



Media Release

Tuesday 2nd June, 2015

Raingarden to be installed at Queechy High School

Queechy High School is the latest recipient of a new raingarden which will not only filter stormwater but educate students about how they can help improve the health of our local waterways.

With the support of NRM North, two small scale raingardens will be installed on school grounds which will capture and treat stormwater runoff from school buildings. It is part of a larger program to implement raingardens across the northern region, and to improve awareness around Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD).

Raingardens are designed to improve water quality by acting like a filter. They also capture the 'first flush' during large rainfalls, which helps to reduce pollution and erosion associated with stormwater runoff.

Beneath the surface of a raingarden is a series of sand and soil layers which capture contaminants. Plants that live and grow in the raingarden also absorb and filter out pollutants captured in stormwater flows.

NRM North's Stormwater and Catchment Officer, Jesse Webster, said he is excited to have students help with the construction of the raingardens.

"Raingardens are a simple way everyone can help the environment and improve the health of our local waterways while increasing the aesthetics and biodiversity of the schools' garden. I'm excited to work with the students and improve their awareness around Water Sensitive Urban Design".

"Students will not only learn about the treatment of stormwater, but they will be involved in the project from start to finish which is rewarding." Mr Webster said

Queechy High School teacher Lochlan Wilkinson said it is a great opportunity for the students.

"Queechy High School students who intend on pursuing trades after graduating have been given an opportunity to work with NRM North to build two raingardens on school grounds. The students will have the chance to learn about stormwater while gaining hands-on skills during the construction of the raingardens".

Construction of the raingardens will take place on Tuesday 2nd of June and should be completed on the day. A guide on how to build your own raingarden is available on the NRM North website www.nrmnorth.org.au under the "What's New" section.

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For more information or interviews, please contact NRM North CEO James McKee on 6333 7777 or 0412 704 229 or Communications Officer Biba Bell on 6333 7776 or 0458 666 609. *Please note: Biba works Tuesdays/Wednesdays.*