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Smart Water Conference

Thursday 22 October 2009
Melbourne Convention Centre

The inaugural Smart Water Conference is a single day event to showcase the innovative water management projects supported by the Smart Water Fund.

The Smart Water Conference will provide a platform for knowledge sharing and give delegates the opportunity to meet some of the leading innovators in the water management and research fields.



Smart Water Fund

Our Water Our Future

A Victorian Government Initiative



8:30am

Registration

9:10am

Welcome remarks – Mike Larkan MC

9:15am

Opening remarks from Shaun Cox, Managing Director South East Water Ltd

9:45am

Keynote presentation – General session

Arron Wood, 2007 Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award winner

2007 Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award winner Arron Wood has already achieved more than many of us would in a lifetime and his commitment to mainstream environmental sustainability has seen him advise the Australian Government, work closely with State and Territory Governments across Australia and New Zealand, mobilise the Australian school community and build links between the corporate world and the community sector. Arron's skill is his ability to galvanise business leaders and community groups alike to deliver innovative triple bottom line solutions.

Arron sees the environment as the single biggest industry within the next 5-10 years and he'd like Australian businesses to be at the forefront of this global phenomenon to secure the nation as an environmental knowledge and technology broker in a post manufacturing economy.

Arron has a history in the water sector having worked with regional urban water and catchment management authorities and runs the highly successful International River Health Conference for students from around the world. Arron is now the Director of Firestarter Pty Ltd, an environmental communication and education consultancy business. The business works through behavioural change management, major event organisation, project management, education campaigns and innovative company promotion methods aimed at better linking the corporate sector with community and government.

Among his many accolades, Arron has received the Centenary Medal for outstanding contribution to conservation and the environment, been awarded the 2006 United Nations Individual Award for Outstanding Service to the Environment and was also named the 2001 Young Australian of the Year (National Environment Winner) and has recently completed a Churchill Fellowship with the United Nations.

10:30am

Coffee break

11:00am

Concurrent morning workshops commence

Delegates will have the opportunity to move between rooms during the breakout sessions.

Breakout session 1: Science and technology stream

11:05 - 11:30

Anthony Brinkley – Sinclair Knight Merz

Groundwater Directory of Greater Melbourne

Groundwater has been long regarded as both an issue and a solution in terms of water security and environmental protection across the Greater Melbourne region. A wealth of hydrogeological (groundwater) information has been collected for the Melbourne region over time from various government, community and industry sources.

To assist water managers, policy makers, business and the community make the most of this information, Sinclair Knight Merz (along with the Department of Sustainability and Environment) has consolidated these sources into a dedicated suite of groundwater products. These include a Groundwater Map of Melbourne, a detailed Atlas of Groundwater Layers, supporting documentation, spatial data and a borehole database to make the data more useable. All information, including an interactive mapping application, will be available on the Our Water Our Future website shortly. Combining these key groundwater data sources into a suite of products will enhance decision making on groundwater matters into the future.

11:35 - 12:00

Melissa Toifl – CSIRO

New greywater treatment technology testing protocol for Australia

CSIRO, through the Water for Healthy Country Flagship, was awarded a Smart Water Fund grant to develop a laboratory based testing protocol for greywater treatment technologies to assess their effectiveness in removing specific contaminants under a typical range of operating conditions. A key element of the research was the development of a synthetic greywater recipe that the protocol utilises under the testing program. In addition, as part of the project, CSIRO established a dedicated, independent greywater laboratory to undertake the work.

CSIRO hopes that testing protocol will form the basis of a uniform national testing standard for greywater systems.

12:05 - 12:30

Dr Arul Arulrajah – Swinburne University of Technology

Investigating biosolids as a suitable fill material for road embankments

Melbourne's main wastewater treatment plants produce over 67,000 tonnes of dried and treated biosolids a year. The challenge is for the industry to identify a range of beneficial uses of this by-product.

Swinburne University of Technology's Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure has conducted research into an innovative use for biosolids that could help reduce these stockpiles. The research assesses the suitability of biosolids as stabilised fill in road embankments.

Breakout session 2: Industry and business stream

11:05 - 11:30

**Dr Damien Giurco – Institute for Sustainable Futures
(University of Technology, Sydney)**

Identification of industrial ecology opportunities in Melbourne

The Institute for Sustainable Futures received a Smart water Fund grant to conduct a study to identify, evaluate and recommend industrial ecology opportunities in Melbourne. The research identified a number of sites across Melbourne with potential for industrial ecology projects.

By investigating ways industry can become more resource efficient, industrial ecology projects can have significant environmental benefits as well as offering reduced water and trade waste costs for business.

11:35 - 12:00

Joe Croke & Andrew Hosken – Cadbury Ringwood

Water efficiency and employee engagement at Cadbury Ringwood

Cadbury's Ringwood site is a major manufacturing Distribution and administration site within the Cadbury Group.

The Ringwood site has set itself the challenge to reduce its net water use from 126 ML in 2006 to approximately 70 ML in 2009. This represents more than a 40% reduction and over 50 ML of water/yr. The Cadbury Ringwood site also facilitates an education and communication program known as the Purple goes Green Program. This program will reach the factory and office staff (1000+ employees), their families and local communities.

12:05 - 12:30

Sam Sampanthar – Knox City Council

Water recycling at Knox Leisure Works Aquatic Centre for re-use in open space irrigation

Providing a safe playing surface for users of sportsgrounds has increasingly become an area of concern during drought, as grounds receive less rainfall and water restrictions prevent them from being irrigated as frequently.

Known to be an Australian first, Knox City Council implemented a project to treat and recycle swimming pool backwash water from the Knox Leisure Works Aquatic Centre for the irrigation of a nearby sporting ground, saving up to 12 million litres of drinking water per year.

Breakout session 3: Community, education and social science stream

11:05 - 11:30

Luke Middleton – EME Design

Water smart principles for the architectural industry

EME Design was awarded a Smart Water Fund grant to develop and demonstrate a range of water efficient architectural designs aimed at reducing household water use by 60%. EME Design conducted research and produced case studies on four different types of dwellings including a large family home, a medium sized home, a small townhouse and a four unit townhouse block. Luke Middleton will discuss the principles of water smart home design and the associated water and cost saving benefits.

11:35 - 12:00

Ros Griggs – South Gippsland Water

Creating youth water ambassadors and leaders through the Water Aware program

Schools and community education plays a key role in the water industry's conservation efforts. Educating children about the importance of water and the consequences of their water use is an important step to creating water-wise communities.

South Gippsland Water has identified and developed an innovative curriculum model that goes beyond the usual educative outcomes, by creating a program that develops lifelong water ambassadors and leaders from the students of today.

12:05 - 12:30

Geoff Connellan – University of Melbourne

Customer focused garden watering website – SmartGardenWatering.org.au

As Melbourne's climate changes and water restrictions remain in place, gardeners need to adapt to these challenges if their gardens are to survive and thrive. Seeing this need, the University of Melbourne conducted a scientific based assessment of the water saving attributes of a range of household garden watering technologies and other gardening aspects such as soil types, mulch types, irrigation techniques, plant types and micro climates across Melbourne.

The result of this project is www.smartgardenwatering.org.au, a sophisticated online tool that gives users valuable information about their garden's water requirements. The website is highly interactive and strongly visual to help users quickly understand how plant and irrigation technology selections influence water requirements. An additional feature of the website helps gardeners determine the best sized rainwater tank for their needs. The program optimizes the size of tank, roof rainfall collection area and garden water demand. SmartGardenWatering.org.au has taken the guess work out of creating a water efficient garden and allows home gardeners to maintain and enjoy their backyards in times of drought and water restrictions.

12:35pm

Lunch

1:30pm

Concurrent afternoon workshops commence

Delegates will have the opportunity to move between rooms during the breakout sessions.

Breakout session 1: Science and technology stream

1:35 - 2:00

Bryan Chadwick – URS Australia

Brine stream management – potential impacts and opportunities for the Water Industry: Case study – Western Victoria

Due to prevailing drought conditions, Urban Water Corporation's throughout Victoria are turning to desalination technologies in inland environments to treat saline waters from groundwater sources to meet customer demand. For inland

Water Corporation's the management of the brine stream resulting from desalination is a significant challenge.

URS Australia has worked with three Victorian Urban Water Corporations to assess the quality and quantity of brine streams to be managed with the view to determining most effective methods of reuse, reduction and disposal.

2:05 - 2:30

Dr Declan Page – CSIRO Land and Water

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) opportunities for Melbourne

ASR is the process of using natural underground aquifers as storage medium for alternate water sources such as stormwater that can then be accessed and used as required. A typical ASR scenario is the collection and injection of stormwater during the winter months that is stored until needed during the dry summer period.

CSIRO Land and Water have undertaken a multi-stage project to investigate the opportunities for ASR across metropolitan Melbourne through the creation of an ASR Map for Melbourne, development of technical guidelines for establishing and operating ASR schemes and finally, the establishment of a demonstration site in south-east Melbourne.

2:35 - 3:00

Dr Nichola Porter – RMIT University

Beneficial biosolids reuse: Incorporating biosolids into an Energy Cropping System

Biosolids stockpiles pose a challenge for the water industry and innovative uses for biosolids are being sought. RMIT University is conducting research into the feasibility for incorporating biosolids as a fertiliser for the propagation of energy crops. Crops such as oats and canola, fertilised with biosolids, can be used to produce biodiesel.

In conjunction with Western Water, RMIT University has conducted a series of field harvest trials over a three year period to assess the performance of biosolids as an effective fertilizer. Dr Porter will share and discuss the results obtained from the research to-date.

Breakout session 2: Industry and business stream

1:35 - 2:00

Professor Stephen Gray – Victoria University

Guidelines for recycled water use in industry

Victoria University's Institute for Sustainability and Innovation is conducting research to investigate, identify and assess technical issues and challenges associated with using recycled water in a wide range of industrial applications that currently use potable water.

While recycled water has become more widely available, many industrial water users are unsure of the applicability of such water to their business. Victoria University's research will assist businesses determine whether or not using recycled water is a viable option, through the development of a "Guideline for recycled water use in industry".

2:05 - 2:30

Dr Niranjali Jayasuriya – RMIT University

Water saving toolkit for small to medium food manufacturers

The food industry in Australia is acutely aware of risks associated with chemical and microbial contamination of food, in the interests of public health. As a result, food industries typically use significant amounts of water in cleaning operations.

RMIT University saw opportunities to save water in the food manufacturing sector and has conducted in depth research into food industry's water use needs and uses. As a result of the project RMIT University has developed and released the online water wise toolkit that allows members of the food industry to assess their water use practises and identifies potential opportunities to save water within their facilities.

2:35 - 3:00

Professor Graham Thorpe – Victoria University

Water efficient vegetable washing and cooling systems for commercial market gardeners

Washing and cooling vegetables ready for sale can use up to 10,000 litres of water per tonne of vegetable or fruit produce using traditional methods. Victoria University has developed a more water efficient washing and cooling system for vegetable and fruit growers without compromising the quality of produce. Victoria University's hydrocooler reduces the amount of water needed to 50 litres per tonne, an amazing reduction of 99 per cent.

Breakout session 3:

Community, education and social science stream

1:35 - 2:00

Associate Professor Rebekah Brown – Monash University

National Urban Water Governance Program

The National Urban Water Governance Program (NUWGP) is a social research program aimed at facilitating progress towards Water Sensitive Cities. The Australian urban water sector is facing a number of significant challenges as it attempts to implement more sustainable practices in a period of dynamic and rapid change.

The NUWGP provides a reliable knowledge base for addressing these issues via a number of closely related and complimentary research projects investigating the changing governance of traditional urban water management across Australia and overseas.

2:05 - 2:30

Professor Julian Lowe – University of Ballarat

Socio-economic assessment of the long term value of a landmark urban water resource: Lake Wendouree case study

Lake Wendouree is an iconic attraction to residents and visitors to Ballarat and has been identified as an important contributor to local community wellbeing, business growth and environmental diversity. The project has used an innovative methodology to value the improvement in community well-being of this investment and the implications for the future management of Lake Wendouree.

2:35 - 3:00

Dr Chris Walsh – University of Melbourne

An alternative economic instrument to encourage take up of water tanks and raingardens

This project has developed and trialed an innovative economic instrument as a means of distributing a set amount of public funds to generate the optimal take up of water tanks and rain gardens – thus achieving the greatest levels of water savings and environmental protection. The project uses an auction based system of distributing rainwater tanks within the demonstration community catchment area in Mount Evelyn.

3:00pm

Coffee break

3:15pm

Panel discussion

The panel discussion will feature a conversation with some of the leading minds in the water management, innovation and research fields to discuss the topic - From a water management perspective, what will Australian capital cities look like in 2050?

Panel members will include:

- Arron Wood – 2007 Prime Minister’s Environmentalist of the Year Award winner
- Shaun Cox – Managing Director, South East Water Ltd
- Professor Tony Wong – Principal EDAW AECOM and Monash University
- Associate Professor Rebekah Brown – National Urban Water Governance Program, Monash University
- Dr Damien Giurco – Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures (University of Technology Sydney)

4:00pm

Closing remarks

4:30pm

**Cocktail and networking reception
– General session**

5:30pm

Conference close

“The Smart Water Fund invests in innovative urban water management initiatives to help secure Victoria’s water future”

Smart Water Fund Conference 22 October 2009

Registration Form / Tax Invoice

Registration fee: **\$110** including GST per delegate

Registration deadline:

Wednesday 14 October. Please note delegate places are limited. Fax registrations to 03 9600 0404, email theteam@fenton.com.au or by post to Fenton Communications Level 10, 423 Bourke Street Melbourne 3000

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