

August Newsletter

The **August 2009 (No. 61) WSUD e-newsletter** contains information on:

(1.) National Water Commission Fellowship Program **(2.)** UDIA 2010 Conference **(3.)** Council WSUD Policy and Guideline **(4.)** LGSA Awards **(5.)** National Water Week **(6.)** www.wsud.org Website Updates **(7.)** Project Development **(8.)** Grants & Rebates **(9.)** Events Calendar **(10.)** Websites of Interest



Hello All,

This month's e-newsletter is being delivered somewhat earlier than usual and because I am going on leave as of this Friday. I am away and uncontactable from 17 August to 28 September 2009, so if you need to assistance, please ensure that you send me an email or telephone by COB tomorrow. Anyone with any urgent enquiries during my absence should direct them via the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority on (02) 9895 7898.

In the meantime, I am very pleased to advise that the tender process has been completed for the revision of my program's logo, website and the monthly e-newsletter template. Starting last week, the project will be delivered by mid-October with the new site going on line early November 2009 at the very latest and unless unforeseen delays occur during my absence. It's taken me two years to save the money to be able to revise it, but the sites functionality and capacity to display information more clearly will be greatly improved.

In State Government news, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water was formalised and effective from 1 July 2009. Forming the new Environment, Climate Change and Water 'super agency cluster', there will be two Ministers: the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and the Minister for Water and also comprises the following departments:

- Sydney Catchment Authority
- Zoological Parks Board;
- Royal Botanic Gardens;

- Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust;
- Lord Howe Island; and
- Catchment Management Authorities

On a National level, a report by Allen Consulting Group looking at the particular challenges for urban water management, highlighted by the drought, in achieving urban water supply investment has been released. Examining the current institutional arrangements for the urban water sector and identifying a vision for the future. It suggests that by establishing a more competitive urban water market, industries and communities will be better able to ensure the sustainable supply of water to cities.

The road map and its accompanying recommendations have been developed from discussions among a group of water industry and policy experts, which have come together in a forum under the auspices of Global Access Partners (GAP).

Among the key recommendations of the report:

1. That Australian Governments commit to establishing a competitive urban water market supported by effective regulation so as to achieve a vision that ensures:

- There is a secure level of water supply to meet society's essential needs, society has confidence in the quality of water, and consumers (particularly the vulnerable) and the environment are appropriately protected;
- Households have the freedom to choose from a range of options and can afford their basic water needs;
- Businesses and communities can access secure supplies of water in the least cost manner; and
- The water and wastewater industry have the incentive and the means to meet society's water needs at lowest-cost without facing unnecessary constraints.

2. That this vision is best implemented in a phased and contingent manner through the adoption of an interim industry structure featuring competition in bulk supply, which would be reviewed before proceeding to a fully competitive retail market.

3. That the first steps towards the interim structure be taken as soon as possible and include the following four priority actions:

- Conduct detailed accounting of regulated water utilities;
- Remove unnecessary constraints to competition in water and waste-water services;
- Trial use of entitlements to water supply for retailers and large users; and

- Develop a model for a more independent, transparent and integrated water resource and grid planning.

4. That an initial period of research over the next one to two years is required to underpin the reform program. This research is best be undertaken on a cooperative basis through COAG and should include:

- Design of the four priority actions identified;
- Initial design of interim market and industry framework; and
- Detailed design of the interim market and industry framework.

The report is available [here](#).

On a local level, albeit nationally, the NATIONAL WATER WEEK 2009 website has been launched. National Water Week 2009 is hosted by the Australian Water Association in conjunction with the National Water Commission, and is sponsored by Grundfos Pumps, Smart Approved WaterMark and DLA Phillips Fox. ([National Water Week](#)) ([Grundfos Pumps](#)) ([Smart Approved WaterMark](#)) ([DLA Phillips Fox](#))

This year's theme - Securing Our Water Future - will provide a platform for organisations involved in the water sector to exchange knowledge and ideas with the broader community. Water utilities, government agencies, councils, environmental groups and businesses are being invited to think about how they can bring their water awareness and conservation activities to the fore during the week of 18-24 October.

([AWA](#)) ([National Water Week](#))

Be in touch... and after my holiday.

Cheers, K.

Kate Black

Program Manager

1. National Water Commission Fellowship Program – Round 2 Open

The Australian Government via the National Water Commission as committed \$1.35 million over two years 'In order to develop future leaders for Australia's Public Sector'and via the Fellowship Program. Round 2 opened July 2009 and for water professionals with at least 10 years of experience to undertake research in areas that could make a significant contribution to knowledge of Australia's water management and use. From one month to no more than one year, priority areas include the following. For more information refer <http://www.nwc.gov.au/www/html/441-national-water-commission-fellowship-program.asp?intSiteID=1> :

- Urban water (including regulation and water-sensitive cities)
- Environmental water management

- Innovative approaches to enforcement and compliance
- Sustainable irrigation communities
- Water resource impacts of climate change
- Nexus between areas of government policy that impact on water (for example water and energy).

2. UDIA 2010 Conference – Call for Abstracts

The Urban Development Institute of Australia is inviting practitioners to submit abstracts for the UDIA2010 Conference by 18 September 2009. Promote your efforts as practitioners raising your own profile and that of your policy, program or other initiative at the conference. Ensure sustainable urban water management is on the agenda and by addressing the the issue of sustainability within one of the following topics. Attending the event will also broaden your networks beyond the water sector, which can deliver very positive outcomes when it comes to designing and delivering your next project. To submit your abstract please visit <http://www.udiacongress.com.au/paper.htm>:

- WK01: Population Trends and Future Communities - where are they heading?
- WK02: The Economy & Employment Post 2010 - surviving in a new era.
- WK03: Transport & Infrastructure Trends - will we ever meet demand?
- WK04: We're full up! Urban Renewal - exhausted or only just started?
- WK05: I'm retiring - take care of me! Developing for an aging society;
- WK06: How do I get to work? Transport in a post peak oil economy;
- WK07: My feet are wet! Surviving climate change;
- WK08: We can't afford that! Implementing and funding new infrastructure;
- WK09: Does fortune favour the Bold? Leadership in the 21st Century;
- WK10: Tonight I'm going to party like its 2059! What the future beholds for the next 50 years;
- WK11: Other.

3. National Water Commission Report – Estuarine Environmental Flows

The National Water Commission Report, *Gap analysis and Strategy Development for National Level Estuary Environmental Flows Policies* investigates the gaps, constraints and opportunities for developing a nationally standardised or integrated approach towards assessing, implementing and governing estuary environmental flows. Prepared for the National Water Commission and the Department of Environment,

Water, Heritage and the Arts by Fluvial Systems Pty Ltd; a key objective of the report was to provide policy makers with a clear picture of the existing practice, legislation, regulation protocols, institutional and governance models and management regimes regarding estuary environmental flow management. The report suggests a national framework for assessing and implementing estuarine environment flow needs. To see how this may apply in your LGA, refer: <http://www.nwc.gov.au/www/html/2408-estuary-environmental-flows---no-17.asp?intSiteID=1>

4. AWA National Water Awards

Nominations are sought for the Australian Water Association's (AWA) National Water Awards in recognition of 'the commitment, innovation and excellence of both individuals and organisations working within the Australian water sector'. A copy of the 2010 brochure outlining the awards is available for download from the AWA website. Entries close 30 November 2009. awards (AWA)

<http://www.awa.asn.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Awards1&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=12426>

5. Peter Cullen Post Graduate Scholarship

In honour of the memory of the renowned water-scientist, applications for the Professor Peter Cullen Post Graduate Scholarship to support specialist research into water are now open. PhD students are encouraged to apply for the scholarship, which provides research opportunities for budding water specialists in NSW and so they can build on his work and vision for water management. The successful student will receive \$20,000 per year for the three-year duration of the scholarship. Applications close Friday 28 August, 2009. For more information refer: www.dwe.nsw.gov.au

6. [WWW.WSUD.ORG](http://www.wsud.org) Website Updates

The following information, tools and resources have been added to my www.wsud.org and as follows:

Grants added to the website at <http://www.wsud.org/wsud.htm> are as follows, refer Section 7 (below for further detail on how to apply):

- Catchment Protection and Improvement Grants
- Riparian Management Assistance Program
- The 2009 Habitat Action Grants

Two new EDO fact sheets on Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) have been added to Planning Guide and Practice Notes page at <http://www.wsud.org/planning.htm>. The first fact sheet explains the new process for making LEPs that came into effect on 1 July this year. The second fact sheet examines the Standard Instrument that all councils will be updating their LEP to in the coming years. This fact sheet looks at the content of the Standard Instrument and what you should look for when you are commenting on the new

LEP for your area. Freely available, you can access it from the source via:

http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/factsh/fs02_1_1.php

Refer also to the Seminar and Events Page at <http://www.wsud.org/seminar.htm> to see up and coming events in our region and beyond and as detailed in Section 8 (below).

7. Grants & Rebates

Please refer to <http://www.wsud.org/wsud.htm> for a comprehensive list of all grants, rebates and other initiatives. This month, councils may like to promote the following amongst their relevant communities:

Catchment Protection and Improvement Grants Catchment Protection and Improvement Grants assist community groups to: Protect and improve water quality through riparian and environmental restoration
Educate catchment communities about protecting catchments. Applications close 01 October 2009. For more information www.sca.nsw.gov.au/publications/publications/catchment-protection-and-improvement-grants

Riparian Management Assistance Program

This program assists property owners to protect, conserve and improve the condition and management of waterways. The aim is to reduce the risk of pollution (pathogens, sediment and nutrients) moving into creeks, streams and ultimately water. Applications close 01 October 2009. For more information www.sca.nsw.gov.au/publications/publications/riparian-management-assistance-program

The 2009 Habitat Action Grants provide (NSW) fishing clubs and individuals, community groups, local Councils and other community members to submit proposals for projects to enhance fish habitat including rivers, creeks, estuaries, wetlands and natural billabongs up to \$30,000 (excl. GST). Applications close on 16 October 2009. Proposals should include matched funds or contributing in-kind support (such as voluntary labour, material, salaried staff) from the applicant or other sources.. For more information, refer: [http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/habitat-action-grants-funding-up-to-\\$30,000](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/habitat-action-grants-funding-up-to-$30,000)

8. Events Calendar

The following events are scheduled over the next few months:

- NSW Planning's *NSW Commercial and Industrial Code implementation workshops*. NSW Wide. August 2009. To register online select preferred workshop and location and register via events.planning.nsw.gov.au/Public/SelectEvent.aspx
- *DECC's Beachwatch Training Course - monitoring program design, risk assessments, beach suitability grades, reporting, development of management and incident response plans and field work*. North Bondi Surf Club, Sydney. 24th August 2009. Please contact Sonja Duncan on 02 4946 7811 or refer <http://www.sdenviro.com.au/btc/index.html> for course and alternative regional NSW dates.

- DECC's *Protection of the Environment: Authorised Officer's Course*. Sydney - Crowne Plaza Paramatta. 25 & 26 August 2009 http://www.sdenviron.com.au/dec_aotc/index.html
- *ICE WaRM's Design of Onsite Detention Systems – Design and Associated policies, design procedures and social/environmental impacts*. Sydney. 21 August 2009. Refer <http://www.icewarm.com.au/page.php?pld=240>
- *Sydney Metropolitan CMA and Sydney Coastal Councils Group's Climate Change Forum Series*. Customs House, The Barnet Long Room, 31 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney:
- Community: Sunday, 23 August 2009 – 11am to 4pm: Up-to-date climate science and scenario information; and details from innovative and successful regional community actions. Click Here for flier
- Councillors: Sunday, 30 August 2009 – 11am to 4pm: Local Government specific climate adaptation and mitigation case studies; and various business case scenarios. Click Here
- Council Staff: Date & Venue TBA: An overall theme of Adaptation, participants will hold a dialogue with leading authorities on assessment, planning and strategy
- NSW Stormwater Industry Association's Effects of Climate Change on Stormwater Management – Adapt, Mitigate or Perish. Dooley's Lidcombe Catholic Club, 24- 28 John Street, Lidcombe NSW 2141. 10th September 2009. Refer <http://www.gemsevents.com.au/behaviourschoolsconference/assets/Seminar%20Registration%20Form.pdf>
- *Writing Clear Science Workshops*. 7th to 9th September 2009. SYDNEY: UNILINC Meeting Room, Level 9, 210 Clarence Street, Sydney. Refer www.writingclearscience.com.au or please contact Dr Marina Hurley on 0416-097979 or email info@writingclearscience.com.au
- *Irrigation Australia's Irrigation Efficiency Training*. Sydney. 8th and 9th September 2009. Refer: <http://www.irrigation.org.au/assets/pages/3A3D2AA5-1708-51EB-A6B76F5407434232/IEC%20Sydney%20Sept%2009%2093%2Epdf>
- Maddock's Lawyer's Implications of Climate Change on Planning. Level 21, Angel Place, 123 Pitt Street, Sydney. 9 September 2009 (4 to 6pm). RSVP via Krisanti Sivakumar - (02) 9225 6241 or events@maddocks.com.au
- *LGSA's Local Government Water Management Conference*. 9th to 11th September 2009. Deniliquin, NSW. Register at www.WaterConference.lgsa.org.au
- *LGSA's Revisiting Change Management Course*. Sydney. 16th September 2009. Register online at: <http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/152-courses-for-staff.asp>

- *Centre for Environmental Training's Erosion and Sediment Control Workshops – 1 to 4*. Hornsby, Sydney. 21st to 22nd and 28th to 29th September 2009. Contact Zoe Slater for more information on (02) 4954 4997 or refer PDF.
- *12th International River Symposium*. Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. 21st to 24th September 2009. Refer: www.riversymposium.com
- Water Workshop: Best Practice in Water Management for Public Open Space. Pittwater Council, Mona Vale Golf Club, Golf Avenue, Mona Vale, Sydney. 29 September 2009. Refer http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/49245/water_workshop_invitation.pdf or contact Les Munn on (02) 9970 1354
- *Innovation in Planning and Development Assessment Summit*. Dockside Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney. 21st to 22nd October 2009. Refer <http://www.halledit.com.au/dap09>
- *International Water Association's Efficient 2009: Efficient Operation and Management Conference*, Sydney Exhibition and Conference Centre. 25th to 28th October 2009. Refer <http://www.efficient2009.com/index.htm>
- *AWA's Sustaining the Rivers and Reservoirs*. Canberra. 17th to 18th November 2009. Refer http://www.awa.asn.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=b_Nov_09_b_Sustaining_the_Rivers_and_Reservoirs&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=12152
- *ICE WaRM's River and Floodplain Modelling – Introduction to HEC RAS*. Sydney. 10th to 11th November 2009. Refer: <http://www.icewarm.com.au/page.php?pId=240>
- 18th NSW Coastal Conference "Staying Afloat – Rising to the Challenges". Ballina, NSW. 3rd to 6th November 2009. Refer www.coastalconference.com/home.asp Calls for abstracts are also open.

9. Websites of Interest

The following websites may be of interest to yourself, your organisation or your community. Why not include a link on your own website or newsletters etc.:

The Ecosystem Valuation website, describes how economists value the beneficial ways that ecosystems affect people. It is designed for non-economists who need answers to questions about the benefits of ecosystem conservation, preservation or restoration. It provides a clear, non-technical explanation of ecosystem valuation concepts, methods and applications. Refer <http://www.ecosystemvaluation.org/>

Kingston City Council based in Victoria have designed and constructed a significant number of Water Sensitive Urban Design projects since 2001 (including over 130 **rain gardens**). This page of their website provides an excellent summary of water quality improvement projects that have been designed and implemented by the City of Kingston such as rain gardens (bio-retention systems), pervious pavements and wetland. Refer http://www.kingston.vic.gov.au/Page/PagePrint.asp?Page_Id=1429

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.

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Want to know more about WSUD or sustainable urban water management? Refer www.wsud.org for a whole suite of capacity building tools.

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