



# Precious bounty parked underground

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 environment reporter

TWO city suburbs will be awash with hidden wealth when Melbourne and Boroondara councils install gigantic underground water wells.

The submerged reservoirs, which will hold enough liquid to fill four Olympic-sized swimming pools, will be used to keep trees and sports grounds alive.

Melbourne City Council has called for tenders to install a six million litre tank under the Ross Straw Oval at Royal Park as part of the upgrade of the Royal Park wetlands.

The tank will supply gardens around Royal Park, with surplus water to be trucked to the city for use in fountains and other city gardens.

In North Balwyn's Jacka Reserve, a 4.6 million litre tank project will be finished next month and will collect flood water from the reserve as a potential water source for the council's sporting grounds.

The storage is made up of 43,000 recycled plastic modules linked together. The system has been installed around existing trees on the reserve.

Boroondara Mayor Coral

Ross said it would give peace of mind for nearby residents during heavy rain and would help the local community.

"Council is always looking at developing sustainable water solutions. We are looking at using the water on the Gordon Barnard Reserve, which is next door," she said.

"It's a huge project, one of the biggest underground tanks in Australia."

The projects are just two of several major water-saving initiatives in Melbourne.

Other large storages include a two million litre tank provid-

ing recycled water at the Sandhurst club, the MCG's 1.5 million litre tanks that collect rainwater used to clean the stadium and 200,000 litres collected off the floor of Federation Square, which is used in cleaning processes.

Plans are also under way to install a one million litre tank to harvest rainwater from the Shrine of Remembrance to water surrounding commemorative trees and gardens.

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**Above:** recycled plastic crates will be used in a 4.6 million litre water storage under Jacka Reserve in North Balwyn.

**Right:** the director of tank installer Sub Terra, Peter O'Neill, in the inspection well in North Balwyn.

