

## Local nursery takes the lead on water conservation

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A local Dromana wholesale nursery has reduced its potable water use by nearly 80 per cent over the last two years.

Southern Advanced Plants engaged South East Water to help find a solution to its water shortage which was exacerbated by prolonged lack of rainfall and the property's dam drying up.

"An empty dam and strict water restrictions meant we were forced to find an innovative approach to watering our 750,000 plants," said Stephen Membrey, Operator, Southern Advanced Plants.

"After almost 20 years in business, we had never been in a position where we faced such an uncertain future," he added.

South East Water now provides the nursery with Class C recycled water, which is used to top up the dam on the property and water plants.

Southern Advanced Plants has also taken the next step in water conservation, encouraging its customers to be water-wise.

The business has developed a series of water-wise pot plant tags that inform gardeners about the plant they have purchased.

Information includes whether the plant prefers a hot climate, is accustomed to recycled water and how to have thriving healthy plants that require less water.

Every year the 750,000 plants make their way into Bunnings stores across Victoria, South Australia and parts of New South Wales.

"Southern Advanced Plants is a fine example of a company that has sought innovative solutions to overcome the water shortages it faced, said South East Water Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kate Vinot.

"We are very pleased to be working with a company that is an industry leader and operates in a sustainable manner," added Ms Vinot.

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