

# MELBOURNE WATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM - SCHOOLS



## WATER STEWARDSHIP AUSTRALIA (WSA)

WSA is the regional partner of the global Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), leading implementation of AWS Water Stewardship in Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

## AWS WATER STEWARDSHIP

Is an environmental Standard and Certification programme (like Fair Trade) that drives and recognises best-practice water management, in terms of:

- 1) Sustainable water balance
- 2) Good water quality
- 3) Healthy Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs), including ecosystems and cultural sites
- 4) Good water governance

The AWS Water Stewardship Standard is free to download and can be used by any site, in any catchment in the world to help manage their water usage and water-related risks. Certification is an optional extension for sites that want to make public claims about their good water management.

The AWS Standard guides sites to:

- 1) gather and understand water-related information for the catchment (water-balance, water-quality, IWRAs, stakeholders and regulatory/public policies and programs)
- 2) gather and understand water-related information for the site
- 3) identify water-related risks facing the site
- 4) identify water-related opportunities for the site (e.g. efficiency gains, cost-savings, funding for site-works, marketing, improved social licence, etc).

Using the above information, sites then develop a water stewardship plan that works to:

- 1) address the identified site risks and opportunities
- 2) engage with stakeholders in addressing catchment-level priorities.

## MELBOURNE WATER STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

WSA is building relationships with key Melbourne catchment stakeholders: Melbourne Water, DELWP and the Yarra Riverkeeper that are looking to engage sites within the catchment to help achieve their water balance, water quality and waterway objectives – with the opportunity of incentives for doing so. WSA has already gathered the Melbourne catchment information and is meeting with Catchment Managers to look at the catchment priorities and opportunities for collaboration with sites to address them (or recognition for sites already doing so).

Funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, WSA have the resource to specifically work with schools interested in water stewardship.

## WHY WATER STEWARDSHIP?

In addition to managing site water-related risks and opportunities, and working with stakeholders in improving the Melbourne catchment:

- water stewardship recognises, rather than competes with, existing environmental management plans and practices: can be integrated into existing school environmental plans/policies or help to consolidate them
- it can be incorporated into curriculum or be a student-lead project
- we are forming a global, schools water stewardship network: we have connected Somerville Secondary College with Zhongce Vocational School in Hangzhou, China and are developing an online schools water stewardship forum.

## CONTACT

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