



Case Study

Watering the Shire of Wyalkatchem

Set among wheat and sheep farming country 200 km north-east of Perth, the Shire of Wyalkatchem is a community of 350 people that had predominantly relied on harvesting storm water from town drainage systems to keep town landscapes green and provide emergency water for livestock and firefighting.

However, as rainfall has declined significantly in Wyalkatchem in recent decades, the community met the growing shortage of available water by using reticulated scheme water (drinking water) with usage increasing during the summer.

This scarcity of suitable water for community needs led to the Shire of Wyalkatchem applying through the Department of Water's Community Water Supply Program for funds available to dryland agricultural areas receiving less than 600 mm average annual rainfall.

Regional communities can apply for up to \$2 million in funding through Watering WA which incorporates the Community Water Supply Program. Applicants must be within the dryland agricultural area (less than 600 mm average annual rainfall) and contribute at least 30 per cent toward project costs. Additional criteria and information can be accessed at water.wa.gov.au

Program:

Community Water Supply Program 2014

Shire population: 350

Average annual rainfall: 330 mm

Goal:

To increase self-sufficiency by restoring the historic White Dam, its concrete drainage channel system and connecting it to in-town services.

Works undertaken:

- installation of a 190 000 litre tank and a 90 000 litre storage tank
- clearing 700 metres of blocked drainage channel
- clearing and grading of 14 hectares of contoured catchment area
- building a trailer mounted diesel pump with standpipe.

Total project cost: \$82 400

Funds granted: \$50 400

The Shire of Wyalkatchem contributed \$32 000 toward project costs which coupled with the \$50 400 granted by the Community Water Supply Program resulted in the installation of two new water storage tanks and the restoration of White Dam and its catchment.

As part of increasing stormwater harvesting capabilities a 90 000 litre storage tank was installed to capture stormwater runoff from the 200 m² roof area at the Community Resource Centre and Wyalkatchem CBH Agricultural Museum.



watering
WA



Regional communities are a central part of Western Australia's identity and economy.



Department of Water officers working in partnership with the Shire of Wyalkatchem.

Community benefits

The restoration of the Shire of Wyalkatchem's historical 1920s water supply asset White Dam and its catchment has created more effective collection and storage of water.

Water is now an efficiently managed resource with reticulation between the town dams and the new storage tanks allowing water to be transferred between the sites during periods of high use.

People in Wyalkatchem can now also access water with a new trailer mounted diesel water pump with standpipe for emergency farm livestock or firefighting needs.

For the community, the ability to use stormwater and treated wastewater to irrigate the local sporting oval, school, parks, gardens and the grounds of Pioneer Park has resulted in attractive, shady and usable community gathering places.

Watering WA is a \$30 million investment made possible by Royalties for Regions which accelerates the work of the Rural Water Planning Program, including the Community Water Supply Program.



#watering **WA**

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