

Victoria Hotel

plays host



At a glance

- Installation of a 'circulating ring' hot water system, new boilers and an upgrade of guest amenities has resulted in considerable energy and water savings
- Planned onsite collection of shower water for reuse in toilet flushing to reduce water use by 2.5 million litres

to water efficiency

An overhaul of water consumption at this 19th century hotel has brought water and energy efficiency to 21st century levels.

The Victoria Hotel in Little Collins Street is one of Melbourne's oldest hotels, founded in 1830 when the city had barely reached a half century. The hotel has a long history of offering its guests many industry firsts, including providing electric lighting early last century. In 2011, that initiative continues with the installation of multiple water efficiency measures.

The Victoria Hotel, comprising 370 rooms, uses more than 32 million litres of drinking water each year; with the majority attributed to the guest amenities such as showers, toilet flushing and laundry use.

Costing \$1.5 million including \$97,000 co-funding from City West Water, the hotel embarked upon a program of upgrades to its internal plumbing system with the objective of reducing operational costs through improved water and energy efficiency.

Energy efficiencies have largely been achieved by improving the hot water supply system. The new boiler system operates at higher efficiency and has slashed gas consumption needed for water heating by 50 per cent.

Further water and energy savings were realised with the installation of a 'circulating ring' hot water system that allows hot water to be produced on demand. This means guests no longer have to waste

precious water when waiting for hot water to reach their shower. In addition to the energy saved through water heating, this improvement alone is expected to save nearly half a million litres of water per year.

Other water efficiency improvements have included upgrades of all the tap and toilet amenities in guest rooms throughout the hotel, which has been carried out in stages to minimise impact on hotel occupancy rates and guest comfort.

As part of a redesign and renovation of its guest rooms, hotel management identified an opportunity to install a 'dual supply' system that will collect water from showers that can be reused in guest rooms for toilet flushing, rather than using drinking water.

A 'third pipe' is being added to all guest rooms, so when the retrofit is completed in 2013, more than 2.5 million litres of water a year, equivalent to an Olympic sized swimming pool, will be captured from showers and then reused in toilets.

The Victoria Hotel's proactive approach to improving its resource efficiency provides an example of what can be achieved in the hotel sector without compromising guest comfort.

