



Sources for Courses – Securing Water Supply for Irrigation of Urban Private Recreation Land

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Retrofitting of effective stormwater management measures is increasingly challenging in existing urban areas that are increasing in development density. Limited public recreation land is highly valued for passive and active recreational uses and a 'loss' of a portion of this land to retrofitted stormwater management measures is often not supported by the community. Land zoned for private recreation use across NSW includes many privately-owned golf courses, racecourses and bowling greens. Golf courses and racecourses typically have high irrigation water demands to ensure they can be maintained at a high standard, and access to alternative water sources is highly valued.

This presentation focuses on golf courses and the potential for these facilities to contribute significantly to the management of urban stormwater runoff. An example of the investigations being undertaken for Merewether Golf Course to achieve sustainable water management is presented.

Golf courses have the potential to form a key component of water sensitive development and actively assist with filtering stormwater and reducing runoff volumes passing through the land occupied by the course. With good attention to golf course design, flood detention, habitat creation, water quality and quantity management, and stream erosion protection can all be integrated into the golf course with limited impact on playability. Golf courses also have an advantage of being regularly inspected and maintained.

Merewether Golf Course is located in Adamstown a short distance from the Newcastle CBD. The golf course currently relies on a combination of harvested stormwater, supplemented by potable water supply top-up of dams during extended dry periods. In recent years, the golf club has purchased increasingly higher volumes of potable water to irrigate the course to a minimum standard during dry periods. Merewether Golf Club like many other golf clubs across Australia is under increasing financial pressure due to a combination of aging membership base and lowering participation rates. Any steps that the golf club can take to reduce reliance on the potable water supply can have a significant impact on reducing costs.

In addition to optimising stormwater harvesting, MGC is also currently investigating a range of diverse water sourcing opportunities including improved water efficiency and demand management; aquifer storage and recovery; sewer mining; wastewater recycling and continuation of potable water use. The presentation includes an overview of the other potential water sources being considered.