

October Newsletter

This month featuring highlights such as **Life Cycle Costs, Stormwater Design Criteria, Stormwater Harvesting Report, Community Education & Engagement Forum , Planning & Retrofit** and much more.



Hello All,

I heard a lot about Sydney's dust storm that I flew over (and vacuumed from my apartment) when returning from my holiday on the eve of the storm last month. It was all Sydney could talk about for weeks. If you missed it (as I did) see here for some phenomenal images:

<http://www.thefifthstate.com.au/archives/5917> .

In the face of the storm; Anto Pratten (Stormwater Systems) wrote a very sobering statement in his recent newsletter - *If a square meter of dust weighs approx 2.6 grams (2.6 tonnes /km²) With Sydney's area of 12,144km², that means approx 32,000 tonnes of dust alone fell on Sydney. Very roughly, if we assume that 80% of that dust ends up on paved surfaces such as roofs and roads, 26,600 tonnes of dust sludge has or will be washed into ponds, creeks and waterways.*

Keeping in mind Sydney received more rain in one weekend about 10 days after the dust storm than during the whole of August and September combined; just how many tonnes of 'dust sludge' was washed into Sydney's waterways? Considering the reality of what future climate predictions suggest (eg. a drier inland, an increase in the unusually strong winds (that carried the dust storm from the South Australian border to the east coast) and more intense storms), how much silt will our receiving waters be subjected to in the long term and not too distant future? What can we do to manage this and other impacts from climate change in the Sydney region?

To see what we have implemented so far, refer to the Second Biannual Report - Australian Water Reform 2009 (<http://www.nwc.gov.au/www/html/147-introduction---2009-biennial-assessments.asp?intSiteID=1>), which details the State's and Territories progress implementing the National Water Initiative (NWI). Of particular interest may be Chapter 11 – Urban Water that details new challenges not included in the initial NWI (2004) such as changing and less predictable rainfall run off patterns.

Ask yourself what you and your organisation are doing to play a part in managing urban water in Sydney? How can you increase the uptake of water sensitive urban design in your Local Government Area? And what tools and resources from this e-newsletter can you apply within council operations.

To learn what role this Program will be playing to continue as a regional driver in this regard, keep an eye out for the launch of my new website in the next few weeks.

Be in touch and have a great month.

Cheers, K.

Kate Black

Program Manager

The **October 2009 (No. 62) WSUD e-newsletter** contains information on:

(1.) Life Cycle Costs **(2.)** Stormwater Design Criteria (WA) **(3.)** Stormwater Harvesting Report (QLD) **(4.)** Community Education & Engagement Forum **(5.)** Planning & Retrofit (WA) **(6.)** LGSA Water Conference Presentations **(7.)** Grants & Rebates **(8.)** Events Calendar **(9.)** Websites of Interest

1. Water by Design – Lifecycle Costs of WSUD Treatment Systems

A draft report (2007) commissioned by Brisbane City Council, Life Cycle Costs of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Treatment Systems: Summary Report

(http://www.waterbydesign.com.au/files/4179_Summary_Report_d001.pdf) details a data collection and reporting exercise with a view to providing a high quality data set to guide council designers and developers in the selection and design of WSUD treatment systems as follows:

- Swales;
- Bioretention Swales;
- Bioretention Basins;
- Bioretention Pods;
- Sedimentation Basins;
- Constructed Wetlands;
- Infiltration Measures;
- Sand Filters.

The Water by Design Program (South East Queensland) suggests reading Chapter 4: *Summary of Data and Recommendations* for Use before using the information for planning purposes.

2. Western Australia – Decision Process for Stormwater Management

The Department of Water (Western Australia) has published an update of the *Decision process for stormwater management in WA* and can be accessed at

<http://www.water.wa.gov.au/Waterways+health/Stormwater+and+drainage/Decision+process+and+management+objectives/default.aspx>

Developed to assist in the identification of issues that should be considered when managing stormwater during land development and when updating existing practices and infrastructure; it provides stormwater design criteria to minimise any potential changes in the surface water and peak flows resulting from urbanisation.

3. Queensland Water Commission – Stormwater Harvesting Report

A Queensland Water Commission report, Stormwater Infrastructure

Options to Achieve Multiple Water Cycle Outcomes

<http://www.qwc.qld.gov.au/Total+Water+Cycle+Management> provides guidance on the potential application of stormwater harvesting as a local water supply and based on the consideration of meeting Queensland water savings targets and total water cycle planning (water efficiency and recycling, water sensitive urban design, stormwater management (water quality and supply) and protecting waterways and drinking water catchments). The report addresses:

- What stormwater harvesting infrastructure is needed to meet the water savings target?
- Is integrating stormwater supply infrastructure into greenfield developments cost effective compared to other options?
- Can other requirements for stormwater, such as water quality and flow, be cost effectively be built into harvesting infrastructure?

4. Community Education & Engagement – Free Forum (02/11/2009)

A free visioning forum for local government, Creating Sustainable Communities will be held at Dockside Darling Harbour on the 2nd November 2009. Register online at www.gemsevents.com.au/educationforum.

Distributed to all councils in NSW, outcomes will frame the direction of community education and engagement for local government addressing:

- How can learning drive sustainability in your community and Council?
- How can we deliver more effective engagement and education initiatives?
- What organisational structures are critical for delivering sustainability?
- What will council learning and community engagement look like in ten years time?

5. Western Australia – Stormwater Management Planning & Retrofitting Advice

The Department of Water (Western Australia) has developed a Stormwater Management Manual for local councils and to provide a framework with advice for 'embarking on the process and technical guidance for retrofitting projects'. The stormwater planning and retrofitting chapters are 5 & 6 respectively. Download at:

<http://www.water.wa.gov.au/Waterways+health/Stormwater+and+drainage/Stormwater+management+manual/default.aspx>

6. LGSA Water Management Conference – Presentations Available Online

Presentations from the LGSA Water Management Conference (deniliquin October 2009) are now available online at www.WaterConference.lgsa.org. Topics of interest to stakeholders may include:

- Balancing water needs for users and the environment;
- Practical solutions to address reduced water availability caused by climate change.

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 consider the following:

The newly formed NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water will call for **2010/11 Coastal, Estuary and Floodplain Management Grants**

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grantsandfunding/CoastalEstuaryFloodplainManagementGrants.htm> .

Available for the 2010/11 financial year, council letters inviting applications were sent early October 2009. A new process to ensure better alignment with councils' funding cycles, it includes the following:

- Earlier assessment and prioritisation of projects;
- Development of a priority list of projects for each program (likely to be funded);
- funding in July 2010, subject to final budget allocations and Government priorities;
- Advising priority applicants in February 2010;
- Liaising with priority applicants (April and May 2010) to confirm financial commitment and project plans;
- Formal announcement of grants - July 2010.

The Australian Government via its *National Water Security Plan for Towns and Cities Program* is seeking grant applications for Water Saving Projects that develop and implement practical projects to help secure

urban water supplies in Australian towns and cities. The \$250 million program will fund infrastructure renewals, enhancements and practical projects to save water and reduce water losses in areas with a population of less than 50,000. Funding is capped at 50% (total project costs) and between \$250,000 and \$10 million per project. There are two funding rounds –the first closes on 6 Nov 09. Refer www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/index.html

8. Events Calendar

The following events are scheduled over the next few months:

- *NSW Young Water Professionals' New Technology - Centralised or Decentralised* Current reuse technologies: Do they hold the key to tomorrow's issues? 28th October 2009. Mercure Hotel Sydney. Refer: <https://events.awa.asn.au/getdemo.ei?id=98&s=4KO0NKLDN>
- *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>
- Local Government – Creating Sustainable Communities Through Learning. **Dockside Conference Centre, Cockle Bay , Darling Harbour, 2nd November 2009. Refer** <http://www.gemsevents.com.au/educationforum/>
- *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>
- *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](http://www.awa.asn.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=b%20Nov%2009%20Sustaining%20the%20Rivers%20and%20Reservoirs&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=12152)
- 18th NSW Coastal Conference "Staying Afloat – Rising to the Challenges". Ballina, NSW. 3rd to 6th November 2009. Refer www.coastalconference.com/home.asp.
- Climate Adaptation. Conference 26 November 2009 (9am to 5pm) and Workshop 27 November 2009 (9am to 12.30pm). The Star Room, Cockle Bay Wharf, Sydney. Refer: www.climateadaptation.com.au
- AWA Master Class: Disposal and Reuse of Water Treatment Wastes. 30th November to 1st December 2009. NSW Business Club, North Sydney CBD, Sydney. Refer [http://www.awa.asn.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=b Dec 09 b Master Class Disposal and Reuse of Water Treatment Wastes&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13518](http://www.awa.asn.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=b%20Dec%2009%20Master%20Class%20Disposal%20and%20Reuse%20of%20Water%20Treatment%20Wastes&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13518)

- Drains Program and Drainage Design Workshop. Sydney. 8th to 10th December 2009. Contact Geoffrey O'Loughlin 0438 383 841 or via geoff.oloughlin@tpgi.com.au. For a free Drains Viewer call Bob Stack on (02) 6649 8005

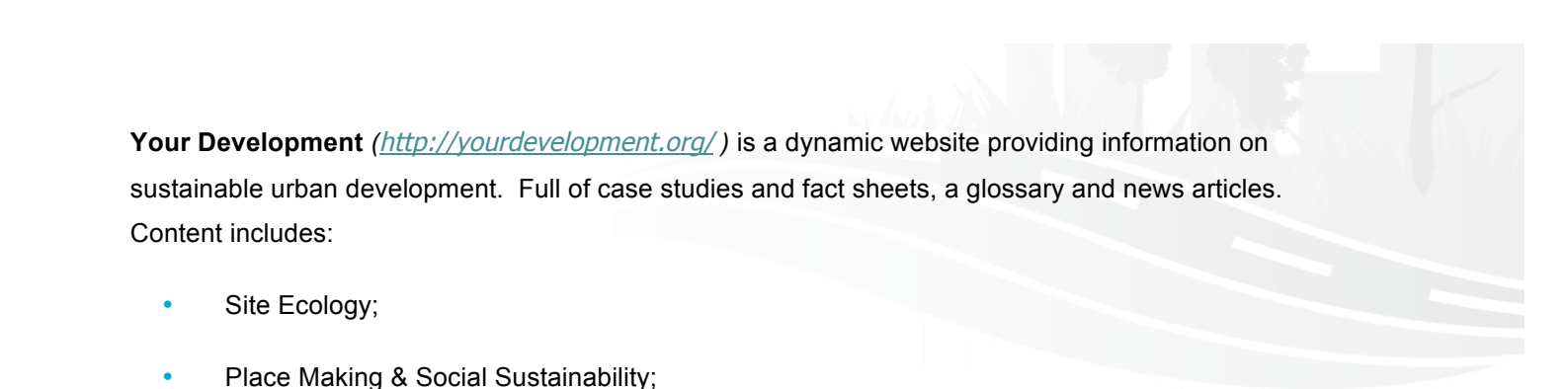
9. Websites of Interest

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

Wiki.WetlandLink is a national resource for Wetland Information - a collaborative website where you can create, edit, exchange ideas and contribute to the latest wetland news and information:

http://wiki.wetlandlink.com.au/mediawiki/index.php/Main_Page Main topics include:

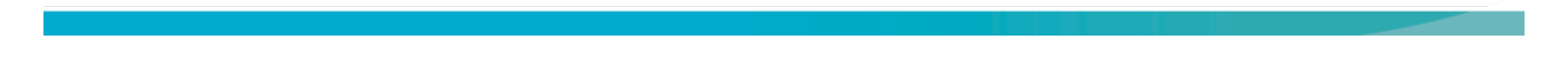
- [Wetland Groups and Organisations;](#)
- [Current Events;](#)
- [Communications;](#)
- [Government;](#)
- [Wetland sites & projects;](#)
- [Education;](#)
- [Climate Change;](#)
- [Wetland Rehabilitation;](#)
- [Wetland Management;](#)
- [Engineering;](#)
- [Funding;](#)
- [Wetland assessment techniques;](#)
- [Research;](#)
- [Flora and Fauna;](#)
- [Wetland Types;](#)
- [Legislation;](#)
- [Wetland Publications & Links.](#)



Your Development (<http://yourdevelopment.org/>) is a dynamic website providing information on sustainable urban development. Full of case studies and fact sheets, a glossary and news articles. Content includes:

- Site Ecology;
- Place Making & Social Sustainability;
- Access & Transport;
- Materials & Recycling;
- Water Management;
- Energy;
- Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation;
- Sustainability.

Stormwater Steve is a new comic strip by Imbrium which offers a glimpse into the daily life of a stormwater management engineer. While an American invention, he bears an uncanny resemblance to a certain long standing, leading and well regarded member of our sydney and stormwater community. Subscribe and enjoy the bi-weekly messages. www.stormwatersteve.com



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.

Kate Black

Program Manager

T.: 02 9895 6206

Water Sensitive Urban Design in Sydney Program

M.: 0422 008 869

Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management
Authority

F.: 02 9689 2537

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.