

### FACTSHEET 3:

## Creating water-smart gardens

Aura has a sub-tropical coastal climate characterised by hot, humid summers and mild winters. Creating a water-smart garden that suits the local conditions can make a big difference to your water bills and usage. In fact, up to 60% of household water is used outdoors, much of which is wasted.

#### Some tips to creating an attractive and sustainable garden:

- Minimise the use of turf, as it is one of the largest water users in summer.
- Select plants that are acclimatised to the Sunshine Coast's climate – for example, 90% of Aura's streetscapes will be planted with local natives, as they are drought-tolerant.
- Use soil conditioners to improve the water-holding capacity of soil to reduce irrigation needs.
- Install water-efficient irrigation.
- Position plants with similar watering requirements together.
- For more water smart tips, visit the Federal Government's Department of Industry and Science website [yourenergysavings.gov.au/water/water-home-garden/water-efficiency-home](http://yourenergysavings.gov.au/water/water-home-garden/water-efficiency-home)

