Achievement recognised

Projects to make cities use water more sustainably were recognised at the Stormwater Industry Association of NSW 2010 Awards for Excellence announced last month at a function at the ANZ Stadium in Sydney.

Stormwater Industry Association of NSW president, Murray Powell said local councils and developers are increasingly using stormwater as a resource. “It’s nice to see stormwater projects providing more of a reconnection between our society, built and natural environments.”

Water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) consultancy Equatica and urban design and landscape architecture firm McGregor Coxall topped the strategic or master planning category with their Mildura Riverfront masterplan.

The companies worked with Suters Architects on a project to reconnect the...
centre of Mildura in Victoria with the Murray River.

The masterplan covers 24ha, of which 16ha has been set aside for public parklands. The plan proposes wetlands to collect, filter and treat stormwater. The Riverfront will also include residential, commercial and transport developments.

The top honour in the infrastructure category was awarded to the City of Sydney for integrating WSUD elements such as raingardens into its infrastructure upgrades.

The prize in the research, innovation, policy and education category went to Blacktown City Council for incorporating sustainable management of the urban water cycle, on-site collection and reuse, and stormwater treatment and reuse into its development controls.

As a result, prescribed developments have to comply with the council’s Integrated Water Cycle Management and Water Sensitive Urban Design Development Control Plan and Handbook. The plan specifies requirements for waterfront lands, water conservation, water quality, waterway stability, detention and erosion, sediment and pollution control, and groundwater.

Stormwater Industry Association of NSW president Murray Powell (left) presented the infrastructure category award to Andrew Christie (centre) and Paul Tatham from the City of Sydney.