

SA Expertise Recognised in Thailand

Software developed through the Water Research Commission (WRC) to assist water utilities to manage their water losses is finding international appeal as water resources become more stressed in many areas.

Portoria-based company WRP has been working with the WRC in the area of water loss management for almost a decade. Several software packages, which are available through the WRC website, have been developed. It was with this background that Ronnie McKenzie and Willem Wegelin from WRP were approached to present a one-week training course in the field of water demand management (WDM) at the University of Bangkok earlier this year.

Mckenzie reports that the training session was so well received that Thailand's largest water utility, the Metropolitan Water Association, now wishes to send 50 area managers to South Africa for similar training. Moreover, Mckenzie was asked to provide key input in the recent International Water Association (IWA) training workshops held in Sydney and the Gold Coast in Australia. He is also working with the United Nations to offer training in WDM in four cities in India through the UN-Habitat Water for African Cities project.

In recognition of the efforts of WRP and the WRC, the Australian water authorities have included considerable material and examples from South Africa in their *Managing Leakage* manuals which were officially released at the IWA workshop in Sydney. These manuals supersede the original *Managing Leakage* manuals first published by the UK water sector in 1994.

Since the reports were first published, considerable advancements

have been made in various aspects of leakage management, and in particular in the understanding of the influences of pressure on leakage. Many new techniques and associated software products have been developed by various WDM specialists in various parts of the world to assist with the understanding of leakage and wastage in water distribution systems.

The latest set of ten manuals incorporates not only the basic theory of leakage management, but also details of the practical application of the various techniques and methodologies. The techniques and procedures presented in the manuals are applicable not only to Australian

conditions, but also to virtually every water supply system worldwide.

The manuals are produced in full colour with pictures covering most aspects of water loss management in a simple and practical manner. The manuals differ from other textbook publications in that they are written in plain English and explain each topic through the use of actual case studies and practical applications. "They represent the present best practice in water loss management and are an essential tool to every water utility worldwide as well as any water loss specialists who are currently supporting the water supply industry," reports Mckenzie. The ten manuals are now available in South Africa through WRP.



The ten water loss management manuals now available in South Africa.