

BY BRETT ROBINSON

**Round three of the Federal Government's Community Water Grants scheme was announced late in 2007 with over 100 golf courses successful in receiving grants for various water-saving initiatives. ATM looks at who some of the big winners were.**



**Golf clubs received more than \$5.4 million in funding for water-saving projects from the latest round of the Federal Government's Community Water Grants scheme**

# Clubs reap round three water grants

Golf clubs around Australia have again benefited in the latest round of the Federal Government's Community Water Grants scheme, with a total of 114 projects receiving in excess of \$5.4 million.

Successful round three projects were announced in early November 2007, with golf clubs in Victoria, NSW, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia successful in receiving grants for a wide range of water-saving projects. A number of sporting facilities and bowling clubs were also successful in obtaining grants.

The round three allocations take the total amount of grants given to golf clubs across the three rounds to nearly \$14 million, with around 300 projects benefiting since 2006.

Of the golf club projects awarded in round three, Victoria came out on top with 58 projects obtaining a combined total of \$2.6 million, representing an almost twofold increase from the second round announced in November 2006. Thirty NSW projects received \$1.8 million in funding, a slight decrease from round two, while Western Australia had its most successful round with six clubs collecting a total of \$223,000. Projects that received grants in round three included:

- Irrigation system upgrades to improve water use efficiency and to cater for treated effluent/waste water coming online;
- Stormwater diversion and harvesting;
- Installation of waste treatment systems to recycle wash water and construction of washdown bays;

- Installation of rain water tanks to capture water from maintenance facility and clubhouse roofs;
- Construction of dams to store stormwater/waste water and increasing existing storage capacities;
- Construction of wetlands to aid in nutrient stripping and to reuse water for irrigation;
- Sewage recycling schemes;
- Creek stabilisation;
- Bore capping; and
- Groundwater conservation.

Among the recipients in round three was Portarlington Golf Club on Victoria's Surf Coast. Superintendent Steve Burchett says the club has been in negotiations with Barwon Water regarding the use of recycled water from its treatment plant since June 2006 and the \$100,000 in grant money will be used to bring this onto the course.

"Fortunately the club has been progressive in the pursuit of securing its own water supply for a few years now," says Burchett. "We currently harvest stormwater from the town before it goes out to sea. We divert the water into an underground pump well then transfer the water via pump and underground piping about two kilometres to the club's storage facility. When it rains this is a fantastic resource for the club.

"To complement this we now have the ability to access recycled water. The grant will be used to lay pipe underground about five kilometres to the golf club where we are able to shandy this water with the stormwater we

already harvest. The club's storage capacity is now around 47 megalitres.

"Future water projects include making provision for greater stormwater harvesting and we are currently pursuing options with a proposed nearby housing estate. We will also be planning to increase our storage capacity on site by about 20 megalitres. We will also be looking at another pump well situated on another ocean outfall not far from the club.

"We are committed as a club to reduce our need for potable water to the clubhouse only and would like to be self sufficient in regards to water supply. Obviously through the water grants scheme we are going a long way towards that and we have also had fantastic support from Barwon Water, Geelong City Council and the EPA."

Not far down the road, and Barwon Heads Golf Club was also one of the big winners from the latest round of allocations. Attendees of the 24th Australian Turfgrass Conference in Cairns would have heard superintendent Peter Frewin talk about the extensive undertaking by the club to secure its water source, and the \$223,636 received in round three will be ploughed into this wide-ranging project.

Elsewhere in Victoria, Riversdale Golf Club (superintendent Michael Picken) received a grant of \$125,000 which will be used to upgrade the course's 1970s-era irrigation system.

Put together by club general manager Bob Taylor, the Riversdale application comes on the back of extensive stormwater harvesting work already undertaken by the club in recent years,

**TABLE 1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY WATER GRANTS TO GOLF COURSES - ROUNDS 1-3**

State	Round 1 (Mar 06)		Round 2 (Nov 06)		Round 3 (Nov 07)	
	Projects	Grants*	Projects	Grants*	Projects	Grants*
VIC	28	1,001,000	23	1,072,000	58	2,618,000
NSW/ACT	23	886,000	37	2,039,000	30	1,862,000
QLD	16	545,000	10	622,000	11	422,000
SA	15	528,000	9	366,000	5	193,000
WA	5	186,000	3	137,000	6	223,000
TAS	5	210,000	7	594,000	4	121,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>\$3,356,000</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>\$4,830,000</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>\$5,439,000</b>

\* These figures, taken from the [www.communitywatergrants.gov.au](http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au) website, have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

which included the extensive refurbishment of Damper Creek that runs through the property. The new irrigation system, costing around \$750,000, will be installed starting this year with a completion date of 2009/10.

North of the border and two of the big grant recipients in NSW were Cronulla and Mudgee golf clubs, between them netting almost \$500,000. Mudgee received \$212,000 to upgrade its irrigation system, while at Cronulla,

home to superintendent Paul Duffy, a \$272,727 grant will also go towards an irrigation system overhaul.

The new system, which will cost Cronulla about \$1 million, will hook up to a pipeline to be built by Sutherland Council, feeding tertiary treated effluent water from the Cronulla Sewerage Treatment Plant. The pipeline initiative and irrigation upgrade will enable Cronulla to significantly reduce its reliance

on bore water from the Botany Aquifer and potable water from the Sydney Water system, with estimated savings of over 100 megalitres from these sources.

The council's pipeline will also service Woollooware Golf Course, as well as the Cronulla Sharks and Toyota facilities, schools and numerous playing fields, ultimately reducing the amount of effluent water flowing into Bate Bay.

Round four applications of the Community Water Grants scheme are expected to be called for in the first half of 2008. Golf clubs can register for information updates through the scheme's website ([www.communitywatergrants.gov.au](http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au)) as well as find out more information on guidelines and how to apply. [▶](#)

**Footnote: The Australian Golf Industry Council is currently looking at making approaches to the federal and state governments to support the AGCSA's water initiative and long-term security of water for the golf industry.**