

Media Release



JOINT INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT EVALUATION STUDY

Wagga Wagga, 4 August 2009. Riverina Water, Wagga Wagga City Council and the shires of Lockhart, Greater Hume and Urana have joined forces to prepare a regional integrated water cycle management (IWCM) evaluation study. The study will provide a blueprint for the long term management of water in the region.

IWCM has been mandated by the State government as an important strategy that all local water utilities must have as part of best-practice management.

In most cases each council (water utility) carries out the study for its own water, wastewater and stormwater services. However, the councils have decided to embark on a joint study to ensure that water management is planned with a region-wide view.

Greg Finlayson, the Director of Engineering at Riverina Water said he was pleased that the five Councils are working jointly. "The councils are strongly interlinked. Riverina Water supplies water to customers located within the four general purpose councils of Wagga Wagga, Greater Hume, Lockhart and Urana. Drought and climate change are some of the issues we share." Mr Finlayson said.

These general purpose councils manage sewerage and stormwater, as well as numerous related services such as town planning within their areas. Greater Hume also supplies water to Culcairn and towns north of Albury.

Stormwater and recycled wastewater have potential as alternative water sources. In examining integrated opportunities it is expected that this project will involve detailed liaison between the councils.

Lindsay Tanner, Manager of Service Delivery in Wagga Wagga City Council added: "We are looking to develop opportunities for smart use of water in the region. While Riverina Water is responsible for supplying potable water, the City manages significant water resources in the form of high quality sewage effluent and stormwater that may be used more effectively. How customers use water will also be examined closely."

The project is coordinated by HydroScience Consulting, a specialist water and wastewater consultant. Gidi Azar, Project Director for HydroScience said: "We are excited about working co-operatively with all five councils. A joint IWCM study will ensure an integrated approach to the future planning of water in the region."

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