

Smart Water Fund local government projects

Frankston City Council

With the assistance of a Smart Water Fund grant, the Frankston City Council was able to implement a range of water saving techniques across two aquatic centres. These were identified as part of an extensive water audit.

The project involved the introduction of rainwater collection systems, incorporating treatment technologies such as “first flush” and UV treatment. The collection systems were installed throughout the centres and complemented by various water saving devices.

Critically, the project was supported by an education program designed to encourage staff and the community to embrace the changes as part of a new culture of water conservation. The program includes briefing sessions, interpretive signage and ongoing consultation.

The introduction of water saving devices, combined with a culture of water conservation, is expected to reduce water consumption at the two centres by more than 50 per cent.

In real terms the savings for the two aquatic centres are equivalent to approximately 16 million litres a year and a cost saving of just over \$18,000 per annum.

<http://www.smartwater.com.au/caseStudies.asp>

Port Phillip City Council

The City of Port Phillip gained funding through the Smart Water Fund to identify regulatory gaps and risks associated with using alternative water sources in a community housing project.

Government and industry professionals assessed risks associated with alternative water sources and other issues including collection, storage, treatment and appropriate end use.

The project was originally designed as a demonstration site collecting and treating stormwater, greywater and rainwater for re-use in toilets, showers and washing machines.

The project identified a need for greater regulatory guidance in utilising alternative water sources in residential developments, particularly for stormwater.

<http://www.smartwater.com.au/caseStudies.asp>

Boorandara City Council

The City of Boroondara was awarded a Smart Water Fund grant to implement an innovative water saving technique at the Camberwell Sports Ground, Greythorn Park and Gordon Barnard Reserve West Oval.

The technique involves inserting Fyfoam, a revolutionary foam product made from organic chemical materials, into the root zone of the grass.

Fyfoam breaks down over a 10 year period into naturally occurring chemical elements. During this time, grass roots gradually grow through the foam and take over its role, leading to thicker and deeper roots that are able to withstand more wear and tear.

The process reduces the need for irrigation and fertilisers and helps the grass to grow during periods of drought.

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Knox City Council

Knox City Council's project has installed a new system to send previously-discarded water from Council's Leisureworks centre to the nearby Tormore Reserve.

Through this innovative project, water used to 'backwash' filters at the Knox Leisureworks swimming pools will be treated via 'reverse osmosis' to a quality comparable with drinking water. It will then be pumped to a 172,000 litre tank and reused for the irrigation purposes.

The \$350,000 project is expected to save up to 18 ML of water a year and effectively drought-proof one of Knox's top sporting grounds, ensuring cricket and football competitions remain viable even in times of low rainfall.

City of Melbourne

The City of Melbourne's Savings in the City program is an innovative environmental program to help city hotels cut energy, water and waste consumption.

The Savings in the City program provides leadership, support, recognition, toolkits and advice on environmental management.

The Smart Water Fund contributed towards the Water Wise component of the program which assists hotels in reducing their water consumption through water audits and implementing water saving initiatives.

Over the last two years an average reduction of water use of 15.3 litres per guest per night and that's an equivalent saving of 25.4 Olympic swimming pools. Over the two years hotels have saved the equivalent of 45 Olympic swimming pools.

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=218&pg=2546>

City of Casey

The City of Casey received a Smart Water Fund grant to conduct a feasibility study into the potential integration of groundwater into the urban water cycle.

This project investigated the feasibility of using groundwater as part of the urban supply and assessed whether a trial project should be conducted.

This project provided essential hydrogeological data on which to base appropriate stormwater and groundwater management so that urban salinity in the area can be avoided.

www.casey.vic.gov.au

Baw Baw Shire Council

Baw Baw Shire Council will install and trial a greywater treatment and recycling system to recycle greywater from hand basins to Class A for re-use in the flushing of toilets at the Council's Warragul Depot.

The operation of the system at this site will then be used to stimulate interest, increase awareness and promote greywater re-use and sustainable urban water management within the community through open days, the Council website and the distribution of media material.

The trial of the system will provide monitoring opportunities including comparisons with a rainwater harvesting system to ascertain the effectiveness of both systems and to enable the applicant to obtain community feedback on the benefits of installing greywater re-use systems both domestically and at other businesses in the area.

The trial will also enable the Council to determine the benefits of installing the system at other Council sites.

http://www.smartwater.com.au/view_projects.asp

Greater Geelong City Council

This project is an industrial ecology demonstration whereby City of Greater Geelong will tap into the excess Class C recycled water being produced at Barwon Prison's onsite wastewater treatment plant.

The treated water will be transported through a 6km pipeline to Elcho Park golf course for irrigation purposes. The project aims to drought proof the golf course, saving up to 71 ML of potable water annually and enable the club to host approximately 24,000 rounds of golf per year.

Industrial ecology demonstration whereby treated wastewater from the Barwon Prison's sewage treatment plant will be diverted to the nearby Elcho Park Golf Course for irrigation purposes.

http://www.smartwater.com.au/view_projects.asp