

## NATIONAL WATER WEEK 18 - 24 OCTOBER 2009



National Water Week is a national schedule of programs and events that encourage protection, rehabilitation and improvement of water environments such as streams, wetlands, waterways, beaches, and estuaries. This year, the theme for National Water Week is 'Securing Our Water Future'.

Water is a precious resource and we must continue to use it wisely. Whether you are young or old, live on a farm or in the suburbs water is essential to our survival and we have a responsibility to look after it. Gecko- Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council is providing Gold Coast school children with information and involvement about the care and protection of local waterways through their Catchment to Coast environmental education program, funded by the Federal Government's Caring for Our Country program.

Gold Coast Water also recognizes that the Gold Coast is a community closely linked to, and passionate about its environment. Our lifestyle, tourism ecological values, and core business activities are reliant on our sensitive natural environment. This context sets a high priority for activities to have minimal environmental impact.

The impacts of Gold Coast Water's business operations on the natural environment generally occur within three areas:

- Spillages from wastewater networks and infrastructure that may degrade our waterways.
- Levels of energy use and generation of greenhouse gases.
- Generation of recycled water and bio-solids discharged back into waterways.

Efforts in minimizing the impact on the Gold Coast's natural environment have been directed toward:

- Upgrading wastewater networks and treatment plants to reduce discharges and therefore nutrient levels, especially for nitrogen and phosphorous.
- Increased recycling of waste materials and reuse of water
- Using more energy-efficient processes
- Decreasing water pressure and upgrading water distribution systems to reduce water use and loss

Become a watersaver and waterways protector to-day and do your bit for our Gold Coast future. The leakage of environmentally hazardous materials into landfill and then into waterways is also a problem and you can reduce this impact through the Community Recycle Phone Program. Gold Coast City Council and Gold Coast Water are asking you to donate your old mobile phones, Blackberry or Palm Pilots at Council drop off points. and raise \$5.00 for WaterAid Australia. For Gold Coast City Council drop-off points and further information go to: [http://www.goldcoastwater.com.au/t\\_gcw.aspx?pid=4215](http://www.goldcoastwater.com.au/t_gcw.aspx?pid=4215)