

Stormwater

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND INC.
IA. 173 66



PO. Box 2100
Fortitude Valley, BC 4006
Ph (07) 3000 2116
3rd August, 2009

The Manager,
National Urban Water and Desalination Plan,
Urban Water Security Branch,
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts,
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Re: **Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Projects Subsidy Scheme**

The Stormwater Industry Association, Queensland (SIAQ) acknowledges the Australian Government's decision in providing funding to encourage stormwater harvesting and reuse. It is a wise initiative and worthy of funding as a means of achieving long term sustainable water objectives.

However the SIAQ has received a number of requests seeking that the Association make representations to your Department in respect of the conditions attached to the Government's National Urban Water and Desalination Plan - Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Projects subsidy scheme.

Local government and private industry members have expressed concern that the \$4.0m minimum project value for eligibility under the scheme is not realistic and is excluding the implementation of many urban water projects that have significant water reuse merit. Typically some of these projects are likely to cost only a few hundred thousand dollars.

The SIAQ is an industry body with membership from State Government, Local Government, equipment and pipe manufacturers, consulting engineers, environmental scientists and university academics. We are aware that the plan does have provision for applications comprising a number of consortium members. However it has been expressed to the Association that there is significant concern about the practical, financial and legal complexities that may be involved with consortium projects.

There are however, projects where two parties are possibly prepared to jointly undertake stormwater harvesting and reuse such as from developments located adjacent to the boundaries of two local government areas and others where sporting associations e.g. cricket and football, share the same playing fields. We are not aware of any urban stormwater harvesting proposals, currently being planned, where the eligible project value in any way approaches the \$4.0 million dollar minimum.

Given the above it would be appreciated if your Department could give consideration to amendment to the minimum project cost eligible under the scheme.

It is the opinion of Association members that a significant reduction in the minimum eligible project value would allow the inclusion of projects having wider community and environmental benefit as well as leading to greater conservation of potable water resources.

We shall be pleased to discuss this matter further. Details are - our President, Belinda Chapman, Brisbane City Council, Phone 07 3027 4708 or belinda.chapman@brisbane.qld.gov.au or myself, Phone 07 3480 6606 or lindsay.mcleod@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay McLeod', written in a cursive style.

Lindsay McLeod
Secretary
SIA Queensland. Inc.