



# Schools Water Efficiency Program

## A Water Story - with a twist

### East Doncaster Secondary College

In 2005 East Doncaster Secondary College registered an annual indoor water usage of 9,898 kilolitres (nearly 10 million litres of water), which cost the school \$15,636 in water and hot-water energy bills. This year, the school signed up to the Victorian Government's Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP) and will dramatically reduce their indoor water usage and hot-water energy costs.

Assistant Principal of East Doncaster Secondary College, Keith Butler has been monitoring the school's indoor water consumption for several years. As one of Victoria's larger secondary colleges with 1,302 students and 124 full-time teachers and staff, Mr Butler wanted a system that made the school's indoor water usage more efficient – and which would free up precious education dollars.

*“At East Doncaster our School Council is extremely motivated to do things better and to squeeze the most out of our Student Resource Package. SWEP is an excellent example of how school's can be environmentally conscious and at the same time expand their education dollars”.* Assistant Principal Keith Butler.

Mr Butler became interested in SWEP when it was piloted in 2005, and was one of the first to sign up to the indoor water saving initiative. His pursuit of efficiency paid off very quickly. Within weeks of implementing SWEP, East Doncaster has recorded significant water reductions of up to 40% when compared with 2005 data.

Mr Butler forecasts that those savings will level out and is confident that East Doncaster could report average water and cost savings between 20 and 25% in the first year.

*Early results at East Doncaster show dramatic reduction in indoor water consumption: Actual figures supplied by meter readings from the East Doncaster site.*

Indoor consumption	2005 ltrs	2006 ltrs	Reduced by
Last Week May	199,910	108,400	91,510 ltrs
1st Week June	143,000	71,950	71,050 ltrs

### What the students think....

Water saving messages are getting through to teenagers at East Doncaster – who were impressed by the reductions their school had achieved.



*“I feel very proud of my school for taking such a proactive stance on saving water.”* Yvonne Year 12 Student.

*“At home my whole family are really conscious about saving water, so it's good to see the school getting on board as well”.* Anthony Year 12 Student

### East Doncaster Fact File

No of Students	1,302
No of Teachers	124
Water Usage 2005	9,898,000 ltrs
Water Costs 2005	\$15,636 p.a
Water Savings 2006	2m+ ltrs p.a.
Cost Savings 2006	\$4,000 p.a.

## A message about SWEP

*The Schools Water Efficiency Program is the first initiative of its type in the world.*

*This \$3m commitment is part of the State Government's **Our Water Our Future** action plan to secure water supplies for the future.*

*If every Victorian school joined the Schools Water Efficiency Program we could save one billion litres of water each year.*

*Congratulations to East Doncaster Secondary College for their efforts in saving an estimated 2 million litres of water in their first year.*

*John Thwaites*

John Thwaites  
Minister for Water



*Jacinta Allan*

Jacinta Allan  
Minister for Education Services



# Our Water Our Future

A Victorian  
Government  
initiative



## About SWEP

*Victoria's 830,000 students and 249,000 staff use more than eight billion litres of water each year.*

*SWEP will help Victorian schools dramatically reduce this vast volume of water by implementing simple indoor water efficiency measures like fixing leaks, fitting flow control valves and fine tuning existing appliances and fixtures.*

*Most schools participating in the program will benefit from immediate water savings from five to 30 per cent with little effort and no initial outlay of funds required.*

*To get started the SWEP team will conduct a brief but thorough audit of your school's indoor water usage and then implement simple actions to save you bucket loads of water and money!*

## The SWEP Transformation

### The Audit

A water efficiency survey was carried out at East Doncaster by the SWEP team in March 2006. It took four hours to survey the 32 year old school, including all bathrooms, kitchens, drinking fountains, science labs, home economics and staff rooms. The results were extremely promising, finding significant opportunities to save water and hot water energy.

**"The audit process is quick and painless - and the savings are immediately evident."**

Jo Lepp, SWEP Coordinator.



### The Recommendations

It was identified that the first phase of SWEP, which is the installation of flow control valves to tapware, would realise estimated savings of at least 1,298,000 ltrs (12.3%) of water per annum. The school required approximately 130 flow control valves, which were installed by a SWEP accredited plumber during the 2006 term one school holidays. The works took just a day and a half to complete.

A second, optional phase of water savings was also identified by the SWEP team. This included toilet and urinal replacement and adjustments – in some cases installation of water efficient 'no flush' urinals. These changes were estimated to bring further savings to the school of up to 1,558,000 ltrs per year, or an additional 14.8% of total indoor water consumption.

**"The first phase was so successful, the school Council has agreed to the second phase of the SWEP, and we will be installing water efficient urinals into bathrooms".** Keith Butler, Assistant Principal

## The Twist

For a while the water-efficient achievements at East Doncaster Secondary College went completely unnoticed by students and staff, as works were carried out during term one holidays.

On their return to school in term two, staff and students were unaware that all tapware had been transformed into water-saving devices. Without realising it, they were saving bucket-loads of water!

Of the 1,426 people at the school – only one teacher registered a difference in water flow, commenting that the sink in the home economics room was taking longer to fill up. Another teacher noticed less splashing in the washroom basins, a benefit of reducing water flow.

**"There seemed to be less water on the benches and floor. I just thought people were doing the right thing and mopping up after themselves."** Stella, English teacher.

The East Doncaster "twist" is a great indicator that reduction to flow is likely to go unnoticed, and will not affect the satisfaction levels of water users. Indeed, once students and staff were notified of the changes, there was overwhelming support to further explore water efficient methods in the future.

## Benefits of SWEP are:

- *Becoming water efficient without an initial outlay of funds (a special payment program applies)*
- *Ongoing savings on water bills*
- *Installation of flow control valves will lessen water spillage and improve safety.*
- *Official recognition as a water efficient school*
- *Linkage with Water Learn it Live it! – a water conservation education program.*

**Join SWEP now...**

Call the Program Manager on 1300 727 599 to find out how your school can save water and money.