

media release



Foresight a bore? Helps keep the Ekka Green

In the middle of Brisbane City a lush patch of green grass is seemingly unaffected by the State's longest drought.

Visitors to the RNA Showgrounds always remark on the verdure of the grass in the Energex Community Arena. Envy aside, it was the foresight and planning of the RNA Council over twenty years ago that has kept the arena green.

"In 1987, the RNA decided to sink a bore to supply water to the showgrounds," said RNA Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Tunny.

"Ever since it was sunk, we have only used our own bore water at the RNA Showgrounds.

"As a Queensland institution, we know the importance of being not only water wise but also water tight. We are always developing new initiatives to improve water usage and lessen water wastage.

"This year alone the RNA has reduced its water usage by well over its twenty-five per cent target.

"We achieved this result by implementing such green initiatives as reducing the use of air cooling systems; installing special EPA drains and trigger-pressure hoses; and by regularly monitoring the water meters to find and fix any leaks in the pipes as quickly as possible.

"Visitors to the Ekka this year will notice water limiting devices on all taps and showers throughout the showgrounds, as well as Queensland Water Commission posters and stickers reminding Ekka-goers to be water smart.

"Australia is one of the driest continents in the world and Queensland is in the grip of our worst drought on record. All Queenslanders know the value in being water wise. The RNA continues to develop long-term water strategies and looks forward to the future implementation of these plans."

2007 Ekka Environmental Initiatives

The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland
RNA Showgrounds, Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills QLD 4006
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In 2007 the Ekka is continuing to develop and implement green initiatives that focus on the three R's of environmental protection: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle as well as provide education points for visitors to learn about how they can be green-smart at home.

Ekka Reduces

Bore

All water used on the Ekka grounds is bore water

Taps

In 2007, visitors to the showgrounds will find water limiting devices in all the taps and sinks around the grounds. These devices ensure that the water flow from the taps is cut off after four seconds to reduce water wastage.

Hoses

Manual trigger hoses are used in all animal pavilions so that water is never left running. This stops needless excess water consumption.

Drains

The Environmental Protection Agency has approved all the drains in place throughout the grounds. These special EPA drains ensure that water is not just lost into storm water pipes but is sent to the sewerage system for potential reuse.

Tanks

This year the RNA plans to install rainwater tanks throughout the grounds.

Meters

The Ekka water meters are read weekly so that any water leaks which occur around the grounds can be picked up quickly and dealt with efficiently.

Water Usage

The Ekka has reduced its water usage by well over its target of 25%. This has been achieved by monitoring and limiting the usage of evaporative air cooling systems.

Ekka Reuses

Manure

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The tons of manure collected from across the Ekka grounds is donated every year to the botanical gardens at Mt Coot-tha to be reused as fertilizer.

Water

The recent upgrade of the stock washing yards means that the grey water from the yards no longer goes into the storm drains, but is directed into the sewerage system.

Ekka Recycles

Every year the Ekka recycles more and more. Last year visitors recycled a record 50 tonnes of waste at the ten day event by using the specially marked recycling bins placed throughout the grounds.

2007 Ekka Queensland Government Pavilion

The Queensland Government Pavilion at the 2007 Ekka will focus on the theme of climate change.

The Queensland Government is aiming to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on Queenslanders, and promote effective everyday actions people can take to make a difference. The pavilion will promote positive hints and tips on how to be ClimateSmart...at home, at work and when travelling. You will be able to get information and application forms for WaterWise rebates for water-saving devices.

Visit www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au for information on how to make your home ClimateSmart and take the Carbon Challenge

For more information about the Queensland Government pavilion visit www.qld.gov.au/ekka or phone Events Coordination Department of the Premier and Cabinet (07 3405 5215)

Ekka 2007 runs from 9-18 August at the RNA Showgrounds, Gregory Terrace Brisbane. For full program and entertainment details, visit the Ekka website at www.ekka.com.au

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