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Water wise

Efficiency improvements deliver savings

Given the global scarcity of water, it’s no surprise that the effective management of water resources is garnering considerable attention.

GHD has considerable experience in water efficiency, having completed numerous projects with private organisations, water utilities and municipalities to address all aspects of water loss reduction and water system efficiency improvements.

Edgar Johnson, GHD’s Service Line Leader – Water Efficiency says, “In times of constrained budgets for capital projects, private and public organisations are focused on improving the efficiency of existing water systems and processes. Our approach is to seamlessly implement water loss management initiatives with social, financial and environmental objectives. This helps our clients reduce water loss and achieve operational cost savings.”

Recent examples of GHD’s innovations includes:

• Developing a unique Wastewater Metering Code of practice for a utility regulator in the Middle East that takes a whole-of-life approach to the management of assets

• Delivering a forensic audit of the apparent water losses for the Guam Water Authority with an investigative analysis of back-office operations and the assessment of metering assets; resulting in the identification of 30 key findings and prioritised recommendations for improvements

• Creating methodologies for various urban water utilities to assess and estimate water and financial metering errors; this information is enabling a targeted reduction of approximately AUD4 million per annum attributed to a utility’s metering errors

• Providing water audit services to the Savewater Alliance in Victoria, Australia, which is helping reduce water losses for small to medium sized businesses

• Undertaking an audit of nearly 170 non-residential premises in Wagga Wagga, Australia as part of a return-to-sewer investigation to minimise their trade effluent costs

Edgar adds, “Today, achieving water efficiency is an essential part of maximising the value of scarce water resources. The key is to reduce losses.”