

## \$10,000 awarded to innovative water saving project

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For Immediate Release

A system that reduces the amount of drinking water used for the testing of fire sprinklers was recently awarded first place in South East Water's Brainwaves Cup.

The Brain Waves Cup taps into South East Water employees' innovative ideas and offers the opportunity to convert them into business plans with a \$10,000 prize for first place.

Kate Vinot, Acting Chief Executive Officer, South East Water said that the Brainwaves Cup is a terrific competition that benefits employees and the local community.

"The Brain Waves Cup is an exciting and important initiative and the awarding of the Cup is the culmination of six months' hard work for the teams involved.

"This year's winners worked hard to investigate a project that would benefit businesses and the local community and help minimise water use.

If implemented, the winning team's Fire Sprinkler Testing project would help reduce the 1.2 billion litres of potable water used annually across Melbourne for the testing of fire sprinklers.

Currently, many buildings that possess fire sprinklers are required by law to test the sprinklers weekly, which involves millions of litres of drinking water literally going down the drain.

As part of this program, water used for testing purposes would be diverted to a tank where it will be recycled and used to complete the testing process.

"Entrants in the competition are coached to refine important skills that help prepare their final submissions build networks across South East Water and further develop general business skills," said Ms Vinot.

"The development of the Fire Sprinkler Testing project required the winning team to go above and beyond their duties," she added.

Second place was awarded to the project 'Sustainability Pursuit', which investigated a game to teach staff about the principles of sustainability, which has the potential to be commercialised beyond South East Water.

The Brain Waves Cup was awarded first place in the Victorian Engineering Excellence Awards for Workplace Innovation in 2007.

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