

Doncaster Hill Water Plan Factsheet



New development in Doncaster Hill could soon have access to a dual pipe to supply water for garden watering, toilet flushing and clothes washing.

While recycled water schemes are becoming common in greenfield urban developments, the potential to supply recycled water to a Principal Activity Centre is believed to be a first.

In 2007, Manningham City Council, Yarra Valley Water and Melbourne Water entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to investigate future water servicing options for Doncaster Hill. By working together the three agencies had as their key objective to produce an integrated urban water management strategy for the Doncaster Hill area that is more environmentally sustainable than traditional planning methods, and accordingly produce a template for others to use in future planning.

A study was commissioned to look at a range of water servicing options for Doncaster Hill including:

- Business as usual
- Mandated water efficient appliances
- Rainwater tanks
- Water sensitive urban design
- A range of precinct based integrated water cycle management solutions (i.e. stormwater, wastewater recycling).

The study found more integrated solutions provided increasing sustainable outcomes by:

- Reducing reliance on potable water
- Reducing export of waste
- Minimising the need to pump water
- Reducing impacts of stormwater.

The key findings of the study align with the environmental goals of the study partners and demonstrated a long term benefit to the community.

Through continued co-operation an integrated water cycle solution is being developed to benefit the future of the Doncaster Hill community and support sustainability outcomes.

Manningham Planning Approvals

Doncaster Hill development approvals are required to address a range of sustainability and engineering issues, including:

- Development of a sustainability management plan
- Compliance with Council's on site detention policy
- Requirement to meet best practice objectives for stormwater management.

The planning process has been developed to streamline the planning and building approval process, meet Council planning requirements, and deliver the following benefits:

Developers

- Provide certainty around approvals requirements. To clearly understand what is required from an approvals perspective developers can include these into their design and avoid costly retrofits.
- Allowing water management aspects of buildings to be promoted as an environmental benefit. Information provided by Council and Yarra Valley Water would promote the clear environmental advantages of using alternate water.

Residents

- Unrestricted access to water supply. Water delivered through a dual pipe would be a guaranteed year round source of water.
- Cheaper water source. The recycled water would be charged at the lowest block tariff of drinking water
- Ensure Doncaster Hill remains an attractive place to live. Having available water would ensure the Doncaster Hill of the future retains vegetation to provide shade and amenity.

Environment

The integrated water study completed for Doncaster Hill identified significant savings including up to:

- 64 per cent reduction in potable water
- 53 per cent reduction in wastewater export
- 42 per cent reduction in stormwater runoff
- 54 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Suitability of Water

The Doncaster Hill Water Plan would ensure that a safe and reliable supplementary water source is available for toilet, laundry, irrigation and cooling tower use.