

## An Ideal Council

The following is an extract from the independent review conducted by [Equatica](#) (2008) funded by the NSW Stormwater Trust and Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, entitled Water Sensitive Urban Design: A Sydney Metropolitan Regional Review and Evaluation.

It is recommended that practitioners use this extract in conjunction with the diagram (Figure 1) on the Planning and Policy Page of this website at [www.wsud.org](http://www.wsud.org)

The council's organisational structure is located on the top right hand side of the figure.

Effective uptake of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) includes the horizontal and vertical support and integration of WSUD concepts through the organisation. Often leading WSUD uptake is a "champion" who works in a relevant department and is able to move through and push a sustainable water agenda ([Taylor 2008](#)). The organisation is supported by a series of external rules and incentives and inter-organisational relationships through Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs), state government policy, and initiatives or projects of other councils.

To facilitate WSUD through development in the organisation, the "ideal" organisation has developed a suite of WSUD planning policies including WSUD principles in the LEP, objectives and targets as provisions within council's DCP, a WSUD design guide and standard drawings for developers to ensure the consistent application of WSUD in all developments that require WSUD.

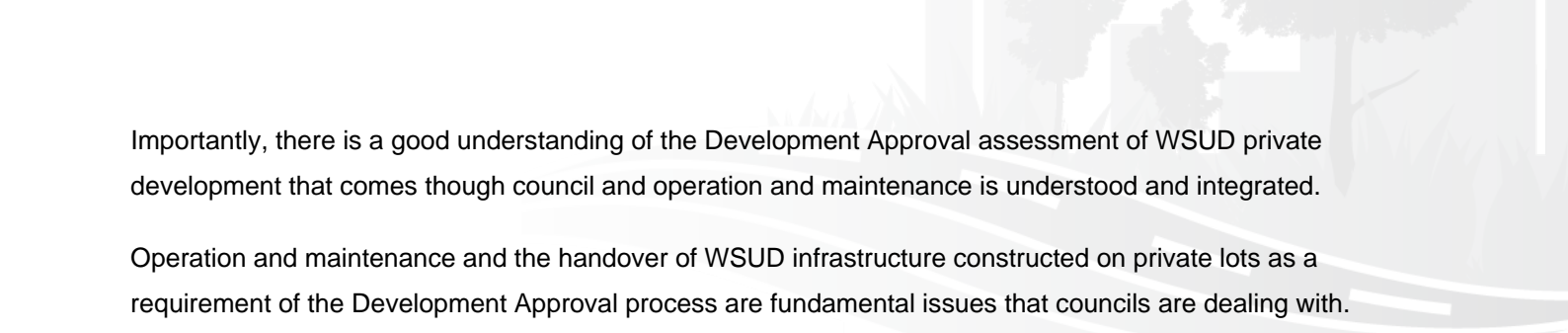
Importantly, the WSUD policies are guided by the needs of receiving waters and objectives relating to improving these receiving waters, along with community values.

Development on private land that is undertaken within the Local Government Area relates to and is supported by the policy documents. All relevant council projects such as carpark, road and footpath upgrades, parks and open space upgrades, town centre redevelopments, building redevelopments and retrofits incorporate WSUD.

Further uptake of WSUD into the private domain and retrofits are addressed through incentives and education (such as incentives for rainwater tanks and other measures, and education on WSUD initiatives).

To strategically plan for WSUD projects, council has a realistic strategy to respond to the needs of receiving environments and reflects the Development Control Plan objectives.

A stormwater levy is spent on implementing and supporting WSUD actions, and builds on demonstration projects that have already been undertaken previously by council.



Importantly, there is a good understanding of the Development Approval assessment of WSUD private development that comes through council and operation and maintenance is understood and integrated.

Operation and maintenance and the handover of WSUD infrastructure constructed on private lots as a requirement of the Development Approval process are fundamental issues that councils are dealing with.

The last section of the framework is a reporting mechanism whereby all of the information that the organisation generates on WSUD is back into council's policies and practices.

