

Case Study

RMIT University

RMIT University has one of the lowest water consumption in the tertiary sector at 5.7 kilolitres per Effective Full Time Student Unit, saving on average 28 million litres of water per year. Its strategic water management partnership with Yarra Valley Water and an innovative program to boost water efficiency has changed the way that its facilities and people use and think about water.



Background

RMIT is Australia's fourth largest University in terms of on-shore student numbers and it is the seventh largest in terms of building area. RMIT's Water Management Plan was first established in 2007. It provided RMIT with the impetus and framework to lead by example in water conservation, while maintaining a safe and operational working environment.

Where does RMIT use water and how much?

RMIT's current average annual water consumption is 195 million litres. Of this 60% is consumed by the City Campus, 33% by the Bundoora campus and 7% by the Brunswick and Hamilton campuses. An estimated 50% of this consumption is used in cooling towers, flushing toilets and irrigation, a further 20% in research activities and the remaining 30% for fire service testing, kitchen facilities and hand basins.

Water Management Initiatives

Following the development of a Water Management Plan and the undertaking of a savewater!® efficiency audit RMIT University implemented the following initiatives:

- installation of rain water collection tanks for use in irrigation and flusher tanks
- replacement of old flushers
- replacement of grass with synthetic grass
- connection of stormwater drains to lakes
- utilising Yarra Valley Water resources to assist in determining and implementing conservation initiatives
- water recycling plant installed at the Aquaculture facility in Bundoora

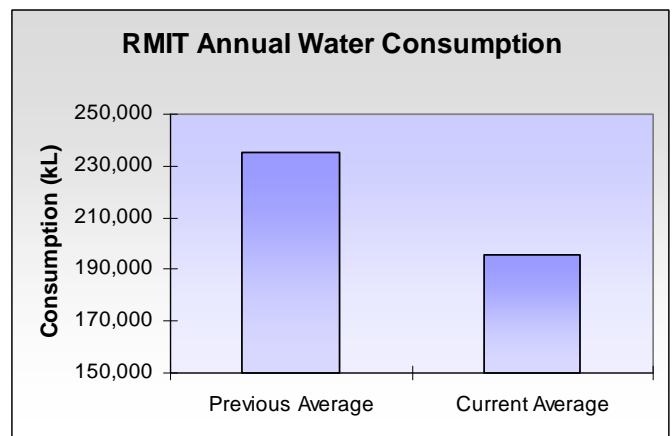
- stakeholder engagement to create broad awareness and sustainable behaviour change.

Other current or planned activities include the implementation of:

- Fire Test Water reticulated via manifold system
- remote water meter data collection
- amended design standards to include contemporary water saving measures
- Black Water Treatment Plant.

Results

RMIT has reduced its annual average water consumption by 28 % from 223 million litres to 195 million litres per year.



For more information

Craig Handley from RMIT University
 Telephone(03) 9925-2154
 Email craig.handley@rmit.edu.au
 Language Assistance Telephone 13 1450