

New water saving device predicted to revolutionise Aquatic Centre design and construction in WA

Water Corporation through its Key Customer Relationship Management program (KCRM) has developed a range of partnering initiatives with key customers aimed at improving their water management process.

To date 140-plus customers have participated in the diagnostic sessions and ongoing support programs.

Terry Tyzack Aquatic Centre at Inglewood is one of the selected customers in the KCRM program and a success story.

The City of Stirling refurbished the 35 year old complex in 2000 by upgrading the existing external 50 metre, leisure and dive pools with new 25 metre indoor and leisure pools, a spa, sauna and gymnasium.

More than 600,000 people used the complex in 2006, making it one of the busiest aquatic centres in Western Australia. This year patron numbers are expected to exceed that number.

Pools and Operations Coordinator Deb Mills said management has been concerned for some time with the large volume of water used at the complex. Twelve months ago, a Water Corporation representative was invited to facilitate one of their water management assessments, Water Achiever®

Water Management Audit

"A water audit has helped us to come up with a range of water saving solutions that will reduce our water consumption considerably over the next few years," Deb said.

"Showers taken by patrons after swimming and regular backwashing of the five pools stand out as areas using the largest amount of water:

"Excessively long showers, dripping showers and leaking shower taps have also consumed large amounts of water and lead to frequent and costly replacement of washers, shower fittings and pipes."

In a move to curb the excessive water usage and reduce plumbing costs, the aquatic centre will shortly become the first in WA to install the innovative RADA tap system to its 22 showers used by patrons each day. The high tech unit is expected to halve the quantity of water used in the male and female change rooms by setting the shower temperature and duration to a reasonable flow.

The RADA shower heads protrude from the wall as non-moving parts with all taps recessed into the shower cavity. Each shower is operated by a hand scan with a sensible delay between showers.

The control panel is away from the showers and management can preset temperature, time and flow rate for individual showers.

Backwashing of the pools every 10 days is mandatory as part of the disinfection process, but the centre is looking at ways of improving its efficiency, including the feasibility of cleaning and reticulating the water on to adjoining parkland.

Future Initiatives

Additional water saving initiatives include new waterless urinals and wash basin taps with tempering valves to reduce water flow and a water awareness education program for patrons visiting the complex.

Deb said the centre would focus on reducing water consumption over the next two to three years with minimum discomfort to pool patrons.

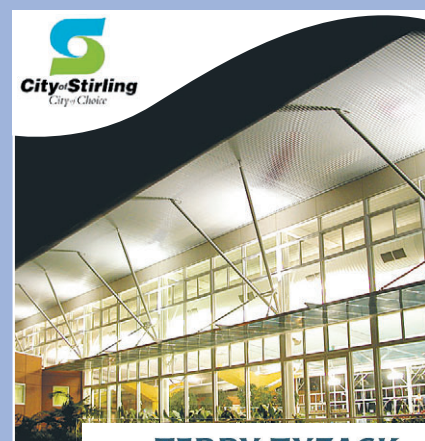
"Our management team has a duty to save water. So do our patrons. The new RADA system will stop taps being left on, reduce shower time, stop drips occurring, washers wearing down and leaks requiring major plumbing procedures," she said.

"We hope patrons will assist us to achieve the necessary reduced consumption targets."

Water Corporation Key Customer Relationship Manager, Sandra Montoya was pleased to partner with Terry Tyzack to reduce their water consumption, which had the additional benefit of raising awareness about water conservation in the local community.

"With climate change continuing to affect the amount of rainfall we receive, it's great to see businesses such as Terry Tyzack working with Water Corporation to ensure they are doing their best to conserve our precious resource," Sandra said.

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