

WATER EXPERTS FOR CHAMPION LAKES STUDY

The Armadale Redevelopment Authority has engaged a team of CSIRO experts to prepare a water management plan for its showcase Champion Lakes recreational development.

ARA Chairman Gerry Gauntlett said that the plan, for a drainage, nutrient and water quality management system, was a condition of environmental approval for the project. Such a system could have significant benefits for nutrient control in the Swan and Canning river catchment areas.

“The management system will ensure the Champion Lakes development has no adverse environmental consequences caused by nutrients, flushing requirements, water release and irrigation,” Mr Gauntlett said.

The 136 ha Champion Lakes site would be redeveloped into a significant water-based recreational area that combined the potential of international-standard competitive sporting facilities with passive and active public water activities.

Other plans included conservation and wetland habitat environments to support fauna and flora, an Aboriginal interpretative centre, resort-style accommodation, a high-quality residential area, conference facilities and small-scale business and commercial activities.

Mr Gauntlett said that the main lake was being artificially lined to avoid any seepage, and water from the Yarragadee aquifer would start to fill it by September.

“The control of nutrient runoff is critical to ensure the environmental quality of the water is maintained,” he said.

“The CSIRO team will have the opportunity to implement innovative techniques to harvest and utilise water, in line with the ARA’s commitment to sustainable development.”

Mr Gauntlett said that the CSIRO Land and Water division was regarded as a world leader in urban water management. The work, by a team of seven consultants, would include reviewing all relevant documents, plans and designs produced to date, assessing existing and likely future stormwater runoff to the lake, determining the principles for designing and implementing effective drainage systems and how best to control, minimise and contain nutrients from entering the water body.

The consultants would review proposed water management and flushing provisions and evaluate potential alternatives for using lake water, drainage water, stormwater and domestic grey water in the development. They would also recommend appropriate plants and watering regimes to help with nutrient management and use of saline water for irrigation, and a monitoring and data management approach to ensure water quality.

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