

## March Newsletter

This month featuring highlights such as **The 6<sup>th</sup> International WSUD Conference, WSUD Construction & Established Guidelines, Energy Use & The Consumption Of Water, Stormwater 09 – SIA Conference** and much more.



Hello All,

The benefits of linking legislative and policy developments with research findings has played a central role in the focus of the WSUD in Sydney Program over the last few months.

One example was through the promotion and participation in Monash Universities Water Sensitive Cities Workshops held in Sydney 23 and 24th February 2009. Attended by 102 regional stakeholders from Government, Industry and Research Institutions, the Sydney workshop's outcomes will be available next week and will be promoted separately from this e-newsletter. Detail includes the researcher's presentations and the outcomes from the conversation mapping exercises, which will be used to inform recommendations for Federal, State and Local level action plans for our transition to water sensitive cities. I understand a survey will also be made available for further stakeholder input.

Each day we are learning more about the importance of and multipurpose opportunities from water sensitive cities in addressing environmental issues such as climate change, the urban heat island effect, receiving water health, biodiversity and of course water sensitive urban design. With so much information out there, it is, I believe, through the capacity building programs around Australia that enables stakeholders to more effectively participate in the generation, access and incorporation of these research developments into our Legislative and Policy tools and practices. Refer to Section 6 – Research Linkages and Opportunities to see the latest regional research opportunity with which, your council can participate in and benefit from.

This week, I began visiting Sydney Metropolitan Councils to assess council operations and determine how we can together deliver a more consistent regional approach in our transition to water sensitive cities. The findings will form the basis for the WSUD in Sydney Program's focus over the next few years. In addition to better understanding your needs, identifying knowledge gaps and providing information, tools and resources where needed; I am also compiling a database of resources and lessons learnt to be shared

amongst ourselves and more broadly across Australia through my website. I look forward to meeting with each of you and your colleagues in the near future.

The following links will lead you to new information and resources that I have recently included on my website. If you have any other information that you think would be of benefit, please forward them via email. Thank you to those who have contributed to this month's information:

- Tools and Resources:
  - Sustainable Water Challenge – Key Note and Council Presentations and Case Studies: <http://www.wsud.org/swc.htm>
  - NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change's (DECC) Managing Urban Stormwater Series: <http://www.wsud.org/literature.htm>
  - Joint initiatives between DECC' and the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (SMCMA): <http://www.wsud.org/literature.htm>
- Capacity Building:
  - Updated Seminars and Events: <http://www.wsud.org/seminar.htm>
  - Advancing the Design of Raingardens Seminar and Workshop Manual and Presentations: <http://www.wsud.org/seminar.htm>
- Research Linkages - Cities as Water Supply Catchments: <http://www.wsud.org/seminar.htm>
- Cross Sectoral Engagement - Regional Resource Linkages and opportunities for councils to integrate within their own projects: <http://www.wsud.org/wsud.htm>
- Funding - Grants and Rebates: <http://www.wsud.org/wsud.htm>

I hope you enjoy this month's e-newsletter. As ever, be in touch.

Cheers, K.

Kate Black

Program Manager

The **March 2009 (No. 56) WSUD e-newsletter** contains information on:

**(1.)** 6<sup>th</sup> International WSUD Conference – May 2009 **(2.)** WSUD Construction & Establishment Guidelines **(3.)** Energy Use & the Consumption of Water **(4.)** Environmental, Social & Economic Benefit – Irrigation Futures **(5.)** Stormwater 09 – SIA Conference – July **(6.)** Research Linkages & Opportunities **(7.)** Grants & Rebates **(8.)** Events Calendar **(9.)** Websites of Interest

## 1. 6<sup>th</sup> International WSUD Conference & Hydropolis Conference – May 2009

Held in Perth, Western Australia from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009, this conference will explore 'the state of the art' and transition pathways for the future through papers on implementation and case studies, leading edge research and the policy and regulatory environment needed to facilitate a shift toward Water Sensitive Cities and Settlements. Some of these interactions of water and the urban environment interrelated 'lenses' include:

- Water and urban planning and design—macro to micro;
- Water and the urban landscape: aesthetics; public art and 'a sense of place';
- Culture, attitudes and values as they relate to water in the urban setting;
- Assessment techniques for WSUD and integrated urban water management;
- Developments in science, engineering, technology and management systems;
- Governance and political dimensions of our decision making as it relates to water and urban planning and management.

Having attended the last conference in Sydney in 2007, I cannot recommend this conference highly enough. Workshops scheduled around the event may also be of keen interest to attendees. **Early bird registrations close 31 March 2009.** To register or learn more about the event, refer <http://www.keynotewa.com/wsud09/>

## 2. WSUD Construction & Establishment Guidelines – South East QLD

The Healthy Waterways' Water by Design Program has published a freely available resource, *Construction and Establishment Guidelines: Swales, Bioretention Systems and Wetlands*. Developed in collaboration with leading practitioners, local government compliance officers and civil and landscape contractors. The guideline is also supported by a training course offered by Water by Design (<http://www.waterbydesign.com.au/content/construction-and-establishment-vegetated-stormwater-systems-0>). While produced for South East Queensland, the guideline also holds relevance across much of Australia. To download the guideline, refer <http://www.waterbydesign.com.au/CEguide> Key features include:

- Civil and landscape specifications;
- Step by step construction and establishment procedures and protocols;
- Sign-off checklists and forms for certification and compliance;
- clear illustrations and photographs; and
- A set of A3 sheets which can be laminated and taken on site for handy reference.

Otherwise, please follow this link to see the primary guidance documents (and release dates) relating to urban stormwater management and WSUD in NSW from the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change's *Managing Urban Stormwater* (MUS) series of documents

<http://www.wsud.org/literature.htm>

### **3. Energy Use and the Consumption of Water – CSIRO & WSAA Report**

This report, prepared by the CSIRO for WSAA, determines that energy use varies greatly between water utilities in the different cities (influenced by geography and its water and sewerage systems); and use relatively little energy in relation to the whole economy compared with other sectors of the economy. The report provides a contextual understanding of energy use in relation to the total urban water cycle and identifies where reductions in the greenhouse gas footprint of the urban water industry and households may be possible. Councils may like to use these findings when developing their own water and energy conservation initiatives and associated priorities, including community education and incentives programs.

For a copy of the report refer: <http://www.clw.csiro.au/publications/waterforahealthycountry/2008/wfhc-urban-water-energy.pdf>

### **4. Environmental, Social & Economic Benefits – Irrigation Futures CRC**

The benefits of urban green spaces and the potential impacts of long-term water restrictions on parks, sports grounds and public gardens are considered in this report using a Triple Bottom Line approach to examine the environmental, social and economic benefits of urban green spaces and the maintenance of these values using irrigation during drought. For example, micro-climates and alleviating the urban heat island effect; provision of flora biodiversity hotspots and fauna drought refuges; human health implications (physical, mental and lifestyle); community impacts; improved aesthetics; council revenue streams from outdoor festivals and events; increased net social welfare and an increase in property values.

Importantly, the report links the salient environmental and social benefits to potential benefits in offsetting the associated council service delivery costs. Council officers may like to extract relevant cost/benefit analyses for justification to senior managers of their own WSUD projects. To download a copy of the report, refer <http://www.irrigationfutures.org.au/news.asp?catID=9&ID=679>

## 5. Stormwater 09 – SIA Conference – Albury-Wodonga - July

Stormwater09, the NSW and Victoria Joint Annual Conference of the Stormwater Industry Association will be held from the 7th to the 10th July at the Albury Convention Centre in Albury-Wodonga. Three concurrent streams will be held this year, including:

- Protecting our Urban Waterways – Water Quality and Managing Flow Impacts;
- Managing Open Spaces- Sustainable Stormwater Harvest; and
- Institutional Capacity Building.

Pre-conference Workshops (half and full day) will also be held and as follows:

- Stormwater Management;
- WSUD - Hijacked By Water Quality? It's So Much More;
- Estimation of Probable Maximum Floods;
- Stormwater Management with Rain Gardens;
- Natural Channel Design;
- Stormwater Harvesting & Reuse;
- Integrated 1d/2d Modelling in an Urban Environment;
- Treatment of Creek and Gully Erosion.

For further information about the conference proceedings and to register, refer

<http://www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater/index.asp>

Exhibition and sponsorship packages are also now available, refer:

<http://www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater/2009%20SIA%20Exhibition%20and%20Sponsorship%20Prospectus.pdf>

## 6. Research Linkages & Opportunities

This Monash University research program – *Cities as Water Supply Catchments*, endorsed by the National Water Commission will be Australia wide and aims to harness the potential of stormwater to overcome water shortages, reduce urban heat island effects and improve the landscape and liveability of Australian Cities. Monash is currently seeking research partners to participate

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA (SMCMA) is leading discussions with NSW Government (Departments and Agencies) to determine opportunities for involvement at a State level. Further, the SMCMA has committed funding to participate in the project and is liaising with interested councils to establish a regional consortium of councils.

The SMCMA, via the WSUD in Sydney Program held a workshop with councils this week to develop a business case proposal, which councils can use to garner senior management and elected official support. An independent facilitator, Dr Jane Elix (<http://www.janeelix.com/>) directed the workshop and drafted the Business Case, which will form the basis for future discussions with potential consortium members. For further information about the SMCMA's role and how your council may benefit from participating refer <http://www.wsud.org/seminar.htm> A copy of the first edition of the Business Case Report is also available via the link. Future editions based on council input will also be made available via my website.

## 7. Grants & Rebates

Due to the large number of grants that I have either located or acquired from other sources such as the Water for Life Program (<http://www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au>) or Local Government and Shires Association (<http://www.lgsa.org.au>), I have created a new section on my website, which will be updated each month and to reduce the size of this e-newsletter. As ever, I have included Grant Programs that Councils may want to apply for and/or promote within their communities.

Anyone wanting to seek partners through the WSUD in Sydney Program's contact's network and/or receive input regarding grant application development should send an email outlining their needs to [kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au). Please make sure you allow a minimum of 3 days notice for a response.

Please refer to <http://www.wsud.org/wsud.htm> for a comprehensive list of grants, rebates and other initiatives. Some great advice from the Water for Life Program was that councils could leverage off these programs and initiatives by incorporating and/or combining them within their own projects:

- Australian Government Programs, including web portals such as the GrantsLINK website;
- Sydney Water Corporation;
- NSW Department of environment and Climate Change initiatives;
- NSW Department of Water and Energy; and
- 2009 Natural Resource Management Grants Summary, revised by Sydney Coastal Councils Group.

Of particular interest to councils this month may be **the Water for Life Program's Education projects funding package**, which aims to support organisations across greater Sydney to deliver leading practice water education projects. Grants of up to \$50,000 will be available to eligible community and local government organisations under this Funding Package. For more information refer: [http://www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/education/support/funding\\_package](http://www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/education/support/funding_package):

## 8. Events Calendar

The following events are scheduled over the next few months:

- Media Filters Seminar held in conjunction with WIOA Conference (below). 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. Refer [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au) for more information.
- Wetland Ecology – Fundamentals Needed for Site Management. Hunter Wetlands Australia. Newcastle NSW. April 2009 (dates to be advised). Limited numbers please register asap. Contact Bill Phillips, at [coordinator@wetlandsedu.org.au](mailto:coordinator@wetlandsedu.org.au) / 02 62817470 or register via <http://www.wetlandsedu.org.au>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference. Tamworth Regional Entertainment & Conference Centre. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009. Refer [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au) for more information.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Water Summit 2009: Sustainable Water Resources Management. Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009. For further information, please refer <http://www.acevents.com.au/water2009/pdf/AustralianWaterSummit2009-3.pdf>
- FEFLOW Groundwater Modelling Course  
[http://groundwater.com.au/images/stories/courses\\_and\\_conferences/courses/flyer-feflow-modelling-courses-2009.pdf](http://groundwater.com.au/images/stories/courses_and_conferences/courses/flyer-feflow-modelling-courses-2009.pdf)
- WSUD 09 – Towards Water Sensitive Cities and Citizens. Perth. 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Refer [www.keynotewa.com/wsud09](http://www.keynotewa.com/wsud09)
- NSW Sustainable Development Conference, Dockside Convention Centre. 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Refer <http://www.halledit.com.au/nswsdc>
- Stormwater 2009 – Lets think systems. NSW and VIC Stormwater Industry Association Conference. Albury Wodonga Convention Centre. 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Refer [www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater](http://www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater) for more information.

## 9. Websites of Interest

The following websites may be of particular interest to Councils who may like to promote them within their own councils or use the information, tools and resources within their own projects.

**Centre for Groundwater Studies** - A cooperative research and education venture with strong focus on processes of groundwater recharge, discharge, contamination, remediation and management. It addresses major land and water resources issues in Australia and overseas through interdisciplinary research by its member organisations, agencies and companies. The Centre will focus its activities on research, Short Course Industry Training and Postgraduate Education. For more information refer

<http://www.groundwater.com.au/>

**Renters Guide to Sustainability** – A free publication from the Alternative Technology Association, councils may like to promote the document to their residents and show them how to make their homes and flats more comfortable, save money and reduce their environmental impact. Refer: [http://www.ata.org.au/wp-content/sustainability/ata\\_renters\\_guide\\_sustainability.pdf](http://www.ata.org.au/wp-content/sustainability/ata_renters_guide_sustainability.pdf)

**Please forward the e-newsletter via your networks and for those who may benefit.**

If you would like to receive future WSUD e-newsletters please send an email with **join** in the subject heading to [kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au).

If you no longer wish to receive this e-newsletter, please email [kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au) with **remove** in the subject heading.