



Community feedback on the Birregurra Sustainable Communities Water Program

Barwon Water conducted a survey of the Birregurra community in October 2023 to gather feedback about the Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water Program. The survey aimed to understand the community's experience and identify future initiatives to explore.

Background

In 2019, Barwon Water and the Birregurra Community Working Group teamed up to explore opportunities for sustainable water use to help reduce the town's water use over time, identify opportunities to substitute drinking water usage and provide education and advice on conserving water.

A number of initiatives have been successfully implemented so far including an early leak detection and repair program using digital meter technology, two 'Living Laboratories', a garden event and monthly articles in the Birregurra News.

Community feedback

Key themes and opportunities were identified from a recent community survey to help inform future initiatives for the program.

Gardens

Learning more about being waterwise in the garden is of particular interest to the community.

Suggestions included:

- an 'open garden' event for locals to showcase their efforts and techniques to create high value waterwise gardens
- a garden program with a focus on native plant selection and rebates for the purchase of waterwise garden products e.g mulch and drip watering systems.

For further information

☎ 1300 656 007 | ✉ info@barwonwater.vic.gov.au

www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au

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Sustainable homes

The community was also interested in learning more about sustainable homes including energy and water efficiency, recycling and home composting.

Opportunities identified include:

- a sustainable home event with specialist speakers
- further promotion of the free home plumbing programs where residents can have fittings and fixtures upgraded to more water efficient ones
- an event on rainwater tank maintenance and trial rainwater tank app to track and monitor tank performance
- offer rebates to upgrade inefficient washing machines to 5 Star WELS rated and 4 Star energy rated or better.

Younger generation

Community feedback highlighted the importance of connecting with younger people to educate and help them to be more waterwise.

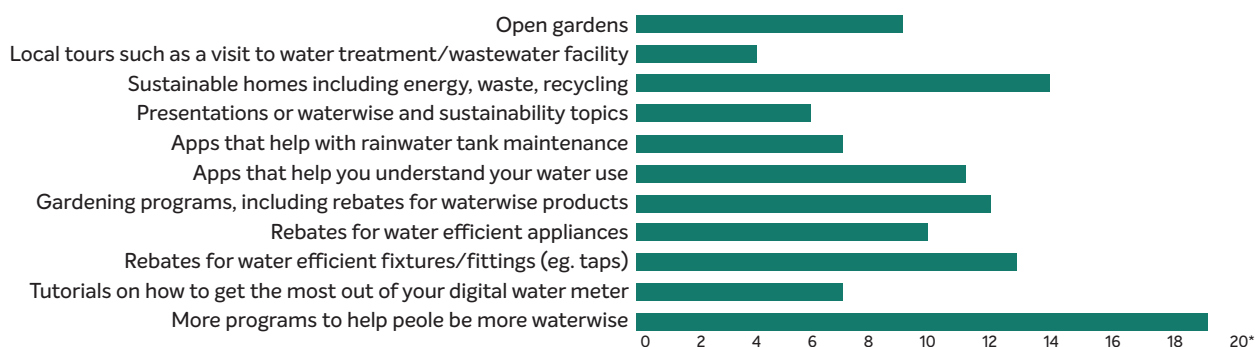
Some great ideas were provided:

- partner with Birregurra Primary School to deliver a school waterwise event
- incursions and excursions – to educate students on all things water
- a waterwise native and/or food garden project.

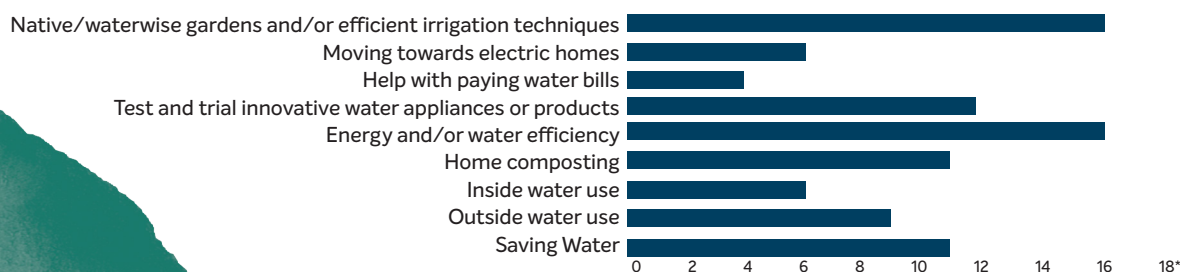
Next steps

The Birregurra Sustainable Communities working group will use this valuable feedback and ideas to help inform the next stage of this community led program. For more information about Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water, visit www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birregurra

Community suggested activities and programs



Topics the Community would like to learn more about



* Number of people who selected each response