



An artist's impression of a park avenue in the master planned area.
UWA, Landscape Architecture

Wungong's Urban Water Master Plan a pace-setter

Catering for 40 000 residents, the recently launched Wungong Urban Water Master Plan, the first of its kind in Australia, is Western Australia's largest planned redevelopment, showcasing best practices in ecologically sustainable urban development.

Under the innovative plan for the region 26 kilometres south-east of Perth, Wungong's residents will benefit from this diverse and vibrant residential area due to new standards in natural resource management, water sensitive urban design and energy-efficient housing.

Project partners, CSIRO's Water for a Healthy Country Flagship and the Armadale Redevelopment Authority, unveiled the plan at a media launch on 18 October, hosted by WA Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, the Hon. Alannah MacTiernan.

Setting a precedent in urban water management with its District Water Management Strategy, the Master Plan will save up to 75 per cent of water use each year with water efficient fixtures, fittings and irrigation techniques in addition to using rainwater tanks and non-potable groundwater for irrigating gardens and flushing toilets.

The project's director, CSIRO Land and Water's Matt Taylor, said, 'Another key innovation in urban water management will be 21 kilometres of iconic eucalyptus lined park avenues. These linear avenues will serve multiple purposes including stormwater nutrient stripping, infiltration and conveyance to the Wungong River, wildlife corridors, wind mitigation, pedestrian thoroughfares, and allow a much higher percentage of the

community to live next to attractive and functional public open space.'

The Master Plan also incorporates an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the management and preservation of Aboriginal sites in the area.

'The Wungong Urban Water Master Plan creates innovative integration of community and environment that will result in social awareness and a unique lifestyle,' Mr Taylor says. 'We hope that the project will be used as a model to guide sustainable urban development in similar areas in WA and nationally.'

CSIRO has funded a large ongoing water monitoring program in the Wungong Urban Water area to better understand the impacts of urban development on the aquatic environment. Data on water quality and quantity for both surface water and groundwater will be collected.

More information:
Wungong Urban Water:
www.wungongurbanwater.com.au
Water for a Healthy Country Flagship: www.csiro.au/csiro/channel/ich4.html

First environment business community gets a green light

South-east Queensland is set to house the proposed Yarrabilba Environmental Business Cluster and residential development on a 2014-hectare site in the Beaudesert Shire, about 45 kilometres from Brisbane.

The planned community, which sets a precedent internationally, will be a major business precinct targeting companies that manufacture environmentally sustainable products, including solar energy, water technology and alternative fuel industries. Office-based research and consulting groups will also be part of the mix, designed to concentrate linkages and opportunities.

The project has received enthusiasm and support from over 50 leading organisations, both in Australia and worldwide. Companies such as Thies Services, Hills

Industries Ltd, Silver Communities, Chromagen, QED Occtech Services and Bluescope Water have confirmed their interest in being part of the initiative.

Delfin Lend Lease is behind the project, which will be developed over 30 years. In addition to the businesses that will be set up, the completed community will house about 52 000 residents.

Andrew Brimblecombe, Lend Lease Communities Regional General Manager Queensland, sees a bright future for the community. 'Research commissioned by the Queensland Government has found that the environmental sector produced revenue of \$1.3 billion to the state in 2003/04,' he said. 'Globally, the sector is growing at 12 per cent annually.'

He notes, 'Experts in the field argue that the high level of fragmentation in

the industry is limiting its profile and growth and that a central hub would act as a catalyst for the growth of the environmental goods and services industry both in Queensland and Australia.'



The Yarrabilba project builds on the success of the business cluster concept to advance environmental technology and generate new revenue for Queensland.