

Win-win with waste-water

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Aim:

To provide a benefit to the community from a waste stream that could be recognised as a funding stream for community projects.

Method:

In conjunction with the Jamestown Apex Club, Northern Areas Council has converted an evaporating resource into funds for the community. By redirecting a budget allocation that was originally intended to line evaporation ponds, council and the community are working together to implement and manage a pivot irrigation project to grow high value Lucerne crops on a parcel of land owned by council and leased by the Apex Club at Jamestown in the mid-north of South Australia.

The Apex club members have been keen proponents of the initiative, seeing an opportunity to increase their input into the community and will manage the day to day operation of the irrigation system and the site. They will also administer the sale of the crops and distribution of funds into community projects.

Design, tender, construction and commissioning of the system have also been managed by council while working through the required regulatory processes with the EPA and the Department of Health and Aging to obtain approvals and develop acceptable operating procedures.

The area under this irrigation scheme is 9.4 hectares within a 12 hectare section of land. Through effective consultation and identification of opportunities, Council have managed community funds more effectively by diverting funds from single purpose maintenance only objectives to capture the collaboration offered by a community group to take a resource and value add to it for the benefit of the community.

Results:

Apex Club harvest results to be provided.

Conclusion:

Waste streams exist in every community as do opportunities for better managing those waste streams. Realising the opportunities for improved outcomes is achievable with community engagement.