



Stormwater set to green towns

Fast facts

- Shires of Kulin, Merredin, York, Nungarin, Toodyay, Lake Grace and Northam have received funding for water capture and storage infrastructure
- The stormwater re-use pilot project is part of a \$78.2 million regional water and natural resource management initiative funded through Royalties for Regions

A State Government project will allow the eastern Wheatbelt town of Kulin to better harvest and use stormwater.

WA Agriculture Minister Ken Baston visited Kulin last week to present the Shire with \$314,738 for the project, set to cut the cost of watering local parks and sportsgrounds by up to \$200,000 a year.

Mr Baston said many rural com-

munities could not afford scheme water for irrigation in summer, which impacted their ability to maintain parks and sportsgrounds.

"This two-year pilot project aims to develop a local water supply by converting town run-off — often considered a nuisance — into quality irrigation water," he said.

"Stormwater run-off will be captured and the town's drainage systems and water storage capacity will be upgraded."

Mr Baston said the run-off would also ease the demand on standpipe water for emergency purposes, including for stock and fire fighting.

He said the majority of water used in towns was for irrigation, not human consumption.

"So to save that precious water and yet still maintain parks and sportsgrounds with an alternative source is of great value to the town and wider community," he said.

Kulin is one of seven local governments, along with Merredin, York, Nungarin, Toodyay, Lake Grace and Northam, to receive Royalties for Regions funding for a stormwater re-use project.

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls said the projects would benefit Wheatbelt communities by providing better water security and reducing reliance on scheme water.

"These innovative projects will help to capitalise on water availability in our Wheatbelt towns, providing the water supply required to support town amenity and regional development in WA," he said.

The project will be delivered by the Department of Agriculture and Food in partnership with Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc and is part of a \$78.2 million resource management initiative.



Shire of Kulin vice-president Barry West, president Jim Sullivan, Wheatbelt NRM chief executive Natarsha Woods, Agriculture Minister Ken Baston and Shire of Kulin chief executive Greg Hadlow. The Shire of Kulin has received funding to help better harvest and use stormwater.