

For immediate release

Friday March 12, 2010

Stormwater – a valuable resource?

Award-winning local environmental engineer and designer, Mr Shaun Leinster, will discuss the benefits of stormwater harvesting at a free monthly guest speaker night hosted by Gecko – Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council.

The night begins at 6:30pm on Wednesday 24th March at Gecko House, 139 Duringan St, Currumbin. All are welcome to attend.

As Director of Gold Coast-based consulting firm DesignFlow, Mr Leinster will discuss why capturing, managing and reusing stormwater is gaining interest. It is being trialled in a number of cities around Australia and may be an alternative to desalination plants.

“The great thing about urban stormwater harvesting is the double benefit – supplementing water supply while protecting aquatic ecosystems,” said Mr Leinster.

Mr Leinster has recently been involved in the assessment of stormwater harvesting costs and benefits with the Queensland Government.

By using his designs of Coomera Waters Estate and the Southport Broadwater Parklands as examples, Mr Leinster will discuss:

- water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and the role it plays in protecting aquatic ecosystems
- what WSUD looks like, using local examples
- how stormwater can play a role in supplying some of our water demands
- the infrastructure requirements, costs and benefits of stormwater harvesting
- a summary of current stormwater harvesting initiatives, including on the Gold Coast

WSUD emphasises the benefits of stormwater and waterways as a resource and asset, rather than the conventional view of it being no more than a nuisance. However, harvesting of stormwater must be carefully planned to ensure that it does not impact negatively on environmental flows necessary for a healthy waterway system.

Mr Leinster will use his experience in policy, framework and guideline material to address recent changes to the legislation to ensure effective implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design on the Gold Coast.

Gecko presents a free guest speaker night on the 4th Wednesday of each month on topical environmental issues. A gold coin donation is requested per glass of wine and nibbles. For catering purposes and to prevent waste, RSVP by 3pm on the day before the event to speakers@gecko.org.au or call 5534 1412.

ENDS

For further information:

Guest Speaker	Shaun Leinster	0414 849 587
Gecko Secretary	Lois Levy	0412 724 222

To arrange interviews and photo opportunities, contact:

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