

Rainwater Harvesting Australia – Vision and Roles

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2022 Presentation to Irrigation Australia Conference,
Adelaide Australia

PALMYRA II, Kangaroo Valley by TURNER



A SUBSIDIARY OF IRRIGATION AUSTRALIA

Rainwater Harvesting Australia

Rainwater Harvesting Australia is the peak body for the rainwater harvesting industry in Australia and a division of Irrigation Australia.

The Chairman is Mr Michael Thompson supported by Geoff Harvey from Irrigation Australia

The committee members include rainwater tank, pump, plumbing and rainwater harvesting accessories manufacturers and retailers.

The committee acknowledges the expertise and contribution of Professor PJ Coombes as a leading expert to inform rainwater harvesting discussion

What Role does Rainwater Harvesting play in Australia?

Rainwater Harvesting is a significant source of water in Australia including urban areas providing 513GL annually with an estimated economic value to the water industry of \$29.7 billion. (Coombes 2018)

2.7 million residential properties use rainwater harvesting and nearly 1 million properties use rainwater as a source of drinking water. (Coombes 2021)

Systems Thinking

We should analyse systems as a whole, not as a series of unrelated and separate problems

- Water supply
- Stormwater
- River health
- Urban heat island effect

Some technologies, like rainwater harvesting, offer multiple benefits but these are lost if you only consider one element of the problem

A systems view also recognises the benefits of working at small scales as well as city wide scales

The Vision

Our vision is for

A community driven sustainable urban footprint,
achieved by every building having access to rainwater
harvesting, renewable energy and a nature space

Core Objectives

To share the benefits of rainwater harvesting for urban and regional areas of Australia

To create a community of knowledge to share with and engage the Australian community of rainwater harvesters, connecting end users with policy makers and manufacturers

To inform governments and regulatory authorities about the benefits of rainwater harvesting through independent credible research and communication

Actions to Achieve

The development of a Rainwater Harvesting Design Specification and Training program

If possible, develop a competency for rainwater harvesting and add this to the Irrigation Australia RTO scope

Incorporation of rainwater harvesting education, information and training at Irrigation Australia and related industry events

Digital advertising and the promotion of rainwater harvesting on the Irrigation Australia website

Environmental, Demographic and Economic Pressures

Australia relies heavily on large, energy intensive infrastructure to provide water services

In contrast, a large number of independent supplies, like rainwater, provide a decentralised solution much less vulnerable to disruption

Providing a rainwater tank to each house provides an important alternative water supply in case of

- Cyber threats to water networks
- Catchment or network contamination
- Natural disasters including bushfires, flooding, earthquakes and droughts
- Disruption to electricity supplies

Rainwater Harvesting in Pictures

What does Rainwater Harvesting in Australia look like?

The Gutter and Downpipe



The Leaf Diverter



The Filling



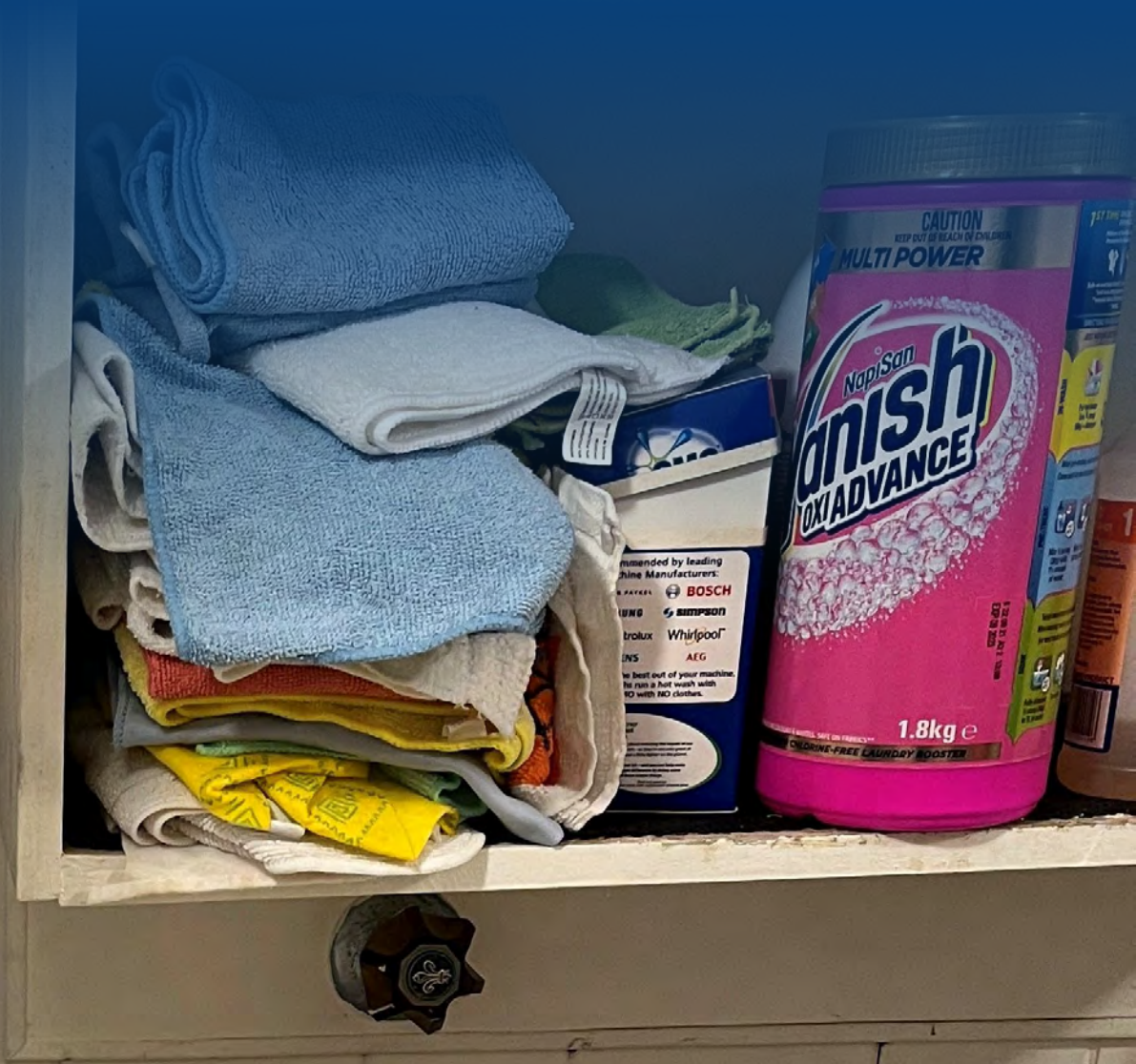
The Storage Tank with Bypass Unit and SmartTank Sensor



The Loo



The Washing Machine



The Garden

