# This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

watersmartinnovations.com



# Water Conservation and Management Lessons from Australia

WaterSmart Innovations 2010 Catherine Chertudi Boise, Idaho Public Works October 2010



# Demographics

Australia: 21.5 million population

Located in major cities along the coastline

Density per square kilometer: 3

- Melbourne, Victoria: 3.5 million population
- Adelaide, South Australia: 1.5 million population

United States: 308 million population

Density per square kilometer: 33



#### Victoria

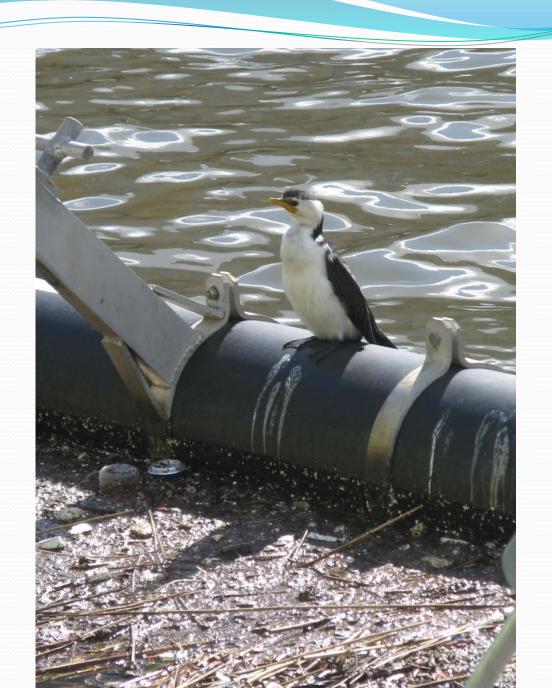
- Drought conditions > 10 years
- Melbourne averages about 25 inches precipitation/yr
- Stage 2 Current drought response
- Potable water is supplied from surface water reservoirs
- 35.6% water storage level July 2010.
- 26.9% water storage level July 2009



#### Melbourne Water

- Owned by Victorian government
- \$8.4 billion (AUS) assets
- Responsible for:
  - Catchments (reservoirs) & potable water
  - Wastewater collection & treatment
  - Provides treated water for non-potable uses
  - Manages rivers and drainage systems





# Target 155 Campaign

- 155 liters of water per person per day
- 18 consecutive weeks
- Storm water harvesting common
- Dual flush toilets
- Potable water use restrictions
- 200 liters peak water use October 2009
- 135 liters average use in July 2010



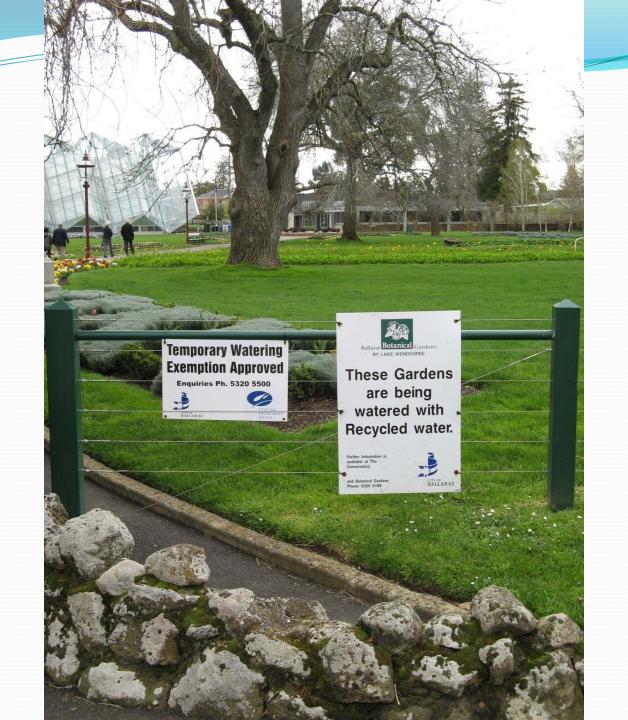
#### Ballarat

#### Sovereign Hill Open Air Museum

- Storm water harvesting
- Native plants
- Water conservation







# Wyndham

- 4<sup>th</sup> fastest growing city in Australia
- Transitioning from agricultural to suburban
- Protection of native bush habitat
- Growth management
- Drought response





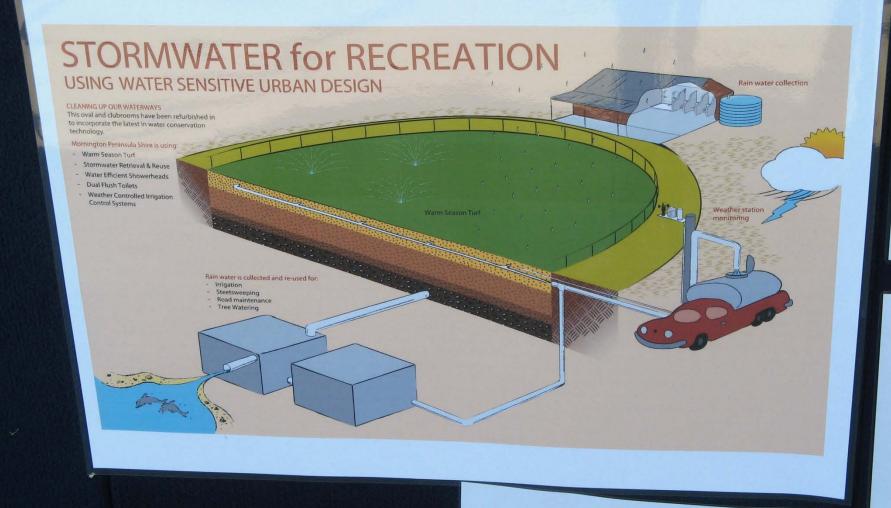




## Mornington Peninsula

- Storm water reuse projects
- Rainwater harvesting
- Protection of agricultural base
- Water Sensitive Urban Design
- Promotion of native landscapes & plants





WORKING TOGETHER TO MANAGE THE COMMUNITY'S SPORTSFIELDS THROUGH

STAGE 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS
Circa 2002

Managina

# Oval Rehabilitation Program (Capital Project)

- 5 year program 2002-2007
- \$1 million
- Involving;
  - Recreation Team
  - Infrastructure Project Team
  - Infrastructure Maintenance Team, Parks and Roadsides Team
  - Renewable Resources Team
  - Council Support

















### **Jindivick**

- Rural community
- Northeast of Melbourne
- Fires February 7, 2009
- 300 families

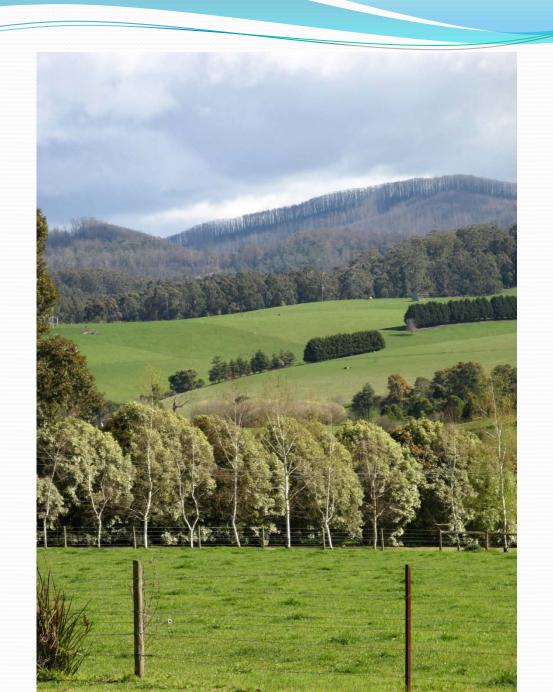














# Adelaide

- Limited, usable ground water
- Innovative storm water collection systems
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery projects
- Treated wastewater reuse

















# Desalination

- New Projects in Adelaide and Melbourne
- Melbourne
  - 150 billion liters per year
  - 84 kilometer underground pipeline
  - 90 MW electricity
  - \$3.5 billion (AUS)
  - September 2009
  - Water delivery by end 2011

# Desalination

- Adelaide
  - Project owned by SA Water and South Australia
  - \$1.83 billion (AUS)
  - Up to 100 billion liters of water per yr
  - First water delivery by December 2010
  - Full water supply by December 2012
  - 100% Green Power







# Education

- The Watershed Function Center, wetlands & trails
- Adelaide Botanic Garden
- Penguin Parade Nature Preserve
- Healesville Sanctuary
  - Sustainability
  - Water conservation
  - Climate change
  - Water reuse & ASR
  - Wildlife & Habitat











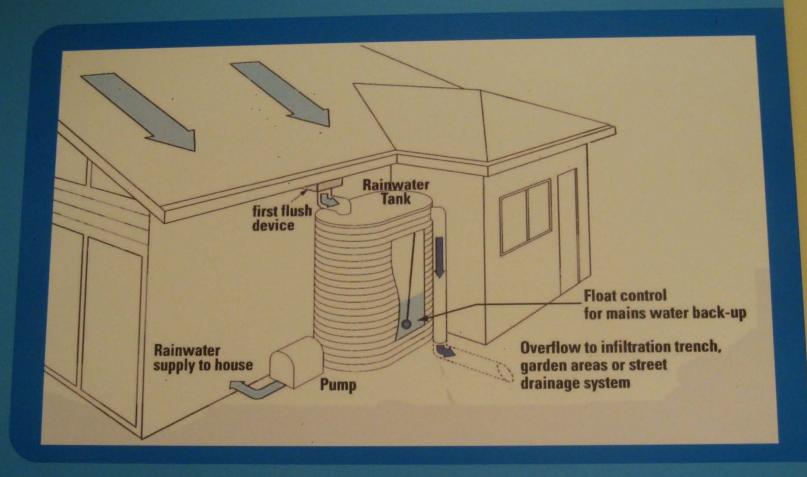
# happy flushing!

All of our toilet facilities are flushed using rainwater we catch from our roof. This saves 5.5 million litres (1.45 million US gallons) of water every year.

... water, our most precious resource



Smart Water Fund



Did you know that you can harvest rainwater from your roof at home? This diagram shows how a home rainwater harvesting system works. Hook your rainwater tank up to your toilet, washing machine and garden watering system and become a water saver!





Water is the driver of Nature.

LEONARDO DA VINCI

# Water: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

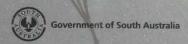


Water is ephemeral in mediterranean places: plentiful in winter, but scarce during the long summer.

Mediterranean plants have many ways of surviving dry times. Look closely at their features to discover how they do it and see what you can learn from them.

#### Find these features

- small leaves with fewer pores that reduce water loss
- waxy leaves that seal in water
- fine hairs that insulate the leaf
- light-coloured leaves that reflect the sun
- leaves hanging vertical towards the ground that reduce sun exposure
- underground bulbs that store water.











### Lessons Learned

- Water management strategies, policies & plans
- Water conservation practices
- Commitment to sustainability
- Creative solutions





