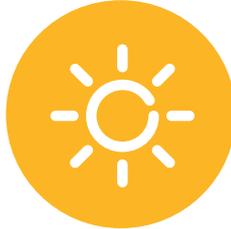


Watermark

Sep/Oct 2020

Climate change is real

We all have a role to play to protect our unique WA lifestyle. We need to continue our efforts collectively, to save water and adapt to climate change. Read on to learn about the sustainable and innovative ways we are securing our water supply for future generations and learn how you too, can be a part of our journey.



Find out more at watercorporation.com.au/our-water



Spring into waterwise action

Now is a great time to get outside and establish a waterwise garden or verge before the hot summer months hit.

We have been working with Waterwise Councils to create cooler, greener and more sustainable neighbourhoods through a program called the Waterwise Greening Scheme.

'Greening' our suburbs improves air quality, provides cooler streetscapes and allows for increased biodiversity.

Many Waterwise Councils across Perth are using the scheme to support initiatives for residents, such as native plant giveaways, waterwise verge transformations, waterwise gardening competitions, workshops and street tree planting.

So far, the program has helped purchase 47,600 waterwise plants, 520 waterwise trees and co-funded 209 waterwise verge makeovers.

Check out your local government's website or social media channels to see what's on offer in your area.

If you're not based in Perth, look out for our Waterwise Towns Program which selects different regional communities each year to take part. The program offers water saving initiatives tailored to suit local conditions.

For more waterwise offers visit watercorporation.com.au/waterwise

Why building more dams is not the answer



In WA, the impacts of climate change pose a significant and ongoing challenge to our water supply. These impacts are felt in our communities, businesses, farms and homes.

What this means for us in the South West corner of Australia, is we can no longer rely on consistently wet winters to meet our water needs.

If only the answer was to build more dams. The problem is, dams don't act like big bowls that catch rainwater.

What actually happens is the large natural catchment areas surrounding our dams absorb water, which only flows into the dam once the ground

is soaked; think of your sponge in the shower. The water that ends up in our dams is referred to as 'streamflow'.

As we keep receiving less winter rainfall in irregular patterns, the catchment areas soak up most of the rain before it has a chance to reach our dams.

So, even if we build more dams, there simply wouldn't be enough water flowing into them to make it worthwhile.

We use our dams now to store desalinated water for when it's needed.

Find out more at watercorporation.com.au/our-water

Give your garden a spring clean

Did you know we use almost half of our household water in our gardens? So choosing waterwise plants makes sense - they're low-fuss and they look great! Now a new season is here look out for the Pimelea or Rice Flower, which is readily available in nurseries. Requiring a lot less water than other plants, this WA native produces an abundance of pink or white flowers during spring and summer. Thriving in a sunny position, this WA native is ideally suited for temperatures of the Wheatbelt, South West and Great Southern Regions.

Browse our directory for more waterwise plants at watercorporation.com.au/plants





Digging in Denmark has begun



To secure Denmark's water supply, we are building a 43km pipeline to connect Denmark to our Lower Great Southern Towns Water Supply Scheme.

Denmark, like many parts of Western Australia, is experiencing the impact of climate change through declining rainfall. The town recorded three of the driest years on record since 2014.

Linking Denmark to a larger water supply scheme supplied by groundwater, will secure the town's supply for the longer term, as we become less reliant on

localised rainfall. Water from Denmark's dams will still be used when available.

We will continue to work with the local community while construction of the pipeline is taking place until completion in early 2021. Weather permitted, crews will lay 400 to 500 metres of pipe a day.

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Find out more about the Denmark Pipeline Project at watercorporation.com.au/waterwisedenmark



Take control of your controller

As the seasons change, so do the water needs of your garden and lawn. Stay waterwise and take advantage of spring's cooler weather.

Your irrigation controller most likely has a setting called "seasonal adjust" which allows you to change how long your sprinklers run for by a percentage, at the twist of a dial or push of a button.

We recommend using your sprinklers manually throughout September and at a 60% seasonal adjustment in October.

The only time your sprinklers should be set to 100% is during the hottest part of the year, in January and February.

While you're checking out your irrigation controller, why not familiarise yourself with the manual 'off' button so you use this next time there is forecasted rain.

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Find out more about how to adjust your watering depending on the time of year at watercorporation.com.au/sprinklers

South West wastewater warriors

We are proud of our dedicated employees working to future-proof water and wastewater services against climate change.

The innovative thinking and engineering behind the recently upgraded Margaret River Wastewater Treatment Plant is no exception.

We recently completed work to double the capacity of the Margaret River facility to cater for future growth in the picturesque town.

The upgrade is an environmental credit as 100% of the treated wastewater is re-used to irrigate public open space in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River and a nearby tree plantation.

Given the South West corner of Australia is one of the places on the planet most impacted by climate change, it is important we develop safe and reliable alternatives for the use of treated wastewater, like in Margaret River, to support the future needs of our community.

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To learn more about our wastewater system and how water is treated visit watercorporation.com.au/wastewater



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, water and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities, their cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.