

## : WATER CYCLE

## Stormwater floods election promises

Labor's Julia Gillard promised a \$100 million expansion to the national Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse program if Labor was re-elected in the August 21 election. Meanwhile, Coalition leader Tony Abbott pledged \$16 million for SA stormwater projects and noted that he wanted to make stormwater safe for drinking purposes.

The Eastern Adelaide stormwater harvesting and reuse project will involve the construction of a main distribution pipeline initially linking seven major harvesting sites as well as local pipelines connecting the main pipe to reserves that would be watered through the scheme. The project would bring together the councils of Burnside, Norwood, Payneham, St Peters, Campbelltown, Tea Tree Gully and the town of Walkerville.

But it hit problems immediately. Gillard would throw \$10 million at

the \$32 million project while the State Government would have to come up with the final \$6 million. SA Treasurer Kevin Foley said only that it would be considered as part of the state budget on September 16.

Meanwhile, SA Liberal Senator Simon Birmingham said, "unlike Labor's plans where all we seem to get is extra water for parks and gardens, we want to use existing infrastructure, existing pipes and make sure that stormwater is used in a manner that allows us to reduce our draw from the River Murray eventually over time".

Federal Water Minister Penny Wong also announced three stormwater projects expected to save 435 million litres of water in Melbourne's CBD. The Federal Government will spend \$14.2 million reusing stormwater at Fitzroy Gardens, Melbourne Park and the Docklands.

EMN.net.au search: Stormwater

## : ENERGY STARS

## Co-generation building sees 5 stars

Co-generation in commercial buildings far outweighs the benefits of using renewable energy or Greenpower, says Ian Osborne of Floth Sustainable Building Consultants.

ISPT's Green Square North Tower in Brisbane has become the first commercial building with a co-generation plant to be awarded a 5-Star National Australian Built Environment Reporting System (NABERS) Energy whole building rating.

Thanks to gas-fired co-generation, ISPT and Floth achieved a building emission rating of 129 CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup> per year, the lowest emissions for a building of its size in Australia.

Osborne said co-generation is more efficient simply because it has the advantage of being continually reliable. Plus "solar does not work at night, whereas a co-generation plant can provide power all year round".

EMN.net.au search: Floth



Co-generation is hard to beat.

## : SEED FUNDING

## AGIC launches scheme and portal

The Australian Green Infrastructure Council (AGIC) has welcomed federal funding of \$500,000 to help get up its sustainability-rating scheme for infrastructure.

AGIC CEO Doug Harland said, "now we have the extra \$500,000 funding we plan to commence the authorship of five of the seven main categories, as there are insufficient funds to start them all. What will do is defer the start of the 'economic performance' and of the 'people, place and workforce' categories, which are well covered by industry already. As soon as we get additional funding we will kick them off".

AGIC also announced a new web portal to capture innovative case studies in infrastructure across Australia.

EMN.net.au search: AGIC

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## DOES YOUR BUSINESS USE ENERGY OR EMIT GREENHOUSE GASES?

Thresholds have lowered for the mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and energy use.

Thresholds vary. As an indicator, if your business

- uses 25 000 megawatt hours of electricity, or
- uses 2.5 million litres of fuel, or
- emits 25 000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e

during the 2009-10 reporting year, you are likely to be required to report under the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (the NGER Act).

The delayed introduction of the Australian Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) does not change current obligations under the NGER Act.

### Self assess online

to find out if your business meets reporting thresholds.

### Register by 31 August 2010

Businesses that may also have obligations under the previous 2008-09 reporting year should register now.

[www.climatechange.gov.au/reporting](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/reporting)

For assistance with your reporting obligations contact the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency:

1800 018 831

[reporting@climatechange.gov.au](mailto:reporting@climatechange.gov.au)

\*Thresholds vary, indicative levels are 25 000 megawatt hours of electricity, 2.5 mega litres of fuel and 25 kilo tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents.



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