



Switching on the drain brain

# Stormwater reuse

EDC Business Program partners are harnessing stormwater to cut drinking water use and ease the pressure on local waterways.

Alfons Montebello, Country Environmental Officer and Julian Roborgh, Performance Supervisor inspect the rooftop collection area.

Knauf Plasterboard is using stormwater to manufacture plasterboard products at its Matraville plant, while North Sydney, Randwick and Canada Bay councils are demonstrating the variety of ways stormwater can be used for irrigation.

## Knauf

Knauf identified stormwater reuse as a potential water saving measure in its Water Savings Action Plan.

'As part of our EPA licence we already had a system in place to collect small amounts of stormwater,' Site Environmental Officer Julian Roborgh said. 'We've expanded the collection system to incorporate part of the roof area and now we're bringing the stormwater into the manufacturing process to reduce our use of mains water.'

'The process has been reasonably simple as we're using existing pipework. The water retained in the pit was

originally only used for our stockpile dust suppression system. But with three new storage tanks, it's now also available to the plant on demand.

'The system runs automatically and switches to mains water if no stormwater is available. We can store up to 300 kL of rainfall and 9,000 kL has been used since April 2007.'

Alfons Montebello, Country Environmental Officer says that, for Knauf, it's more about corporate commitment to sustainability rather than financial benefit.