

Multi-million dollar plan to boost city's water supply (The Courier, pages 1&2, 15th May 2009)

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THE Committee for Ballarat is considering a large-scale stormwater harvesting system for Ballarat West.

It would form part of the committee's project to collect extra water for Ballarat.

The state-of-the-art system would initially involve collecting stormwater from existing residential areas in Alfredton and eventually from new developments.

It may use third-pipe systems built to houses and modern stormwater collection facilities for estates.

Water would be treated via Winter Creek or a permeable paving system, which filters contaminants from the water.

According to the committee's water task team, the system can be achieved using new technology.

Ballarat City Council last year flagged Ballarat West as being the city's major growth zone.

The committee believes it is an opportunity to introduce new harvesting systems and boost the city's water supply.

Committee for Ballarat chief executive officer Doug Lloyd said the council was enthusiastic about the project and there were a number of options on the table.

He said the final details, including the amount of water to be yielded from the system, were yet to be confirmed.

"We're keeping our options open but this is part of the one package to collect stormwater for Ballarat," Mr Lloyd said.

Last week, the committee also discussed its plans to capture stormwater from Yarrowee River, while beautifying Ballarat's CBD.

The project could yield up to three gegalitres of water for Ballarat annually, and create a water feature in the central business district.

The committee estimates the whole project would cost about \$20 million.

The project is subject to approval and discussions with CHW, the State Government, Southern Rural Water and the catchment management authority.

