

State Development - RE: State Development Committee - hearing transcript and questions on notice

From: Julie Briggs
To: State Development <statedevelopment@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
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Subject: RE: State Development Committee - hearing transcript and questions on notice

Attachments: West_Wyalong-Stormwater.pdf

Good morning Angeline,

My apologies for the delay yes the transcript is fine we have no corrections to make.

With regard to the Stormwater Harvesting projects our councils have undertaken the following projects West Wyalong has undertaken a significant project in stormwater capture (I have attached the Case Study) and Tumbarumba has undertaken as stormwater capture project at its sportsground.

My apologies I thought there were more projects than this but to date they are the only two that have been advised.

Regards

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Wetlands addresses stormwater problem

A community co-operative approach has seen the development of a wetland system in Bland Shire which has allowed the re-use of urban stormwater run-off. The West Wyalong Stormwater Capture and Management Project was developed in response to increased pressures during recent drought years for Council to retain high quality facilities, such as parks, gardens, open grass lands and street landscaping, capable of withstanding use by a growing population. The pressure to supply water to allow regular watering of facilities resulted in Council looking for alternative irrigation methods, and with the aim to maintain sustainable water management, stormwater harvesting for irrigation was considered the most desirable option. Previously, untreated stormwater ran through a network of open drains into the Bland plains which resulted in an area that was rich in weed plumes and had the potential to erode in times of additional rainfall.

With the concept of stormwater re-use new to the community, Council involved stakeholders such as the Catchment Management Authority, Lake Cowal Conservation Centre, Lake Cowal Gold Mine, schools, Landcare groups, tidy towns' committees and other community organisations as a vital part of both the implementation and educational activities associated with this type of water savings project and for Council's future water management programs.

The 6.547 hectare wetland area was located on Crown land located between Wyalong and West Wyalong. The surrounding area had once been a bird sanctuary but had not been maintained. Appropriate native species of grasses, reeds and trees were planted in an effort to attract the thriving birdlife which once occupied the area, which, with planned additional beautification, will become a recreational area for residents and visitors of the Bland Shire to enjoy.

As a result of the project, 3.859 hectares was revegetated, 4.422 hectares was restored and 1.30 hectares of wetlands was constructed. A storage dam at the end of the wetlands, with an installed solar pump, allows water to be moved back to the start of the wetlands, while in drier times, the nearby effluent dam can be used to fill the them.

As a result of the West Wyalong Stormwater Capture and Management Project, the benefits and aims of flood protection, flow attenuation, landscape aesthetics, recreational amenity, wildlife habitat and education have all been achieved in what has been a successful and innovative approach to address a real environmental challenge in the Shire. The project received funding support from the NSW Environmental Trust with a grant of \$150,000 secured through REROC.



07 - WATER

CASE STUDY