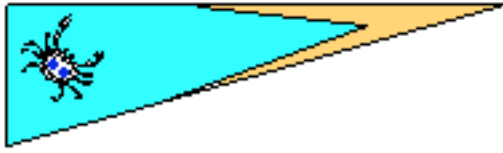


Friends
of Gulf St Vincent



PO Box 1716
GAWLER
SA 5118

24th November, 2006

Hon Mike Rann MP
Premier of South Australia
GPO Box 2343
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Premier

We are writing to you concerning your Government's strategies for sustainable management of Adelaide's water resources, and to draw your attention to an unrecognised opportunity for large scale water harvesting, storage and reuse on the Adelaide plains.

While a further weir on the River Murray at Wellington may have environmental impacts as well as benefits, are you aware that a large detention basin on the Cheltenham Racecourse site could be a potential "water factory", harvesting up to 2500ML water annually from the local and eastern metropolitan catchments for storage, aquifer recharge and reuse?

We are advised by engineers who have expertise in this field that the aquifer beneath Cheltenham Race Course is connected to the Northern Adelaide plains aquifer, presenting the opportunity to readily recharge this aquifer from a storage at Cheltenham. (This technology has been refined and proven for many projects within the City of Salisbury)

The urban area to the south east of Cheltenham, (Woodville through to Brompton), a drainage area of about 2300 ha, could realistically be drained to Cheltenham Race Course,. This water could be injected into the underlying aquifer and, withdrawn by irrigators, its extraction would yield a return of \$1.5m pa (at a nominal cost of \$0.60/kL), less the cost of running the wetland (conservatively, 5-10% of expected revenue). The potential wetland water yield is about 46ML per annum per hectare of wetland, or in revenue terms, \$28000 per annum per hectare of wetland.

While we recently congratulated your government on increasing the area of open space reserved within the proposed housing development at Cheltenham, we are now aware that this area of open space would be less than that required to collect and store the potential runoff from the catchment.

We are advised that the total wetlands area (pond area plus surrounds) required to treat the runoff from the catchment would be about 54ha, for an annual yield of about 2500ML useable

water. Based on an estimated yield of 46ML per annum per hectare, a smaller area of wetlands, say 35ha, would yield about 1600ML per annum.

Although a water harvesting initiative on this scale may decrease the area available for residential development at Cheltenham, a smaller area of lake side housing would, of course, have the increased aesthetic and recreational values associated with waterfront housing in other areas..

Based on the above information, the Friends of Gulf St Vincent urgently request that an area of up to 54 ha of the Race Course/Actil/St Clair site is allocated to extended wetlands that take their water from run-off from the area to the south-east of the proposed wetlands.

We believe that your government should, as a matter of urgency, investigate this opportunity to create a new water resource for the Adelaide Plains. Such an initiative would inevitably become a leading example for the harvesting and reuse of urban stormwater throughout Australia.

Yours sincerely

Pat Harbison
President
Friends of Gulf St Vincent
pharbison@adelaide.on.net

cc Mayor Anderson, City of Charles Sturt
cc Adrian Sykes City of Charles Sturt
cc Mayor Trainer, City of West Torrens