

Water Harvesting

Urban Sustainability Project
Case Study 8



Council: Urana Shire Council
Theme: Water Harvesting
Project Name: Urana and Oaklands Stormwater Management Plans

Project Summary

Financial

Total Cost	\$50,000
Grant Funding	\$25,000

Environmental & Community

	TARGETS	ACTUAL OUTCOMES
Number of Individuals in Target Audience	700	700
Number of Organisations Engaged	4	4



The Stormwater Management Plan for Urana considered the viability of harvesting water for use in the Urana Aquatic Centre

Overview of the Project

The project resulted in the development of Stormwater Management Plans for the towns of Urana and Oaklands. The Stormwater Management Plans provide a priority list of infrastructure works to be carried out which will logically develop the stormwater systems in both towns.

How the Project was carried out

The project involved surveying existing drainage and drainage structures in Urana and Oaklands, and confirming the major flow paths through the two towns. An investigation revealed that the proposal to harvest stormwater for the Urana Aquatic Centre was not

viable in its current form. The proposal has now been modified to redirect the stormwater to a separate site to allow it to be harvested and used for recreation purposes.

The project confirmed the viability of stormwater harvesting for recreation purposes in Oaklands. This will allow Council to develop the stormwater collection system to maximise diversions to benefit the Town's recreation areas.

The process involved survey work in the towns of Oaklands and Urana and the development of a draft Plan. The work commenced early 2009 and survey work was completed within the timeframes set.



Once the Draft Plan was completed and presented to Council it was placed on public exhibition to initiate the community consultation process. After the consultations the draft plan with revisions was adopted as the Final Plan. The outcomes were then presented to the community.

Benefits and advantages

The Storm Water Management Plans clarified the future direction for managing storm water in the two towns. The process allowed the Council and the communities within the towns to explore possibilities and to come to a consensus regarding the future direction of work which will generate the most cost effective, environmentally sustainable outcomes for major objectives. These were to minimise local funding, protect assets, minimise erosion and pollution of creeks downstream of the towns, and maximise the water available for the community.



The project confirmed the viability of stormwater harvesting for recreation purposes

What could be done differently next time?

The project achieved its objectives; however there were problems initially with the physical work of carrying out the on ground survey due to a lack of skills within Council's workforce.

The original submission proposed employing consultants to carry out the assessment. However as there were no consultants locally based to carry out this work, it would have required engaging nationally based consultants. Fortunately, Council engaged a qualified Engineering Assistant in March 2009 who had the skills to undertake the technical assessments associated with the project as well as an understanding of the needs of the local communities. He took carriage of the project and saw it through to completion.

Where to next?

The major barrier to full implementation of the Plans' strategies is the financial constraints of Council. The Council looks forward to carrying out appropriate on ground works when new funding opportunities occur.

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

REROC

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