



CASE STUDY 5

Living Water Smart - Darwin Region



Demonstration of Strategic Policy Priority 2: Foster water stewardship

Living Water Smart supports the broader Darwin Region Water Supply Strategy that provides detailed planning

for water supply requirements for the next 15 – 20 years.

Living Water Smart makes a valuable contribution to the Darwin Region Water Supply Strategy by providing a comprehensive program to reduce water demand without compromising Darwin’s lifestyle, and thereby enables the significant cost of water supply augmentation to be deferred and/or water restrictions to be avoided.

Darwin uses up to two to three times as much water per household than any other capital city and significantly more than most northern regional centres.

Living Water Smart encompasses many of the learnings and experience from the successful Alice Water Smart program by focussing on community and business support, maintenance of lifestyle and cost of living improvements.

Other comparable water efficiency programs have recently been introduced in Cairns and Townsville and water demand reductions between 20% and 40% have been achieved without the use of drought-driven water restrictions.

Goal

Living Water Smart is a five year project aimed at helping Darwin to reduce water use by almost 10 GL from 2013 - 2018, this is equivalent to almost three months average water supply.

Establish a broad-based multi-objective water efficiency program in the Darwin region and develop tools and incentives to maintain ongoing water efficiency behaviour.

Water savings are being made through 8 key projects:

Homes and Businesses

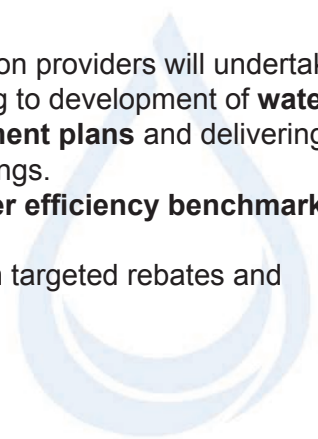
- 5000 residential **water audits** with highest water users prioritised to deliver 2GL of water savings.
- 250 **water audits** of highest commercial and industrial water users, leading to development of **water efficiency management plans** and delivering 2.7 GL of water savings.
- Development of residential and non-residential (by sector) **water efficiency benchmark guidelines**.
- Development of **permanent water saving rules** for Darwin.
- **Incentivised** through targeted rebates and smart metering.

Parks and Ovals

- New smart water irrigation technology systems will be installed at **200 parks & ovals** across Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield local councils, providing 500ML water savings.
- Development of **water efficiency management plans** and **irrigation scheduling tools**.

Accommodation

- 30 key accommodation providers will undertake **water audits**, leading to development of **water efficiency management plans** and delivering 120 ML of water savings.
- Development of **water efficiency benchmark guidelines**.
- **Incentivised** through targeted rebates and smart metering.



Schools

- 40 schools in the Darwin region will undertake **water audits**, leading to development of **water efficiency management plans** and delivering 200 ML of water savings.
- Development of **water efficiency benchmark guidelines**.
- **Incentivised** through targeted rebates and smart metering.
- **Education resources and delivery program** developed for ongoing water efficiency education.

Hospitals and Defence

- Hospital and Defence facilities to undertake **water audits**, leading to development of **water efficiency management plans** and delivering 120 ML of water savings.
- Realising opportunities to **recycle water**.
- Development of **water efficiency benchmark guidelines**.
- **Incentivised** through targeted rebates and smart metering.

Reuse and Reticulation

- Investigate and plan **opportunities to recycled water**.
- Develop and implement **leak detection program** for Darwin network.
- Develop and implement **pressure management plan** for Darwin network.
- Install **monitoring and controlling equipment** for permanent leak and pressure management.
- Provide **industry training** for leak detection in properties.

Smart Metering

- Smart water meters will be installed to **support** the homes and businesses, Accommodation, Hospitals and Defence, and Schools projects.
- Through constant **water use awareness**, Smart meters will provide 300 ML of water savings.

Rebates

- A rebate program both **public and targeted** for Homes and Businesses, Accommodation, Hospitals and Schools providing 500 ML in water savings.

For further information

www.powerwater.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/61469/darwin_water_strategy.pdf

www.livingwatersmart.com.au/how-save-water



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