

# Nature Strip Project

## Objectives ~

Broken Hill City Council and Country Water are working together with the assistance of an Environmental Trust grant to form a demonstration nature strip. The nature strip is to be located at the front of the Centre for Community.

**The demonstration nature strip will illustrate affordable and environmentally appropriate ways to manage urban landscapes using the latest water saving technologies and techniques. It will be a fully operational interpretive site open to public access.**

The nature strip project aims to assist the community in learning about ways to reduce water use when maintaining their own yards and nature strips. The nature strip will be a valuable resource to the community as it will provide the public with skills and knowledge to make informed decisions about water use, and inspire residents to improve their current practices.

The nature strip demonstration project will also provide information about appropriate plant choices suitable for our arid region, access to water costing for the nature strip, and technical information needed to do this in their own homes.

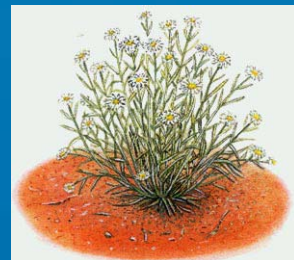
## Plan ~

The nature strip demonstration project will consist of 5 different sections:

- 1. Arid zone garden:** Arid plants are adapted to areas that receive very little rainfall. A garden planted with arid zone plants will save you time and money as they require less water, fertiliser and general maintenance.

Plants to be included in the arid zone garden include:

- Pigface
- Salvia
- Golden Diosma
- Agapanthus



- 2. Exotic garden:** Exotic plants are those which have been introduced to Australia. They can add colour and scent to your garden. Exotic plants if chosen carefully and watered correctly do not have to use buckets of water.

Plants to be included in the exotic garden include:

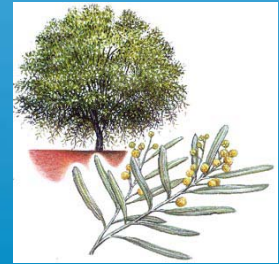
- Short standard roses
- Marguerite daisies
- Carpet roses
- Euonymous japonicus microphyla



**3. Native garden:** With careful selection of native plants you can find types that are suited to our harsh environment and need very little water, particularly once established. Native plants will attract birds and insects to your garden, and are some of the easiest plants to grow.

Plants to be included in the native garden include:

- Acacia acinacea
- Melaleuca incana nana
- Myoporum parvifolium
- Callistemon Little John



**4. Low maintenance lawn using subsurface irrigation:** Sir Walter Buffalo will be used for this lawn. This type of lawn is drought tolerant, has good wear tolerance and is low maintenance. This lawn will be watered using subsurface irrigation to water the lawn at its roots and to save water by reducing evaporation.

**5. Synthetic Lawn:** One of the sections will be laid with synthetic lawn. Synthetic lawn is great for nature strips because it requires no mowing, minimal watering or maintenance and is green all year round. The synthetic lawn used is realistic, soft to feel and fade resistant. Two varieties, a long and a short pile, have been included to suit different garden styles. In Broken Hill, it is recommended that synthetic lawn be hosed down each month to minimise any dust buildup.



Each garden will be connected to a monitoring system to determine water use, and therefore help the public when making their own choices about their gardens and nature strips. Individual gardens will have signage explaining the theme of the garden and the type of plants used.

The nature strip will be maintained by Broken Hill City Council and Country Water will continue to provide information about water usage of the individual gardens.

The demonstration nature strip was opened on the fifth anniversary of the Community Markets on 12 August 2006.

*A well cared for nature strip will give a positive impression of your home and make the streetscape more pleasing to the eye.*