

## CSIRO JOINS ARMADALE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WITH ECOSYSTEM VISION

30/10/03

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan today welcomed a commitment by the CSIRO to partner the Armadale Redevelopment Authority in developing state-of-the-art water management practices.

Ms MacTiernan said the alliance was part of the vision for the Brookdale-Wungong residential development, more than 1,000ha marked for a housing estate for lower and middle income markets.

"The Brookdale project provides the opportunity to introduce the very best in water management for the region," she said.

"The project has the potential to become the showcase in WA for industry best practice in urban water management and energy efficient housing."

Ms MacTiernan was speaking at the water symposium 'From Catchment to Consumer,' organised by the Armadale Redevelopment Authority.

"We want our development of Armadale to be at the cutting edge of sustainability - particularly in terms of effective use of our precious water resource," she said.

"With CSIRO's involvement, we are confident we can produce a quality development that will greatly enhance the image and confidence of Armadale and Brookdale."

Dr Steve Morton, CSIRO's group chair of environment and natural resources, said problems associated with low-density cities in terms of energy and water consumption had become apparent over the past 20 years, reinforced by current drought conditions.

"Water utilities have tried to cope with curbing demand by metering and pay-for-use, and various States have responded to the challenge with comprehensive reviews and the development of strategies," Dr Morton said.

"Both WA and Victoria have set targets for 20 per cent water re-use in the medium future."

Issues raised at the symposium included decentralised wastewater treatment, limits to public acceptance of treated wastewater, health risks associated with water recycling and how these could be monitored.

"A criticism of much of the work in this area it is that studies deal with one part of the system at a time, or with the water aspect of subdivision planning as an isolated entity," Dr Geoff Syme, CSIRO Land and Water, said.

"However, the ARA's approach was much wider as it had clear economic and social aims for the area."

Dr Syme said the research would form part of the national research program called the 'Healthy Country Flagship', which focussed on water and all its uses and values as a key natural resource.

The program would develop the technologies and information needed to underpin a healthy country.

An important component of the flagship was the development of best practice in urban water re-use.

Ms MacTiernan said the water symposium had brought together experts in all aspects of urban development and water management and could set the scene for a major urban demonstration project with a development life of up to 20 years.

"The aim is to produce a model that will have relevance for other sensitive, high watertable areas in WA and Australia," she said.

"The Brookdale project can demonstrate best practice in dealing with the problems in the Swan-Canning River catchment system and achieving optimum social, economic and environmental outcomes."

The vision for the Brookdale-Wungong residential development of more than 1000ha was for a viable housing estate affordable for lower and middle-income markets.

It would be a state of the art estate developed through a partnership of Government, industry and community that embraced sustainable development principles in subdivision and built form.

The development will be used as a research and learning centre of excellence to guide development in similarly water-sensitive areas in WA and nationally.

Other speakers at the symposium include Nick Peringnon, general manager of Stockland's WA development division; Andre Taylor, of Ecological Engineering; and Dr Grace Mitchell, CSIRO.

About 70 people are attending the invitation-only event opened by Ms MacTiernan today. Environment Minister Judy Edwards will address the symposium tomorrow morning.

From Catchment to Consumer is sponsored by Australand, Peet & Company Ltd, Department of Housing and Works, LandCorp and LWP Property Group.

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