



MEDIA RELEASE

Water Security Grant Successful

The Norfolk Island Regional Council Water Security Project has been selected as a successful grant recipient as part of Round 5 of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Infrastructure Projects Stream. The BBRF is a program administered by the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC). The project will deliver an additional seven (7) rainwater tanks tied to existing Council infrastructure across the island, resulting in 2.2 megalitres of water storage. This is in addition to the 1.5 megalitres of Council rainwater capacity currently installed.

The project aims to meet two objectives:

1. Making Council's operations self-sufficient, including during extensive and severe drought conditions. This equates to 316 kilolitres of storage
2. Assisting the community by supplying extra water during extended dry spells. This would go to the neediest community members and businesses on island, where their water stores have run out. This storage equates to 1.8 megalitres which equals 4.5 kilolitres of water (13 loads) per day for an entire month

Benefits will also be realised through this project in removing the use of PFAS contaminated bore water and avoiding water use in catchments where acid sulphate soils are prevalent. We also hope the additional water storage will assist our important commercial sector in times of need, including tourism. The new water tanks will be augmented by the operation of the desalination unit, where available water can be topped up into tanks.

This is fantastic news for NIRC and the community, bringing the island closer to a state of sustainable water use. The announcement coincides with Australian National Water Week, recognised from 18-24 October. The Australian Water Association organises National Water Week, inspiring individuals, communities and organisations to build awareness around the value of water. The #NWW2021 theme this year is Caring for Water and Country, which celebrates the vital and cultural role that water plays in our lives.

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