

# Water Harvesting

Urban Sustainability Project  
Case Study 10



## Project Summary

### Financial

Total Cost	\$1,000,000
Grant Funding	\$150,000
Estimated annual savings	\$39,000

### Environmental & Community

	TARGETS	ACTUAL OUTCOMES
Water saving through conservation	Nil	34 ML
Improvement in catchment water quality	20%	15%
Individuals engaged in the Project (Year 2)	15	15
Number of Organisations Engaged	4	4



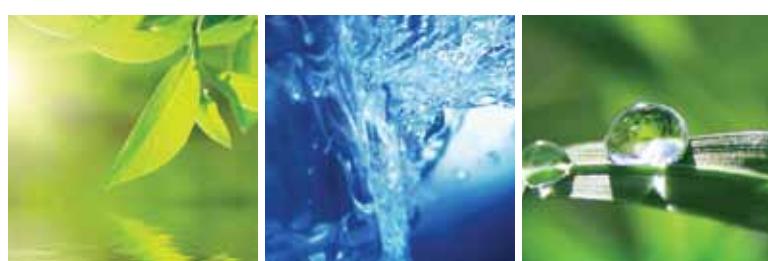
Beginning of the top stage of the Wetlands

## Overview of the Project

The project aimed to capitalise on Council's extensive network of town waterways that were not delivering the collected water produced from around the town into a common catchment facility. This resulted in significant water wastage and drainage problems for the town, especially in times of heavy rainfall.

The project, which required the construction of a large collection dam, is located in Neeld St, Wyalong and lies between the townships of Wyalong and West Wyalong at the pre-existing bird and wildlife sanctuary adjacent to the sewage treatment works. As a result of the project water collected from the network of waterways will run into this dam.

The collected water will become the primary water source for all parks, gardens and recreation facilities in Wyalong and West Wyalong, therefore removing Council's current reliance on potable water supplies.



The collected water will also become a moveable water source in times of drought because Council can truck water from the dam in order to maintain parks and gardens in the Shire's villages. Water from the dam will also be used for the continuing maintenance of Shire roads and it will prove to be a valuable resource in times of severe bushfire.

Project partners were the management committees of the Shire's recreation facilities, Goldenfields Water County Council, and local environment groups such as Tidy Towns and Greencorps.

### Benefits and advantages

The project has significantly reduced Council's reliance on reticulated water supplies and has reduced the Council's demand for fresh water; 34ML of water will be saved each year because potable water will no longer be used on the Shire's recreation grounds.

In addition to increasing the water holding capacity at the site, the project has resulted in improved water quality as a result of the wetland plantings that will occur. The community will benefit from additional social spaces through the inclusion of walking paths leading to the new dam and visitor friendly landscaping at the site of the dam.

Additional environmental gains will be achieved through improvements to the bird refuge that result from the improved water quality and the presence of more water on a more consistent basis for wildlife and birdlife.

Schools and the community will benefit from education programs that are being run at the dam location.



Completion of the top stage of the Wetlands



Finished second area of wetlands



Finished end area of the wetlands

### Where to next?

The continual improvement and maintenance of the stormwater catchment and wetlands. Council will complete the infrastructure for the movement of stormwater from dam to dam to drought proof West Wyalong's parks and sporting fields.



## Background

REROC Councils received \$1,918,400.00 grant funding in September 2008 from the NSW Environmental Trust for the Total Urban Water Management in the Eastern Riverina project to complete 26 projects. The Urban Sustainability Program aims to facilitate projects of significant environmental benefit to be delivered by local government in partnership with other government agencies, local businesses, and community organisations.

Water access, quality, quantity and sustainability were identified by member councils of REROC as the most pressing issues and projects identified were categorised under five environmental themes; Water Harvesting, Water Conservation, Water Quality, Salinity Management, and Environmental Flows. Read about the other projects on the REROC website [www.reroc.com.au](http://www.reroc.com.au)



Start of storage dam



Completed storage dam. Capacity 8ML for irrigation of Parks and Sporting fields

