

Media Release

Drip Irrigation and Greywater Recycling Offers Solution to Councils in Fear of Backyard Toxic Flooding

As the formidable impact of climate change and scarce supplies of water threaten communities worldwide, conserving water has become an increasingly urgent issue. Australia is particularly affected where fresh water is one of the country's scarcest resources and where domestic gardening consumes an inordinate supply of the water.

Today with after effects of the severe droughts and water restrictions of last year, most of urban Australia still remains under strict water restrictions. Victoria's Councils however are often stalling efforts to assist in an area where hope for water conservation is gaining momentum, the practice of greywater recycling. Many are fearful of complaints that this new source of domestic water for gardens will cause flooding of effluent to adjoining properties – this is actually only a risk when consumers use untreated greywater diversion systems instead of quality recycling systems. Many councils have adopted a highly regulatory approach during this critical time of short water supply with an onerous legal framework. Instead, they could rely on the rigorous accreditation process demanded by the EPA and Health dept that ensures the high quality of water won't be a problem from the recycling systems.

Steve Makins CEO of Nubian Greywater Systems: "People who want to make a difference and conserve the council water supply by setting up their own greywater recycling systems deserved to be supported by councils. The problem is that the advanced technology of recycling systems like our OASIS system are not understood. We support the introduction of legislation that prevents untreated diversion systems being installed without council approval – a policy in WA that health depts rely on to prevent indiscriminate watering on gardens with toxic diverted water containing pathogens and pollutants. On the other hand, recycled water treated to levels acceptable for above ground irrigation and internal use in laundries and toilets is good for the garden"

He continues: " To ensure that garden irrigation does not flood an adjoining property is only a matter of applying good science. A standard Nubian Oasis supplies up to 1200 litres per day and this water can be sensibly dispersed through drip irrigation, so that the garden gets an optimal result, neither too little or too much water. Drip irrigation has been extensively used throughout the world as an efficient and effective irrigation method. Recycled water"

"We work hand in hand with irrigation control technologists who put either on-surface, or sub-surface dripper line systems in place that can be regulated to achieve an ideal flow rate. The system reduces water consumption, evaporation, plant disease, weed growth, wind drift, over spray and water runoff as it delivers directly to the root zone. The size of the block, the type of vegetation, lie of the block or soil type are all factored into the calibrations that determine what amount of water will go onto the garden. This means that a garden need be over watered, so it never floods adjoining properties."

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