

MEDIA RELEASE

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Urban water use high on agenda for local councils

Local Government Authorities and the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) will undertake Water Use Efficiency projects throughout the Maranoa-Balonne and Border Rivers catchments over the next two years.

“Strong interest from local governments in improving water use has resulted in 21 projects over the two catchments ranging from stormwater reuse, to effluent management, to water loss audits,” QMDC’s Water Regional Coordinator, Gavin Prentice, said.

With growing concerns in many states about dwindling water supplies, Mr Prentice said it was important for local councils to explore ways to meet growing demands for water.

“By working with QMDC to help meet regional targets, shires throughout the region will better understand water loss and how to minimise it,” he said.

“These projects will also help local residents to rethink the way their townships use water.”

Urban Water Use Efficiency projects will also help councils meet the outcomes of the federal government’s recent National Water Initiative (NWI).

“All projects funded by QMDC are in line with the goals of the NWI and will help councils to become eligible for future funding through this scheme,” said Mr Prentice.

Mr Prentice said the main funding program within the NWI, *Water Smart Australia*, is an excellent initiative for larger councils able to apply for large-scale grants.

However, many smaller local councils within Queensland Murray-Darling Basin catchments will be unlikely to need that scale of funding individually, he said.

“Our projects will encourage councils to submit joint NWI applications, providing these smaller areas with ‘buying power’ and a more coordinated approach to urban water management,” said Mr Prentice.

QMDC’s Urban Water Use Efficiency projects have been funded by the commonwealth government’s NAPSWQ and NHT2 schemes.

For more information about working with QMDC, please contact the office on 07 4637 6201.

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