

July Newsletter

The **July 2009 (No. 60) WSUD e-newsletter** contains information on:

(1.) Water Quality Improvement Website **(2.)** Austroads Documents **(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,

In *The seven habits of highly effective people*, Stephen Covey identified proactive and reactive people with the same concerns. The distinction was that the proactives focus on what they can do and influence, while the reactives focus on things beyond their control.

Keeping in mind that many of our concerns fall outside our circle of influence; where then should we focus our energy in order to create change? Like most of us, in my role I find myself focusing on worries or frustrations I have no influence over. Ultimately, I waste a lot of energy and only serve to de-motivate and irritate myself.

I agree with Covey, we would all be more effective focussing only on those concerns we can influence. By focussing on our circle of influence, we increase our capacity in this regard. And the more influence we effectively exercise, the more influence we will have. The Law of Attraction. So ask yourself - how far does your circle of influence extend? How can you develop initiatives that will rely on these influences? And which alliances do you need that can extend your influence?

For instance, the Global Humanitarian Forum (Geneva) recorded new scientific evidence that points to greater and more rapid climate change. Does this concern me? Of course it does. Can I directly influence it? Absolutely not. But, I can indirectly through my circle of influence by promoting water sensitive cities as an opportunity to (for example):

- Reduce the urban heat island effect;
- Assist our adaptation and mitigation to climate change;

- Improve our public open space through the integration of our built environment with our natural environment through green infrastructure;
- Protect our environment with its adoption using population growth as a driver for infrastructure renewal (eg. transport or water);
- Provide water security through diversified water supply options, including decentralised systems;
- Decrease energy usage in buildings with the adoption of greenroofs, walls and increased street plantings.

Phillip Costa our NSW Minister for Water announced recently that \$1.86 billion will be invested in water infrastructure throughout New South Wales under the provisions of the 2009-10 NSW budget. Including, \$1.2 billion spent across Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the Illawarra to ensure the future of water supplies through a combination of dams, desalination, recycling and water efficiencies. With this in mind, how can we leverage of this investment and within the circle of our individual, organisational or regional circle of influence? Ensuring our concerns and the importance and benefits of water sensitive urban design is incorporated into the final options adopted and implemented?

The answer lies in the adoption of an integrated planning approach. The strength of the WSUD in Sydney Program lies in its network that engages the broad spectrum of practitioners (Government, Industry and Research) and promotes an integrated approach. Use your network to form linkages with other practitioners and develop and deliver initiatives that encourage our transition to water sensitive cities. Develop projects together to leverage off the resources and initiatives and investments that are planned within our region. Whether it Sydney Water's plans for growth or DECC's plans for climate change adaptation or the RTA's plans for road renewals. We need to work together in an integrated manner and to address our individual concerns collectively.

So how? Ask yourself - how far does your circle of influence extend? What project have you always wanted to deliver, but been unsure of how to get off the ground? Who can help you deliver this project both inside your council and external to it? And then go to Section 6 – *Project Development* (below) for some ideas on how to increase your circle of influence. We all have ideas that can benefit our industry; all we need to do is share them with our network.

Be in touch.

K.

Kate Black

Program Manager

1. Water Quality Improvement Website – Information Portal

The Australian Government has launched the Water Quality Improvement website showcasing the vast range of Water Quality Improvement Plans and water quality improvement projects that have been undertaken over the past several years through the implementation of the National Water Quality Management Strategy. Acknowledging work undertaken, it allows anyone to network and explore the opportunities available to improve water quality in a coastal catchment. The links to stakeholder websites also enable access to recent findings and project outcomes. Refer:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/quality/nwqms/wqip/index.html> to see plans that may include:

- Identification of Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives;
- Water quality monitoring;
- Predictive modeling;
- Decision Support Systems/tools;
- Water Sensitive Urban Design;
- Market Based Instruments;
- Agricultural Best Management Practice;
- Ramsar wetland Ecological Character Description;
- Acid Sulfate Soils Mapping.

2. AUSTRROADS Documents – Sustainable Road Design

70% of the catchments impervious area associated with transport (roads, driveways and carparks) and identified as a prominent source of stormwater pollution (suspended solids, metals, organics and nutrients). To learn more about road based pollution in suburban catchments (Brisbane) refer:

http://www.wsud.org/downloads/Info%20Exchange%20&%20Lit/WSUD_04_Conf_Papers/WS040030.PDF

Austrroads <http://www.austrroads.com.au/> is the association of Australian and New Zealand road transport and traffic authorities and who contribute to the achievement of improved Australian and New Zealand transport related outcomes via (among others):

- Undertaking nationally strategic research;
- Promoting improved practice by Australasian road agencies;
- Promoting harmonisation, consistency and uniformity in road and related operations.

Freely available and provided you register as a website member (also free); the following documents are available online. 12 in total please cut and paste into an email and refer to your council's roads and traffic and stormwater engineers and/or other operational staff within council to make sure council's policies, protocols and operations reflect best practice. I would also ask that any council who has a road design template, manual, guideline or policy that incorporates sustainability principles and which you are happy to share publicly, please email me a copy and/or contact me directly to discuss:

- AP-R232/03 **Guidelines for Treatment of Stormwater Runoff from the Road Infrastructure**
http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000047_0904
- AP-R217/03: **Environmental Considerations for Planning and Design of Roads + Reference CD ROM**
http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000045_0904
- **AP-R185/01: Environmental Risk Management Guidelines and Tools for Road Projects**
http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000098_0904
- AP-G70/02: **Austroads Guidelines to Environmental Reporting:**
http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000048_1004
- AP-R315/07: **Strategies for Reducing the Environmental Impacts of Increased Night-Time Operations of Road Freight: A Scoping Study:**
<http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AUSTROADS96615>
- AP-R243/04: **Impact of Climate change on road infrastructure:**
http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000048_0904
- AP-R243A/04: **Appendices - Impact of Climate Change on Road Infrastructure:**
http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000049_0904
- AP-R205/02: **Case Studies in Successful Environmental Management :**
http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000044_0904
- AP-R179/00: **Valuing Emissions and Other Externalities:**
http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000003_0904
- AP-R166/00: **Ecologically Sustainable Development `Toolbox` :**
http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000041_0904
- AP-149/00: **Road Investment Profiles and Potential Environmental Consequences:**
http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000040_0904

- AP-139/00: **Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development: Progress and Direction (includes software tool):**

http://www.onlinepublications.austroroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000039_0904

3. WSUD Policy and Guideline - Coffs Harbour City Council

Coffs Harbour City Council has publicly released their WSUD Policy and Guideline. The policy's objective was 'To protect and improve the natural water cycle quality within the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area, by minimizing the impacts of urban development on the water cycle, and thus improving the health of aquatic ecosystems.' Including, surface and ground water resources, rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries and marine environments. Targets include:

- Frequent flow management – capture and manage the first 10mm of runoff from all impervious surfaces;
- Waterway stability management – limit the post-development peak one-year Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) event discharge to the pre-development peak one (1) hour, one (1) year ARI event discharge. Alternative conditions apply for degraded receiving environments;
- Stormwater quality management – control the impacts of urban development on pollutant loads discharged to receiving waters.

When reading the document, keep in mind how you may apply a similar document in your LGA and within the boundaries of council policies and practices. Ask yourself how improvements can be made in your own council. For a copy of the Policy and Guideline refer:

http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/resources/documents/CHCC_WSUD_Policy_and_Guideline_June_091.pdf

4. LGSA's Excellence in Environment Awards – Nominations Open

Nominations for the LGSA's Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards, which will be held on 1st December 2009 are now open to all councils in NSW and include the following water categories (among others):

- Water Conservation: Landcom, DECC;
- Environmental Protection and Restoration: Sydney Metro CMA, DECC;
- Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement: NPWS (DECC);
- Communication, Education and Empowerment: Our Environment It's a Living Thing (DECC);
- Country Energy's Energy and Water Management: Country Energy.

Ensure that you promote your outstanding achievements in managing and protecting the environment by submitting an entry. Raise your own profile and that of your councils. Entries close 31 August 2009 and may be submitted online. For more information refer: <http://www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/511-environment-awards.asp>

5. National Water Week 2009 – Updates, Tools & Resources

Hosted by the Australian Water Association in partnership with the National Water Commission, National Water Week 2009 will be held from the 18th to 24th October 2009. 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 community. What project can you deliver with the community that will raise the awareness of the importance of water sensitive cities and the efforts that you and your organisation are making to this end? For more information about the resources available to assist you and the national schedule of programs and events that encourage protection, rehabilitation and improvement of water environments such as streams, wetlands, waterways, beaches, and estuaries; refer <http://www.nationalwaterweek.org.au/>

6. www.wsud.org Website Updates

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

Technical Guidelines

Weblinks to the 12 online Austroads documents detailed in Section 2 have been included at <http://www.wsud.org/tech.htm> , scroll right to the bottom of the page.

Grants

Available at <http://www.wsud.org/wsud.htm> are the Australian Government's Re-tooling for Climate Change and Green Loans and Sydney Catchment Authority's Catchment Protection and Improvement the Riparian Management Assistance Program

7. Project Development

As with my introduction to this month's e-newsletter, I am urging people to write down their idea for "that" project which has always been at the back of their mind, but have never delivered and for various reasons. These are some of the excuses I have used for myself over the last year and with three projects that I know I want to deliver; that I know are valid and which other people may also be interested in, but have convinced myself otherwise:

- Too audacious;

- Too difficult;
- Don't have the time;
- This is someone else's responsibility;
- I don't have the right skills, experience or knowledge;
- Too hard;
- Too tired;
- Not enough resources;
- I don't know who could help me deliver this;
- What if I'm wrong?

Do any of these ring a bell? Come on be honest with yourself. If even one is familiar and as you have read this section of the newsletter an old (or even new) project idea has popped into your head. Write it down now - don't worry about formatting or spelling or punctuation. Just write it out. When you've finished - re-read it and write a second draft trying to make it as clear and concise as possible. It doesn't need to be perfect even just a few lines or paragraphs will suffice to begin with. Then, proof it and send it to me (via kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au), a mentor, a colleague, a manager or someone else you feel comfortable with and ask for their thoughts. I promise you, you'll be pleasantly surprised by the result and how much it grows. As ever, I am always more than happy to assist, where possible and whether commenting on project scope, finding partners and other resources.

8. 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:

Australian Government's **Re-tooling for Climate Change**, a \$75 million program that helps small and medium sized manufacturers reduce their environmental footprint by improving the energy and/or water efficiency of their production processes. Councils may like to promote the initiative to businesses in their LGA. Refer: <http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/InnovationandRandD/Re-toolingforClimateChange/Pages/Re-toolingforClimateChange.aspx> Application close 24 August 2009

The Australian Government's **Green Loans** offer that commenced on 1 July 2009, provide free home sustainability assessments to 360,000 householders across Australia. Following their assessment, 75,000 households will receive access to an interest-free Green Loan of up to \$10,000 to make recommended changes. Refer <http://www.environment.gov.au/greenloans/index.html>

Sydney Catchment Authority's (SCA) **Catchment Protection and Improvement Grants** educate catchment communities about protecting catchments through riparian and environmental restoration.

Applications close 01 October 2009 with successful applicants receiving up to \$8,000 (plus \$2,000 for equipment hire) to community groups for activities to protect and improve the catchments. For more information www.sca.nsw.gov.au/publications/publications/catchment-protection-and-improvement-grants

The SCA's **Riparian Management Assistance Program** assists property owners to protect, conserve and improve the condition of waterways. Owners who plan to start the project within 6 months of the application closing date of 01 October 2009 and who are based on the following priority catchments should seek more information: www.sca.nsw.gov.au/publications/publications/riparian-management-assistance-program:

- Upper Werriberri Creek;
- Brogers Creek, Barrengarry Creek;
- Paddy's River, Uringalla Creek;
- Long Swamp Creek;
- Cullenbenbong Creek, Ganbenang Creek, Galong Creek;
- Coxs River (from Kanimbla Valley to Blue Mountains National Park Boundary).

9. Events Calendar

The following events are scheduled over the next few months:

- International Association of Hydrogeologists' Groundwater in the Sydney Basin Symposium. Australian Technology Park, Alexandria, Sydney. 4th to 5th August 2009. Refer: www.dealersgroup.com.au/iah-symposium
- *Sydney Metropolitan CMA and DECC's Biodiversity Seminar* for Local Government (Free). 4th August 2009, 9:15 am to 2:00 pm. Gold and Silver Room. Mantra Hotel, Parramatta, cnr Parkes St and Valentine Ave. RSVP (incl. any dietary requirements) to shelley.dinning@environment.nsw.gov.au
- *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. **10th & 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. **11 & 12 August and 25 & 26 August 2009**
http://www.sdenviro.com.au/dec_aotc/index.html

- *AWA and EcoSTEPS' (<http://www.ecosteps.com.au/default.asp>) Implementing Sustainability 2day Workshops.* Sydney 11-12 August 2009. For more information, incl. dates in other States, refer: www.awa.asn.au/events/sustainabilityshortcourse
- *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
- *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%20093%2Epdf>
- *LGSA's Local Government Water Management Conference.* 9th to 11th September 2009. Deniliquin, NSW. Register at www.WaterConference.lgsa.org.au
- *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
- *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.

10. 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.:

While **The Fifth Estate** is an 'Australian property news and sustainability forum' to quote their website, the site also acts as quite a considerable resource and to see what iconic projects are being delivered around Australia. For example you may like to refer to the case studies at

<http://www.thefifthestate.com.au/archives/category/innovation/case-studies> or refer to the other subsections within Business (Law, Deals, Investment, Global), Politics and Policies (Govt/ Regulations, Agitators, inquiries and Submissions), Design & Technology (Construction, Engineering, Habitat, Planning, Design, Thermal Mass & Technology), Culture, What's On, Briefs and more.

Why not submit an article yourself? Or once you've completed your project, have your media officer send a copy of the media release to the site and to generate interest in the WSUD features of your projects.

Often we are great at delivering our projects, but not necessarily good at promoting them outside our own industry seminars and conference. Be your own public relations officer.

An article in particular that caught my eye in researching this e-newsletter and particularly after Allen Jack & Cottier's Seminar last week – Reinventing our City Streets Seminar

(http://www.architectsajc.com/news/news-media/event-reinventing-our-city-streets_followup/) was this article by Lynne Blundell *Infrastructure looking for green roads... and trains, bridges, ports, tunnels ...*

<http://www.thefifthestate.com.au/archives/4248> a fantastic initiative that provides further opportunities for the embedding or sustainability principles within infrastructure renewal projects.

Our Community is a world-leading social enterprise that provides resources, advice and tools for Australia's 700,000 community groups and schools - anchored by our 16 online Knowledge Centres and associated publications and training. We also work to create practical linkages between the community sector and the general public, business and government. Resources include: Find Money, Manage Money, Jobs, Marketing, Boards, Training, Insurance, Suppliers, Join the Directory, Communities in Control, Leadership, Advocacy, Technology, What Works, Community Calendar and Our Consumer Place.

Include a link to their website on your own and in order that community group and schools may benefit. Alternatively, the tools and resources may also be of benefit to you. The Find Money section has fantastic resources to help you acquire additional and leverage off existing funds.

<http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/community/>

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.

Before printing this email, consider that it takes 10 litres of water to make 1 sheet of paper; keeping in mind, 1 bucket of water holds 9 litres of water.