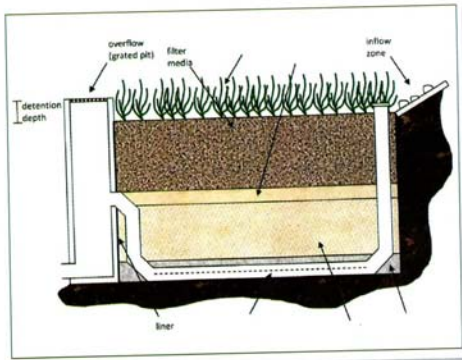


Stormwater Treatment Project

ALONG the meanderings of Dry Creek, the City of Salisbury is embarking on a unique water security project that will also embrace historic, cultural and artistic elements of life in the region.

A central feature of the project is a series of underground biofiltration cells that will cleanse harvested stormwater at significantly less cost than wetlands and with a much smaller development 'footprint'.



Main Components of Biofiltration System.

The biofiltration technology is being installed in picturesque Unity Park at Pooraka to further refine stormwater collected in reconfigured wetland basins in the expansive recreational area along South Terrace.

A key objective of the project is to demonstrate the efficiency of vertical flow biofiltration for application in other places where available space for wetlands is limited.

Bruce Naumann, Manager of Water Systems for the City of Salisbury, explained that biofiltration cleanses stormwater of pollutants by allowing the stormwater to drain through a layer of vegetation, porous soil and deeper layers of filtration media, before it finally seeps into a slotted recovery pipe.

An initial six biofiltration cells will operate with the conventional wetlands at Unity Park. The cleansed water is transferred by pipeline to a series of nine Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells at Cavan.

The Unity Park Biofiltration and Reuse Project – funded by the Federal Government (\$7 million), State Government (\$2 million) and the City of Salisbury (\$5 million) – will harvest an estimated 1.3 million litres of stormwater each year.

Apart from creating new landscaped features and amenities at Unity Park between Main North Road and Briens Road, the project will provide:

- Fit-for-purpose water for local industries;
- Irrigation of open space, school ovals and sports facilities; and
- An alternative supply for watering gardens, flushing toilets and washing cars in new residential developments where the developers install a 'purple pipe' network to new homes.

"The expansion of the distribution main for treated stormwater in Salisbury will also allow key linkages to neighbouring Councils," said Bruce Naumann, Manager Water Systems at the City of Salisbury.

"It is a showcase project in terms of small footprint water treatment technology that could have widespread application in urban areas across Australia where there is limited space for major capture and treatment of urban stormwater."

But there are other fascinating dimensions to the story.



Earthworks begin.

Upstream of the biofiltration bed at Unity Park, the project is being constructed to protect and preserve remnant vegetation and historic buildings and structures that have survived from the days when small quarries were worked by inmates of Yatala Labour Prison.

Along the tranquil nature corridor of Dry Creek are old dry stone walls, the restored Yatala gun power magazine, blacksmith's shop, guard look-out posts and a cottage on the remains of the property formerly owned by the legendary bushman, R. M. Williams. Some of the structures date back to the early years of the colony.

Downstream at the Main North Road end of Unity Park, the City of Salisbury is planning artistic features that will celebrate the history and significance of the former Gepps Cross abattoirs and stockyards.



Flow regulating pipe.

South Australian artists are being asked to tender for this project that will enhance the cultural identity of the area and reflect the importance of the abattoirs, created early last Century to provide a link between the pastoral areas of South Australia and Adelaide's growing urban community.

The abattoirs, which closed in 1999, were the home of the South Australian Meat Corporation (SAMCOR), but this industry also generated a local community, a school and sporting teams.

Nichola Kapitza, Manager Culture, Recreation and Youth for the City of Salisbury, said the public art project would capture the historic significance and sense of community in the locality as part of the integrated Living City theme.

She said the selected artists would work with Council's landscaping staff to create unique and lasting artwork features in Unity Park that will be viewed as a welcoming entry to Salisbury.

When looking at the overall benefits of the Unity Park Biofiltration and Reuse Project there is clearly much more than meets the eye. It will be a place to sustain communities, to explore, enjoy and reflect.