

Sustainability in Irrigation

Richard Dilena, Irrigation Management Officer, City of Greater Geelong

Our green spaces are becoming increasingly valued for the wide range of health benefits they provide through active and passive recreation. Their importance in improving the liveability of our built environments through lowering temperatures, reducing stormwater runoff, improving microclimates, providing habitat, and reconnecting people with nature are also well recognised.

For green spaces and assets to meet these needs and increasing use demands they need to be functional, that is designed and maintained to support the type and level of intended use. Sustainability needs to be *the* overarching consideration in the design and maintenance of these assets, and for water in particular which is a key input for a green space to remain functional, 'making every drop count' is no longer an option but a fundamental requirement.

The presentation will look at a range of initiatives that have been implemented to better understand the water requirements of a site, how it is applied and managed, and the analysis of use – was it effective in maintaining the site.

BIO

Richard has worked in the amenity horticulture field for over 35 years in various field, technical, and management roles, and for the last 19 years has specialized in the management of irrigation and water use. During this time he has overseen the implementation of central control systems and other technology to manage irrigation and water use, and developed reporting systems to maintain irrigated areas in a functional and sustainable manner.

Richard is a member of Irrigation Australia and is a qualified horticulturist, has a Diploma in Natural Resource Management, and is a Certified Irrigation Agronomist.