Opportunity to recover phosphorus

# Or in other forms - Anammox



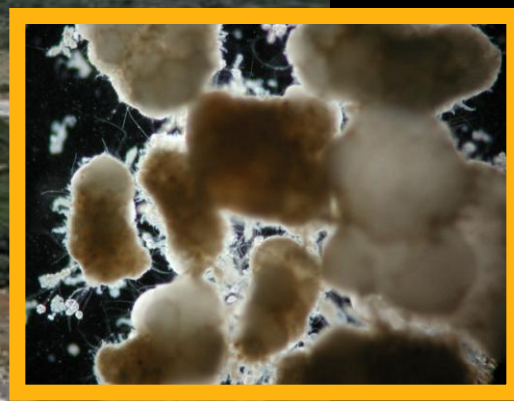
# Granular Activated Sludge





# Granular Activated sludge - Gansbaai RSA

COD in 800-10,000 ppm → COD out < 100 ppm / N in 150-200 ppm → N out < 10ppm  
P(dissolved) in 15-25 ppm → P out < 1.0 ppm / SS out < 20 ppm

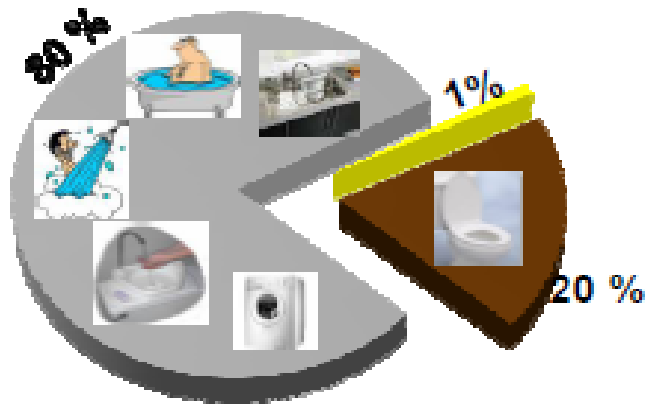


**NEREDA®**



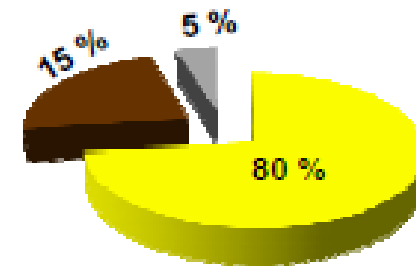
# Urine in Wastewater

## Volume of Wastewater

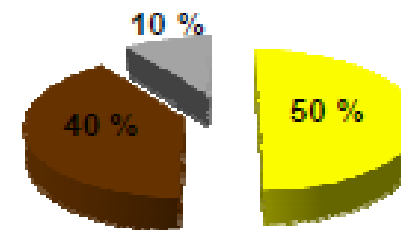


- Yellow-water (Urine+flushwater)
- Brownwater (Faeces+flushwater)
- Greywater (shower, kitchen, etc)

## "N" Content



## "P" Content



Reference  
**Andre Mbya UCT**

our future through science

# Summary

- Expect to see the activated sludge process around for some time in some form – as, IFAS, MBR or with membrane filtration for water re-use
- More emphasis on resource recovery N and P
- More emphasis on saving water as the main driver for reducing energy cost – indigenous living
- Urine separation as a means of sustainability in countries that are catching up and in new developments
- Greatly improved membranes for solids liquid separation and water recovery

**If you are still awake  
Thank you for coming**

