



Australian Government
**Department of the Environment,
 Water, Heritage and the Arts**



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THE BETTER WATER WORKSHOP SERIES

CASE STUDIES FOR WATER QUALITY ACHIEVEMENTS

Around Australia, much is already being achieved and excellent water quality initiatives abound. But mostly, no one hears about them!

The Better Water Workshop Series aim to change all this and provide an opportunity to share experiences (both positive and otherwise) and lessons learned.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL CASE STUDIES

The Better Water Workshop Series will showcase and promote discussions about good practice. Through the 20 workshops and a specially produced booklet, experience will be shared around Australia on what has worked, what hasn't worked and why.

Case studies can be persuasive tools for change: they can specify context, problems, behaviours and practices and can exemplify the benefits of taking targeted local action.

Case studies will:

- Demonstrate capacity of individuals, communities and agencies
- Create positive perceptions of ability and control
- Tell stories of engagement and success
- Share experiences about action and interaction in the environment and the community
- Demonstrate action at many levels
- Provide a mechanism for feedback to all involved
- Help to reinforce and shape social norms by demonstrating community acceptance
- Help change behaviours.

BENEFITS TO REGIONS

Regions benefit from preparing case studies, as they:

- Give profile to local successes; they make great stories in the local media!
- Improve learning on how to bring about improved local water quality; the process of writing the case study improves understanding about how the project worked
- Strengthen the bonds amongst stakeholders
- Provide an opportunity to contribute to a broader understanding about change and good practice
- Bring project(s) to a close and afford opportunities to celebrate successes

SPECIAL BOOKLET

Better Water Case Studies will be published in a booklet and promoted Australia wide. So, have a serious think about preparing a Case Study. Register your Case Study proposal and strengthen your region's chances of hosting a Better Water Workshop.

DON'T HIDE YOUR SUCCESSSES

Most success stories remain hidden from the public view. Making them public helps everyone learn, and it ensures that innovations and approaches can be borrowed and tested and adapted by others. In this way, we all come to a better understanding of how to achieve Better Water!

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CREATIVE CASE STUDIES

- Tell a story from the perspective of one or perhaps two or three participants, drawing out the similarities and differences.
- Include not just programmatic lessons and achievements, but also the personal insights and changes along the way.
- Includes quotes to clarify, exemplify or explain your main points.
- Begin at the end, and explain how the project and participants got to that point.
- Include maps, diagrams, pictures, photographs, drawings and images.
- Insert video or audio clips of project actions or interviews.
- Can be developed as a short skit or play.
- Include dialogue that occurred during the project.
- Invite project stakeholders to tell their stories or part of their experiences through pictures – their own, or a collage of images.
- Are built from extracts of journals and news clippings.
- Compare and contrast, features facts and findings.

REFERENCE

K. Ross & P. Smith Write it Up! A Guide to Writing Sustainability Education Case Studies (AAEE 2007) www.aaee.org.au

For more information visit Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website:

<http://www.environment.gov.au>

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