

Storm Water Management - 1

Australia is a very dry continent and storm water is a valuable resource which needs to be used wisely. This fact sheet illustrates the collection of storm water as well as its use. The management of storm water needs to be better understood in communities and homelands and the following information is a beginning to that understanding.

M.W.Last *
February 02

1. Collection of Storm Water



In this picture storm water which has fallen on the roof of the house and the surrounding compacted open areas and roads has collected in the mound. There are a number of ways of collecting storm water and mound systems are one of them.

When a community is being planned, sufficient land areas need to be set aside for the collection of storm water from roads, houses and buildings and the surrounding compacted areas.

Storm water needs to be collected and used within the community. If collection systems are absent, storm water will be permanently lost and of no benefit to the community.

2. Use of Storm Water



The mulberry tree in the centre of this picture is growing and producing fruit at the rear of a house in Pipalyatjara on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands. Normally these trees would require a much higher rainfall to survive.

The storm water collected from the roof of the house in the right of the picture is sufficient to support the growth and production of fruit from this tree as well as a second tree on the other side of the house.

The improvement of the storm water collection systems in house yards would support the production of extra fruit trees and vines.

* Acknowledgement: This fact sheet has been generated out of a Nganampa Health Council Project.

3. Use of Storm Water



The mound in the left of this picture collects storm water from the house yard, the roof of the outside shelter and the adjacent compacted areas. The trees encircled by the mound benefit from the storm water collected in the mound.

Protection from the sun is essential during the long hot summers experienced in Central Australia. These trees have been grown to provide this protection.

Storm water needs to be collected and used to irrigate shade trees with in each community.

4. Collection of Storm Water



Ponding banks are also very good for collecting storm water which is shed from roads, large compacted areas and the roofs of buildings. The banks can range from 15 to 50 metres long, depending on the application.

In this picture the ponding bank collects storm water from a large compacted area in front of houses as well as part of the main access road into Kalka. Before the ponding bank was built, this storm water would normally flow out of the community.

The seed of trees and shrubs should be planted along ponding banks to assist the revegetation program within each community.

5. Loss of Storm Water



Storms are a part of the climate in Central Australia. There are many open compacted areas in communities and if there are no storm water collection systems to harvest the rain water, it flows away causing damage in many places.

This picture shows an open compacted area which collected a large volume of storm water before it flowed down the slope and was lost from further use.

People need to observe what happens to storm water within their communities. Methods of collecting storm water should be examined and a storm water management program adopted.