

Sustainable savings at Knox Leisureworks



MORE THAN FIVE OLYMPIC SIZED swimming pools' worth of water will be saved each year in Melbourne's south east following the completion of Knox City Council's Smart Water Fund project.

Knox Leisureworks (Leisureworks) is the local community aquatic and recreation centre in Boronia, offering both indoor and outdoor pools as well as health club facilities. Managed on behalf of Knox Council by the YMCA, a joint project team has delivered a \$350,000 landmark project to reuse previously discarded water from Leisureworks on a nearby reserve.

Knox Mayor, Cr David Cooper says,

“IN AN AUSTRALIAN FIRST, THIS PROJECT EFFECTIVELY DROUGHT-PROOFS ONE OF KNOX’S MOST POPULAR SPORTING GROUNDS. TOGETHER WITH A RANGE OF OTHER WATER EFFICIENCY

MEASURES WE HAVE SAVED OVER 16 MILLION LITRES OF WATER DURING THE PAST YEAR.”

Water used to backwash swimming pool filters is collected in a 100,000 litre tank, treated and pumped to a 172,000 litre tank at Tormore Reserve approximately 250 metres away.

“We are grateful for the support of the Smart Water Fund and the Drought Relief for Community Sport and Recreation Program, and are keen to see this project replicated all over Australia. We have already received enquiries from other councils right across the country,” says Mayor Cooper.

Any water that is surplus to irrigation requirements at the Reserve will be used at Leisureworks in the pools, bathrooms and for cleaning.

Other activities undertaken to save water at Leisureworks include:

- Capturing and reusing rainwater in tanks to top-up the pool water and flush toilets
- Installing waterless urinals, dual flush toilets and flow restriction valves
- Replacing old showerheads with water efficient showerheads
- Installing efficient irrigation systems, planting drought tolerant turf and regularly mulching gardens

To ensure environmental sustainability, solar panels have also been installed on the roof of the facility to reduce the energy use of additional water pumping. A heat-exchanger has also been installed to pre-heat water before it enters the pool, using less energy and reducing carbon emissions.



FAR LEFT

Tormore Reserve is watered with backwash water from Knox Leisureworks

RIGHT

Knox Leisureworks