REALITIES OF RAIN

DECENTRALISED SCHEMES

Decentralised schemes is a collective terms to described systems that provide fit-for-purpose water for localised uses. These schemes can reduce demand on the bulk water supply system.

When we talk about decentralised schemes, we're referring to things such as:

- collecting stormwater
- rainwater tanks
- recycling water for uses other than drinking (e.g. irrigation of sporting fields).

THE BENEFITS

These schemes often provide broader benefits, including environmental improvements, community well-being, visual amenity, improved system resilience, and/or local flood reduction.

While decentralised schemes may not currently supply water suitable for drinking, they can supply water that is suitable for irrigation and other non-drinking purposes.

This can help defer the need to build or upgrade drinking water supply infrastructure and potentially provide community benefits such as supplying water for parks and gardens.

They can reduce demand on the bulk water supply system and contribute to liveability outcomes for local communities.

THE CHALLENGES

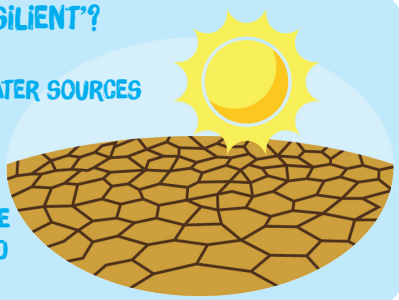
But the costs and benefits of proposed decentralised schemes require in-depth analysis early in the decision-making process.

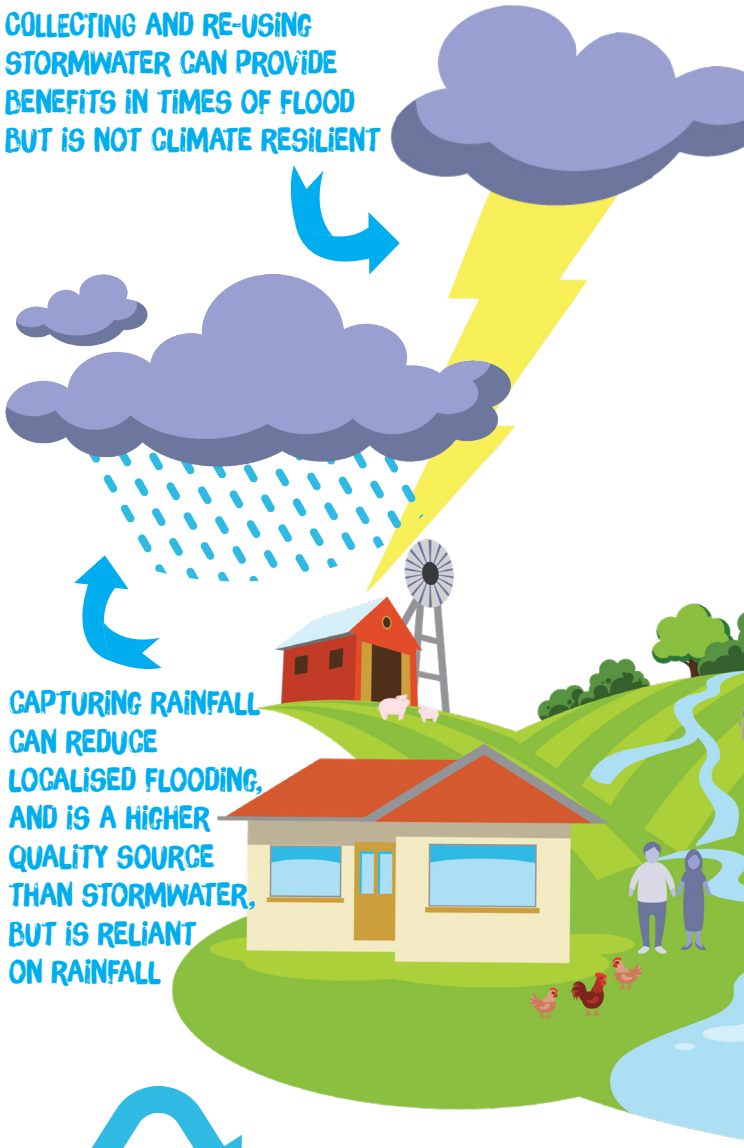
One of the lessons learned from the Millennium Drought regarding decentralised schemes was that for some schemes, the costs outweighed the benefits.

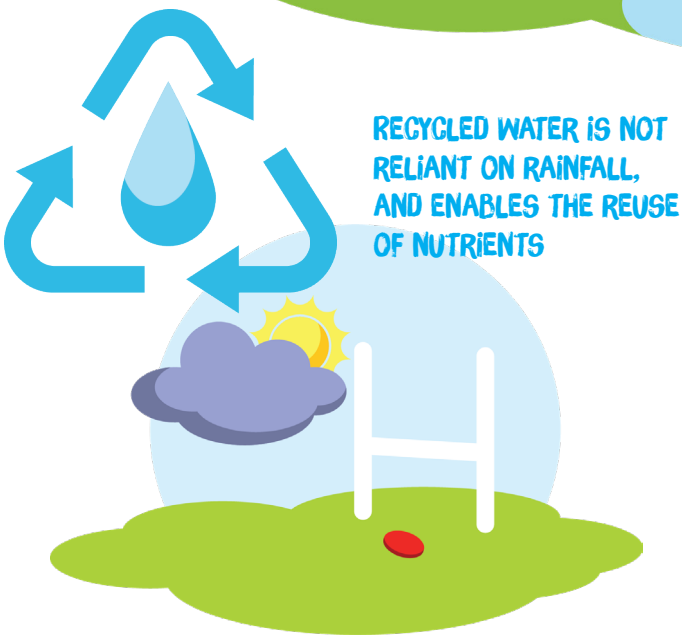
Some schemes ended up being decomissioned because there were higher operational and maintenance costs than originally anticipated, complexity in managing schemes and onerous regulatory requirements.

WHAT IS 'CLIMATE RESILIENT'?

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT WATER SOURCES BEING CLIMATE RESILIENT, WE MEAN THEY DON'T RELY ON RAINFALL. THIS INCLUDES THINGS LIKE DESALINATION PLANTS AND RECYCLING WASTEWATER.







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WATER FOR LIFE