

16 January 2012

Media Release

NEW WATER SAVING TECHNOLOGY LAUNCHED AT MERNDA VILLAGES

Stockland's Housing Industry Association (HIA) GreenSmart® accredited residential community, Mernda Villages, has launched an innovative water saving scheme, which is a first for Victoria.

The Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Scheme is the latest in water saving technology. The ASR Scheme has been implemented by Stockland in partnership with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), City of Whittlesea and Melbourne Water to provide an alternative water source for the growing Mernda Villages community and the broader Whittlesea area.

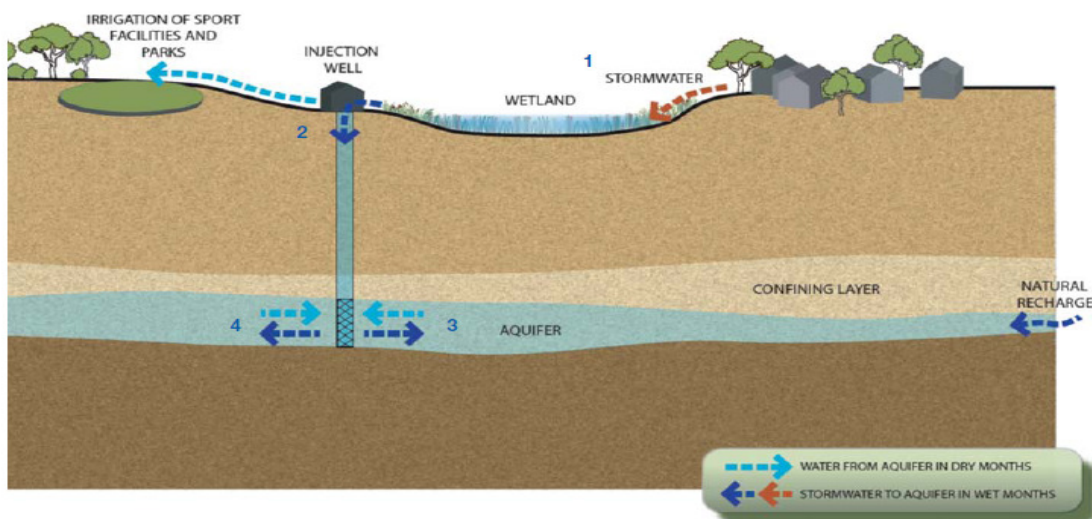
The principle behind the ASR Scheme is to utilise stormwater as a valuable resource to irrigate community areas.

During periods of high rainfall excess stormwater is filtered and cleaned by wetlands and then pumped into a natural aquifer, 40 metres below the ground. The water is then recovered as needed in periods of low rainfall to irrigate council reserves, parks and residential nature strips, eliminating demand on mains for irrigation and conserving potable drinking water.

Mike Davis, Stockland Regional Manger said, "Reducing our impact on natural resources and effectively managing water use is a priority for Stockland, particularly within the Mernda Villages community that features the latest in sustainable design.

"The ASR produced water will help keep Mernda Villages' 30 hectares of open space and parkland green year round for all residents to enjoy," said Mr Davis.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery Scheme



The ASR Scheme, located in the Mernda Villages' vast wetlands, allows large quantities of water to be stored without evaporation and with reduced risk of contamination from pollutants, both of which are problems associated with surface water storage areas such as reservoirs and dams.

The ASR Scheme has been made possible thanks to the continued partnership between the DSE, City of Whittlesea and Stockland, and their collective commitment to create a thriving and sustainable local community.

How the Aquifer Storage Recovery Scheme works:

1. Stormwater runoff is stored and cleansed through a wetland or detention basin.
2. Once the water level of the wetland reaches a certain level, a submersible pump sitting in the wetlands automatically starts pumping the water through a filtration and testing system.
3. If the water quality meets the minimum standard then it is pumped underground and stored in the aquifer.
4. Stored water is then extracted from the aquifer when needed, often during drier months for irrigation and non-drinking water uses.
5. The ASR Scheme is closely monitored for changes in water levels and quality.

Aquifer Storage Recovery Scheme benefits:

- Reduced water usage in the Mernda Villages and broader Whittlesea area by providing irrigation for council reserves and the community nature strips.
- Minimal loss through evaporation as water is stored underground.
- Minimal land required for AS&R infrastructure.
- Well designed and managed ASR schemes do not reduce the volume of groundwater normally contained in an aquifer.
- The internationally proven technology represents a more cost effective water storage system in comparison to traditional infrastructure such as open reservoirs, dams and tanks.

The ASR will be regularly maintained and monitored by the City of Whittlesea.

Mernda Villages is a unique masterplanned community located in Melbourne's north offering a lifestyle close to nature. Since Stockland commenced construction in 2006, the community has grown to include approximately 2,500 homes, six completed parks with a further five parks to be constructed, over 35 hectares dedicated to open spaces, including an award winning playground, walking trails and over five kilometres of bicycle paths.

For more information, please visit www.merndavillages.com.au.

For media enquiries contact:

Sarah Brown
Chief Operating Officer
Undertow Media

T +61 (0)3 8419 9308
M +61 (0)419 928 002
E sarah@undertowmedia.com

Sarah Clarkin
Account Coordinator
Undertow Media

T +61 (0)3 8419 9315
M +61 (0)412 803 901
E sarahc@undertowmedia.com

Stockland Corporation Ltd ACN 000 181 733 Stockland Trust Management Ltd ACN 001 900 741
AFSL 241190 As Responsible Entity for Stockland Trust ARSN 092 897 348.