

May Newsletter

This month featuring highlights such as **The Metropolitan Water Plan Review, Landcom WSUD Policy Review, Awards Programs - Water, Water Footprint - CSIRO, SCCG Groundwater Workshop Presentations** and much more.



Hello All,

I have included even more information on the website this month and in anticipation of the development of my new website, which should “go live” in the next couple of months. Refer Section 6 Website Updates for more information. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, I am unable to launch the Council WSUD GIS Register this month, but will promote it separately to this newsletter after the June long weekend.

There is still a chance for you to enter into the Stormwater Industry Awards NSW that will be showcased at the July Stormwater09 Conference that will be held in Albury. Refer Section 3 for more information. Take the time to enter and in order that you can be acknowledged for your individual and council’s efforts.

Congratulations to Waverley Council this month, who I understand have halved their water use since 2002. An absolutely fantastic achievement and which includes a WSUD demonstration project at an aged housing facility. If you want to learn more about this and their other initiatives, refer www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/council/enviro/index.asp

Otherwise, refer to Every Drop Counts Program’s online tutorial to learn how to reduce your own water usage via a web-based program to assist (for free) the tracking of water use and cost savings through improved water efficiency. Based on water meter data, the tool develops graphs, charts and reports to help the interpretation of water usage trends and ensure best management practices are integrated within the operations of all Sydney Water commercial, industrial and government customers. Refer: <http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/InYourBusiness/EDCTutorial/player.html>

My favourite education resource this month is Water Footprinting. Perhaps the greatest aspect is the apples-to-apples, country-to-country water usage comparison. Of equal import though, is the opportunity it provides in telling a complicated story, simply, while changing the mindsets and hopefully the hearts of our communities. Sustainable water usage is everyone’s responsibility as individuals. I believe it is tools such as these that can help us to spread this message more broadly and encourage our transition to water sensitive cities. Perhaps then all Australian councils could cut their potable water usage in half. See

Section 4 – Water Footprint Network for more information on how you can use this tool to spread the message of the importance of water efficiency in our daily lives and amongst your communities.

My fellow graduate from Water for Life's Advancing Leaders Program (http://www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/about/program/capacity_building/leadership), Adrian Turnbull of Warringah Council captured perfectly what should be a core objective of all water education initiatives when he said during his graduation presentation last week – “People forget isolated facts, but, if people feel capable and motivated to process and elaborate on the information presented, they are more likely to internalise themes and messages. Through interpretation, understanding; through understanding, appreciation; through appreciation, protection.” Thank you Adrian for the timely reminder and congratulations to my fellow graduates with thanks to the Water for Life Team, Kalina Koloft (www.sustainablecapital.com.au) and Grahame Collier (<http://www.tissues.com.au/collier.htm>) for coordinating such a fantastic program. It will be run in 2010, I highly recommend that you keep an eye out for application announcements.

As ever and until next month (or earlier if you are a Sydney Metropolitan Council), be in touch.

Cheers, K.

Kate Black

Program Manager

The **May 2009 (No. 58) WSUD e-newsletter** contains information on:

(1.) Metropolitan Water Plan Review **(2.)** Landcom WSUD Policy Review **(3.)** Awards Programs – Water **(4.)** Water Footprint - CSIRO **(5.)** SCCG – Groundwater Workshop Presentations **(6.)** www.wsud.org Website Updates **(7.)** Research Linkages & Opportunities **(8.)** Grants & Rebates **(9.)** Events Calendar **(10.)** Websites of Interest

1. Metropolitan Water Plan Review – Have your Say

The NSW Government is updating the Metropolitan Water Plan to factor in new information such as population growth projections and potential impacts from climate change. The updated Plan will be released in 2010 and includes a community consultation process. This is your chance to ensure your needs as water practitioners; including the importance of and commitment to water sensitive urban design are incorporated and represented in our region's water future. Please take the time to participate via the stakeholder survey and up until 7 June 2009, to learn more about the process and complete the online survey, refer: <http://www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/about/plan/haveyoursay>

2. Landcom – WSUD Policy Review

Landcom are reviewing their strategy documents and seeking stakeholder input (for two elements) to ensure they are an integral resource when incorporating WSUD strategies into developments. Originally, there were three booklets in the WSUD strategy - **Policy and Targets**; **Planning and Management**; and **Case Studies** - and they have just added a fourth booklet, **Maintenance (Draft)**. The two elements being reviewed are as follows:

- The targets in book one – Policy will be publicly exhibited during May 2009, as part of a formal review of Landcom's suite of sustainability indicators. Comments on this element of the strategy will be accepted up until COB 1, June 2009;
- Secondly, they are seeking your thoughts and comments (during May and June 2009) on Book 4 – Maintenance (Draft) to ensure an appropriate response to WSUD operation and maintenance issues.

For further information about the review, please refer to <http://www.landcom.nsw.gov.au/whats-new/publications-reports/water-sensitive-urban-design.aspx>

3. Awards – SIA NSW, Savewater! & Green Globes

The **Stormwater Industry NSW Awards for Excellence** have been extended until the end of the week. There is a two stage process of Expressions of Interest with finalists invited to submit a Full Entry. Entry charges do apply, for more information, refer <http://www.stormwater.asn.au/nsw/AwardsNSW2009.html>
Entry categories include:

- Stormwater Management/ initiatives;
- Stormwater Research and Development;
- Excellence in Stormwater Education;
- Aquifer Storage and Recharge; and
- Stormwater Harvesting.

There are nine **savewater!** awards® categories, as well as the Award for Excellence, presented to the organisation or individual that has made the greatest contribution to water sustainability. Among other awards, subscribers may like to apply for the Government award (2 categories) that acknowledges achievement and a strong ongoing commitment by a local authority, state or federal government agency/department (incl. government owned businesses and utilities), to reducing own or community water use. Councils may also like to promote the awards to Education Institutions in their LGA who have exhibited and implemented water conservation tools and programs. Similarly, councils may like to promote the Community Action, Young Achiever and Photographic Award amongst their community.

Industry players may be interested in the Built Environment & Gardens award acknowledging the role of design and construction in achieving a long-term sustainable water system (residential or commercial). While researchers and boffins may be interested in applying for the International Product Innovations Award. For more information, refer <http://www.savewater.com.au/programs-and-events/savewater-awards/categories>

Entries for the NSW Government's **Green Globe Awards** close on 11th June 2009 and showcase outstanding achievements in the sustainable use of natural resources in NSW and leadership in tackling climate change. The NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change have introduced new Community, Local Government and Media Awards to celebrate the achievements of leaders in these fields also. Open to individuals and organisations within the private, public and community sectors who can demonstrate outstanding achievement in (among others):

- Sustainability and climate change leadership
- Water, energy and waste savings
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Adaptation to climate change.

For further information, refer <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/greenglobes/index.htm>

4. Water Footprint - CSIRO

CSIRO has joined a global network of private and public sector organisations which aims to promote the sustainable, fair and efficient use of the world's fresh water. The Water Footprint Network seeks to advance the concept of 'water footprinting' as a means of understanding and addressing the negative impacts on freshwater systems of the production and consumption of goods and services. As a Network partner, CSIRO has conducted a range of water footprint case studies on various products – including food products manufactured by Mars Australia – and has been active in developing water footprint calculation methods. Further information about the network is available at www.waterfootprint.org

5. SCCG Groundwater Education Workshop Series – Available online

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) is pleased to announce the workshop materials for Groundwater Education Workshop Series run in late 2008 are now available. The aim of the initiative, partnered by the WSUD in Sydney Program was to deliver a series of free workshops, information and training on sustainable groundwater management targeting councils and industry. The education materials integrate information on the regulatory aspects of groundwater management with increased awareness of the dynamic nature of groundwater. The workshop materials can be downloaded from www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/groundwater.htm

6. www.wsud.org Website Updates

There are far too many new inclusions on the website this month to list them all here and so I have included below only those that I think will be of greater interest. You may also like to take some time to skim through the entire website and see what other resources may be of use. All resources are freely available for download (with only one exception - ARQ Design Guidelines) and/or may be accessed via the weblinks. Resources of interest may include:

- Technical Guidelines: <http://www.wsud.org/tech.htm>:
 - Standard WSUD Clauses;
 - National Water Commission's Water Dictionary;
 - DECC's Managing Urban Stormwater Document Series (moved from WSUD Literature page);
 - Clearwater Victoria's Capacity Building Program's Hot Topic (2007) presentations – Maintenance;
 - EPA Victoria's Maintaining WSUD Elements;
 - Gold Coast City Council's WSUD Training Awareness Program's Manual, including Operation and Maintenance;
 - Gold Coast City Council's WSUD Developer Guideline;
 - South East Queensland's Healthy Waterways' Water by Design Program's Guidelines;
 - Sydney Water Plant Selector;
 - FAWB Design Guidelines;
 - Marrickville Council's USWIM Guideline - The A complete process for collaborative planning for sustainable water management (IUWM).
 - CSIRO Managing Aquifer Recharge Guideline;
- WSUD Literature: <http://www.wsud.org/literature.htm>
 - Andre Taylor's Leadership and the Champion Phenomenon Report;
 - Brown and Clarke's Transition to WSUD, The Melbourne Story;

7. Research Linkages & Opportunities

Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority is seeking funding partners to undertake a 'foundation' project to improve the amenity, ecosystem health and sustainability of the iconic Sydney Harbour and its tributaries.

This project aims to determine the relationships between catchment pollutant loads from sub-catchments within the Sydney Harbour catchment, and the waterway response to those loads, under both current and predicted future development and climatic regimes. The project is analogous to similar projects recently undertaken within the neighbouring catchments of Botany Bay and its major tributaries, the Cooks and Georges Rivers, as part of the Botany Bay Coastal Catchments Initiative project.

The project would develop a 'state of the art' waterway response model for Sydney Harbour and ALL tributaries, which will facilitate scenario testing and strategy development by local councils and other stakeholders, at the scale of individual local government areas, sub-catchments and the entire catchment. The outcomes of the project will provide an invaluable foundation for the planning and coordination of catchment activities undertaken by the broad range of stakeholders that influence the health and amenity of Sydney Harbour and its tributaries.

All interested parties should contact Lesley Diver, Place Manager, Sydney Harbour and Catchments on 9895 6282 or email Lesley.Diver@cma.nsw.gov.au.

8. Grants & Rebates

Please refer to <http://www.wsud.org/wsud.htm> for a comprehensive list of grants, rebates and other initiatives, which are updated monthly. You may also like to read the following document [http://www.wsud.org/downloads/WSUD Links/Grant Application Tips.pdf](http://www.wsud.org/downloads/WSUD%20Links/Grant%20Application%20Tips.pdf) for ideas on how to better leverage off grants to supplement and deliver your own initiatives while developing designing and delivering projects more strategically and in partnership with organisational and regional stakeholders.

9. Events Calendar

The following events are scheduled over the next few months:

- DECC Resource Efficiency Training for Environment Officers (Free), Parramatta – 26 May 2009 and Hunter Region – 8 July 2009. Registration via Lindy.Woodburn@advitech.com.au. Limited numbers only. One day course includes:
 - Resource (energy, water, materials & waste) efficiency techniques;
 - Roles of council officers in promoting sustainability;
 - Practical tips on working with businesses to maximise resource efficiency.

- Practical WET workshop on 'Recent approaches and techniques in managing wetlands' Sydney Olympic Park Authority. 4th to 5th June 2009. E-mail: wetworkshop@sopa.nsw.gov.au.
- NSW Maritime's Oiled Shoreline Assessment and Cleanup Course. Cronulla, Sydney. 16th to 17th June 2009. \$100 per person. Contact rob.lea@maritime.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9364 2435
- Australian Water Association's Young Water Professionals Mentoring Breakfast, Sydney. 18th June 2009. Contact Despina Hasapis on 02 9436 0055.
- Centre for Environmental Training's On-site Wastewater Management Training Course. Newcastle. 29th June to 1st July 2009. \$1,362.90 (incl. GST). For more information contact Zoe Slater on +61 2 4954 4997
- Stormwater 2009 – Lets think systems. NSW and VIC Stormwater Industry Association Conference. Albury Wodonga Convention Centre. 7th to 10th July 2009. Refer www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater for more information.

10. Websites of Interest

The following websites may be of particular interest to Councils who would like to promote them within their own organisation, communities and/or use the information, tools and resources within their own initiatives:

Metropolitan Water District Southern California promotes their water efficiency **Save Water Save a Buck Program** to Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Multifamily users. The easy to use website reserves rebate funds for qualifying water efficient technologies offered through the program. Council's may like to replicate the website's layout within their own operations. Refer <http://www.mwdsaveabuck.com/>

Smart Approved WaterMark will donate \$2 to WaterAid Australia with a minimum donation of \$5,000 and maximum of \$10,000; if you pledge to make a few simple water-saving changes in your garden, around your pool or when cleaning your car. Refer the following link to council residents and in order that they can calculate how many buckets they could save using the three 'Every Bucket Counts' calculators: <http://www.smartwatermark.org/home/inner.asp?pageID=861>

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.

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