Accommodation

What is Alice Water Smart?

Alice Water Smart is a two year project that will help Alice Springs residents to reduce water use by 1600 million litres per year, equivalent to two months average water supply. To find out why Alice Springs must reduce its water use, refer to the separate Alice Water Smart fact sheet.

Tourism plays a vital role in Alice Springs, with visitors spending around $252 million in the town during 2010. With 385 000 visitors staying 3.1 nights each, the tourism industry makes a significant contribution to water use in Alice Springs.

The spotlight on the environment, growing consumer demand for greener travel options and rising costs of energy, fuel and water have increased the tourism industry’s focus on adopting more sustainable operating practices.

Alice Springs tourism businesses have shown a strong commitment to environmental sustainability, with many businesses cutting their energy consumption and reducing carbon emissions with the help of Alice Solar City. The Alice Water Smart Accommodation project will further secure a sustainable future for tourism businesses in the region.

Alice Water Smart will help accommodation providers cut their water consumption through:

• Water audits which will provide tailored information for businesses to help them understand how they use water and what can be done to reduce consumption
• Rebates to help implement water efficiency projects
Water audits for Alice Springs accommodation providers

Tourism NT is leading the way on this project by coordinating water audits for all accredited hotels, motels, backpackers, serviced apartments and caravan parks in Alice Springs. The audits will review:

• Water conservation opportunities in guest rooms, public amenities, kitchens, restaurants and bar areas, laundry facilities, pools and spas, gardens and other areas of building operations
• The water supply system to identify any leaks and other areas where water is wasted.

Each property will receive a water management report that shows how water is used in their business and what can be done to use water more wisely. Businesses will be able to identify cost effective measures to cut their consumption and reduce demand on Alice Springs’ water resources.

Rebates for water efficiency measures

Acting on water saving opportunities will permanently reduce business operating costs. Through Alice Water Smart, businesses will have access to funding assistance to help them implement water saving projects, like the examples below.

Bathroom, kitchen and laundry areas

• Flow control valves on showers
• Low flow shower heads
• Flow control valves on taps
• Tap aerators
• Sensor activated taps
• Installation of dual flush toilets
• Upgrade to appliances with high water efficiency rating levels
• Waterless urinals in public toilet areas
• Kitchen wash-down trigger guns

Garden areas

• Timers to control water irrigation systems
• Drip irrigation systems
• Grey water systems for gardens
• Rainwater tanks
• Replacement of non-native vegetation with native plants that are less thirsty
• Minimise lawn areas

Toilet Trivia!

There are approximately 1.193 million room nights* occupied each year in Alice Springs. If a guest flushes the toilet twice a day using an 11 litre single flush toilet, this equates to about 26.2 million litres of water per year. If 4 Star or higher dual flush toilets were installed instead, this would save approximately 17 million litres of water each year. That is over 10 Olympic swimming pools!

*Calculated by Tourism NT based on the number of visitors to the town and average length of stay in 2010.

Benefits of Alice Water Smart Accommodation

• Accommodation providers will reduce water consumption, save money and improve their green credentials to attract the growing number of environmentally conscious travellers.
• The demand on Alice Springs water resources will be significantly reduced.
• Alice Springs’ growing reputation as a responsible tourism destination will be enhanced.

“By simply retrofitting toilets, significant water savings will be made.”