



Media release

From the Minister for Water

Wednesday, 29, July, 2009

AQUARIUM'S FISH TANKS RECYCLING FOR THE FUTURE

Melbourne Aquarium has saved over one million litres of water through an innovative water saving project to harvest rainwater and recycled fresh and salt water from its display tanks.

Water Minister Tim Holding said the Aquarium's penguins, sharks, fish and other attractions are helping reduce demand on Melbourne's water supplies.

"The Brumby Government and water authorities are undertaking record investment in major water projects including building Australia's largest desalination plant and increasing the use of recycled water which helps reduce demand on our drinking water supplies.

"The Government is also supporting smaller and innovative water conservation, water recycling and biosolids management projects through the Smart Water Fund.

"This positions Melbourne Aquarium as a leader in water management in public aquariums around the world and they should be congratulated for the success of the project to date."

The Melbourne Aquarium Smart Water Fund project reduces drinking water use by up to 44,000 litres a week by harvesting rainwater from roof run-off and by reclaiming fresh and salt water from its displays.

This water is tested and treated before being re-used for flushing toilets and topping up aquatic display tanks. Melbourne Aquarium has also installed a small-scale desalination plant that will provide the ability to reclaim water from its 2.2 million litre salt water display for reuse within the facility, rather than being discharged to sewer.

Melbourne Aquarium received a \$355,000 grant under the Smart Water Fund. The project also includes an interactive visitor education program, and a water conservation program targeting the 70,000 school students who visit the aquarium each year.

The Brumby Government's Smart Water Fund is a partnership with Melbourne's water businesses - City West Water, South East Water, Yarra Valley Water and Melbourne Water.

The Fund provides funding for innovative water conservation, water recycling and biosolids management initiatives to individuals, community groups, businesses and research bodies in metropolitan and regional Victoria.

South East Water Managing Director and Smart Water Fund spokesperson Shaun Cox said since 2002, the Fund had invested \$28 million in about 170 innovative water conservation, water recycling and biosolids management projects.

"The Smart Water Fund is an excellent example of water saving leadership and innovation being displayed by organisations in Victoria to help secure our water future," Mr Cox said.

"Each project funded by the Smart Water Fund represents an innovative approach to the challenges posed to water resources by climate change and drought. The fund also promotes a sharing of knowledge across the community and industry from innovative water projects."

For more information on the Smart Water Fund visit www.smartwater.com.au

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