



OUR WATER FUTURE

Discussion Paper: A Conversation with Territorians

CASE STUDY 4

Alice Water Smart



Demonstration of Strategic Policy Priority 2: Foster water stewardship

The two year Alice Water Smart Plan has helped to identify over 1600 million litres of water savings for Alice Springs, yet there is more to be done.

The \$15 million Alice Water Smart program was a two year project implemented by a consortium led by Power and Water Corporation (PWC) and comprised The Department of Land and Resource Management, Arid Lands Environment Centre, Alice Springs Town Council and Tourism NT. Alice Water Smart was supported by the Australian Government's *Water for the Future* initiative and the Alice Water Smart consortium.

Alice Water Smart has set up some long term legacies for water use in Alice Springs, including the creation of the Alice Water Smart Guide which was developed by the community to help residents and businesses in the future to stay water smart.

Alice Water Smart targeted water savings through five key project areas: homes and businesses, parks and ovals, accommodation, reuse and reticulation of water and smart metering. Water losses were also reduced by substituting precious drinking water with recycled water for commercial irrigation purposes.

Over 500 million litres of water savings were identified in Alice Springs homes alone.

About 10% of all Alice Springs households participated in Alice Water Smart. With the great water savings achieved, there is a huge amount of water saving opportunities for the rest of the community.

More than 80% of all water savings identified in homes were from leaks, inefficient irrigation design and irrigation controllers that were set inappropriately. These presented the greatest water saving opportunities. One in three homes had a water leak and on average these were found to be wasting over 250 kilolitres on average per home. This is more than the average Australian household uses.

Households were already being water smart in some areas with over 50% of pool owners having a pool cover and most people having a water smart showerhead.

Businesses that took part in the program also made substantial water savings, with 400 million litres identified.

Goal

Alice Water Smart was a two year project that helped Alice Springs reduce water use by 1600 million litres per year, equivalent to two months average water supply. The project was completed in June 2013. Due the success of some Alice Water Smart initiatives, they were extended through to December 2013. The project highlighted the power of community engagement and participation of efficient water use and management.

For further information, visit
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