

March 2011 Newsletter

This month highlighting a National Needs Analysis: Life Cycle Costing Data and Tools for Water Sensitive Urban Design Assets:
<http://www.wsud.org/operation-maintenance/>

Anyone interested in future stages of this project; please contact Kate Black via info@wsud.org or on (02) 9895 6206



Hello All,

In March, the Australian Financial Review (AFR) considered that 80 per cent of the Australian population live in areas of declining rainfall. In an urban water management sense do you see this as a problem or an opportunity? And if building resilient Water Sensitive Cities are our salvation and Water Sensitive Urban Design our solution (refer blueprint2011 links below), how as practitioners can we widen our respective Circles of Influence instead of just our Circles of Concern (<https://www.stephencovey.com/7habits/7habits-habit1.php>) (<http://www.wsud.org/wp-content/uploads/WSUD-ENews-July.pdf>)?

In this regard, Professors Tony Wong, Ana Deletic and Rebekah Brown spoke at an event hosted by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA on the 18th March 2011, while seeking interested partners for a Monash University led Water Sensitive Cities Cooperative Research Centre bid (<http://www.watersensitivecities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/CRCWSC-Brochure.pdf>) (http://www.watersensitivecities.org.au/?page_id=32). At the event, Professor Wong spoke about the issue of building resilience into our urban landscapes and how to approach this in an integrative, collaborative and considered manner.

How though, does this translate within our own projects and initiatives and particularly if (as research suggests) Water Sensitive Urban Design is considered the means to building Water Sensitive Cities? How can we more effectively address multiple objectives such as biodiversity, stormwater pollution, population growth, increased urban development, infrastructure renewal, flooding and urban heat island effect? And what capacity needs, strategies and associated resourcing does our region require in order to achieve this ideal?

I would be very interested to hear your thoughts and particularly concerning the role you see the WSUD Program fulfilling. Otherwise, you may like to consider how you can leverage your projects and initiatives against the WSUD Program's deliverables especially as now is the perfect time to start planning ahead for the 2012/13 budget approvals that will start in November.

As ever, I would be happy to discuss this with each of you. Some tools that may assist include whollistic project planning: <http://www.wsud.org/wp-content/uploads/WSUD-Funding-Opportunities.pdf> and/or priority and action planning: <http://www.wsud.org/tools-resources/rapid-assessment-tool/>

Wishing you all a great month.

Be in touch.

Cheers, K.

WSUD Life Cycle Costing Project – National Needs Analysis

A National needs analysis on the issue of WSUD Life Cycle Costing was seed funded by the SMCMA and delivered in partnership with the following organisations that funded, hosted and coordinated regionally held workshops in November 2010:

- Victoria – Clearwater Program;
- South Australia – Murray Darling Basin NRM Board;
- Western Australia – New WAter Ways;
- Queensland – Water by Design Program.

Culminating in a report entitled, *National Needs Analysis: Life Cycle Costing Data and Tools for Water Sensitive Urban Design Assets*, the document addresses:

- Mapping the process that involves the design, construction and maintenance of WSUD assets;
- Identifying key stakeholders involved in each stage of this process;
- Identifying stakeholder needs for Life Cycle Cost (LCC) information and estimation tools;
- Prioritising stakeholder needs and benchmarked these priorities against other WSUD-related capacity building initiatives;
- Using the findings of the needs analysis to recommend a set of tasks that would gather LCC information and build an estimation tool to meet high priority needs of key stakeholders.

To download the report, refer: <http://www.wsud.org/operation-maintenance/> and click on the 'Read More' link for the *National Life Cycle Costing Project*. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA is currently considering the *Phase 1 – Need Analysis* findings and recommendations with a view to determining a way forward in 2011/12. If you are interested in becoming a partner or would like further information, please contact me via info@wsud.org or (02) 9895 6206.

Cities as Water Supply Catchments Research Program – Blue Print 2011

The Cities as Water Supply Catchments (CWSC) Research Program (refer <http://www.watersensitivecities.org.au/>) has released its first deliverable - *blueprint2011*. A document underpinned by a 500 page literature review progressed by CWSC researchers, the resource describes *Stormwater Management in a Water Sensitive City – To harness the potential of stormwater to overcome water shortages, reduce urban temperatures and improve waterway health and the landscape of Australian cities*. To download refer: http://www.watersensitivecities.org.au/?page_id=5056

Effectively a “how to” guide, the document provides an evidentiary snapshot based approach to assist practitioners in their efforts to progress sustainable urban water management. For example, the document can be used as definitive evidence to support the following claims, while justifying to senior management why they should be integrated into organisation policies and protocols:

- ‘*water sensitive urban design is the process and Water Sensitive Cities are the outcome*’ (p9);
- ‘*Designing resilient stormwater harvesting schemes need to focus on ensuring that they are adaptive to a wide range of possible seasonal rainfall and water demand scenarios*’ (p 19);
- ‘*Measuring the full impact of any investment option in any given context requires a shift to value-based decision making across space and time*’ (p 35).

For more information about the CWSC Research Program and how to join the Sydney Metropolitan Consortium refer <http://www.wsud.org/cities-as-water-supply-catchments/> Member organisations actively

participate in and benefit from the development of research outputs like blueprint2011 (including future versions) and other research outputs. Members also receive directed assistance and capacity building interventions to aid the adoption of research outputs into organisational policies, practices, protocols through regional capacity building initiatives. If you would like further information, please contact me on (02) 9895 6206 or via info@wsud.org

Sydney Water – Water Recycling Education Centre – Now Open

A new Water Recycling Education Centre was opened in Sydney on 21 February 2011 to explain the role of water recycling in securing NSW's water supply. The centre was designed to enhance classroom learning for universities, TAFE colleges and high schools, professional and trade groups, and key community groups. Featuring a suite of audiovisual and learning technologies including video conferencing, interactive touch screens, exhibition displays and a Smartboard, the venue allows visitors to understand:

- What recycled water looks like;
- Links between what they have learnt in the classroom and the practice of water recycling;
- Technology used to produce recycled water;
- People and jobs involved in the water recycling industry;
- Current and potential uses of recycled water.

Refer: <http://www.sydneywater.com.au/education/Tours/tourStMSTP.cfm>

BASIX - Outcomes Reports & Five Year Cost Benefit Review

The 2006-09 BASIX Multi-Dwelling Outcomes report and the BASIX Post-Implementation Cost-Benefit Analysis are now available on the BASIX website. The reports complement previously published reports undertaken by the BASIX monitoring program between 2004 and 2010 and include results from the ongoing commitments and actual performance monitoring programs:

- 2006-09 BASIX Multi-Dwelling Outcomes
- BASIX Post-Implementation Cost-Benefit Analysis
- BASIX Alterations and Additions Outcomes
- Water Savings
- Energy Savings
- BASIX Single Dwelling Outcomes.

Refer: <http://www.basix.nsw.gov.au/information/monitoring.jsp>

Metropolitan Green Space Program – Building Sydney's Recreational Trails

The NSW Department of Planning's Metropolitan Greenspace Program aims to support the delivery of high quality, regionally-significant open space and assists councils with the financial costs of:

- Regionally-significant open space capital works;
- Regionally-significant open space planning and design.

Metropolitan Applications for the 2011 funding round opened on 28 February 2011. Applicants need to complete an application form following consideration of the guidelines. Further information on the Metropolitan Greenspace Program (in particular the application process) can be obtained by attending the

annual workshop. Please contact the MGP Management Team for further information on this event via greenspace@planning.nsw.gov.au or on (02) 9228 6243.

Refer:

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Programsservices/FundingPrograms/MetropolitanGreenspaceProgram/ta/bid/130/Default.aspx>

NSW Environmental Education Grants Program 2011 – Workshop Series

Expressions of Interest for the NSW Environmental Trust's Environmental Education Grants Program opened on 19 March 2011 and closes 21 April 2011. In this regard, the NSW Environmental Trust have arranged a series of workshops. If you haven't already attended the March 2011 sessions, I would encourage you to register as soon as possible for April as bookings close 1 week beforehand. This is a great opportunity to workshop your ideas for an environmental education project and learn about:

- The 2011 Environmental Trust education grants;
- Effective project planning;
- Tools for monitoring and evaluating your education project;
- Application process.

Held at DECCW, level 2, 1 Fitzwilliam Street, Parramatta, NSW 2124, please note the following two remaining session times. Please book via (02) 8837 6093 or info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au:

- Thursday, 14 April 2011: 6pm to 8pm;
- Friday, 15 April 2011: 10am to 2pm.

2011 Stormwater Industry Association of New South Wales – Call for Abstracts

The 2011 Stormwater Industry Association of New South Wales Conference will be held at Cypress Lakes Resort, Hunter Valley, NSW from the 6th - 9th September 2011.

The Call for Abstracts for Concurrent Papers and Conference Posters is now open. Abstracts associated with the conference theme 'Stormwater: Addressing Local Issues' are invited. Refer <http://www.gemsevents.com.au/Resources/SIANSWCallforAbstracts.pdf>

Sponsoring Water Industry Events & Activities – Grant Funding

The Sydney Catchment Authority sponsor water industry events and activities to help industry build and share knowledge that will benefit the practices of the water industry and ultimately maintain and develop water quality and supply outcomes. Applications are considered by the SCA Grants Committee, which meets at least four times per year. Sponsorship applications can expect to wait up to three months for a response. The SCA also sponsors projects that offer educational outcomes within communities or projects that are consistent with, and help to further, the SCA's mission, values and goals. Refer: <http://www.sca.nsw.gov.au/about/sponsorship.html>

Urban Developer – Urban Water Software Development Tool - eWater CRC

The Urban Developer software models and assesses systems based on multiple and alternative service delivery strategies, for successful Integrated Urban Water Management. Including spatial scenarios ranging from the individual block, through to cluster level and over temporal scales from a five minute

storm burst to continuous modeling over months or years. Urban Developer has the versatility to answer a wide range of technical questions with regard to the urban water cycle, and how allotment level decisions can impact on mains supply, stormwater and wastewater at a larger scale. Refer <http://www.ewater.com.au/products/ewater-toolkit/urban-tools/urban-developer/>

WSUD Radio Interviews – Capacity Building Tools

A new section has been included on the Tools and Resources page of the WSUD Program's website, entitled *WSUD Radio – Capacity Building Tools* at <http://www.wsud.org/tools-resources/>. If you know of any radio interviews or other material that would benefit our network, please don't hesitate to email me a link via info@wsud.org. You may also like to email the following via your own networks or refer it to your elected officials via your own internal newsletter.

Professor Tony Wong's interview on American Radio on 20th May 2010 concerning *The Water Paradigm Shift: The "water sensitive city" of the future and campaigns for water savings now* (Boulder Green Building Guild Footprint Radio). The recording considers real ways to redefine water conscious cities, buildings, and people. Also interviewed are Melissa Essex Elliot, Manager of Water Conservation at Denver Water and Jeff Woodward from the Center for Resource Conservation is also interviewed. Refer:

<http://jendar.tchmachines.com/~greenb/footprint//BGBGFootprintRadio-Episode3-05202010.mp3>

ABC Rearvision Radio Program on Wednesday 17, February, 2010 recorded *The Tale of Two Cities* about how over the past ten years Australian cities and towns have faced water shortages and water restrictions, yet Singapore, which once imported 80 per cent of its water, has become self sufficient. What lessons can Australian cities learn from the Singapore case study? Refer:

http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2010/02/rvn_20100217.mp3

Is Victoria's Desal Worth the Cost? Was recorded on 1 February 2011, Mike Woods, ABC Reporter and reports a critique of Melbourne's desalination plant, which costed \$5.8 billion and while still under construction has added \$100 per year to every Victorian's water bill. Refer:

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/breakfast/stories/2011/3126348.htm>

National Stormwater Industry Association 2010 Conference Papers – Free Download

This excellent and comprehensive series of Conference Papers detail current stormwater management thinking and practice, and includes papers on

- *What it really costs' to install WSUD devices in urban 'retrofit' situations – collating construction data from a number of actual projects* (Knights et al);
- *Planning for WSUD in Open Space* (Leinster et al);
- *Stormwater Flow Management Objectives for stream protection* (Walsh et al).

Refer: http://www.gemsevents.com.au/stormwater2010/conference_papers.shtml

Australian Museum Eureka Prizes - Professor Peter Cullen Prize for Water Research & Innovation

Entries and nominations are now open for the 2011 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes, including the National Water Commission sponsored \$10 000 Professor Peter Cullen Eureka Prize for Water Research and Innovation: Awarded to an individual, team or organisation for research and innovation that has made or has the potential to make an outstanding contribution to the sustainable use and management of

Australia's water resources. Entries for this and other Eureka Prizes are open until the 6th may 2011.
Refer: <http://www.nwc.gov.au/www/html/3006-eureka-prize-sponsorship-progress.asp?intSiteID=1>

CSIRO – Rainwater Tank Governance – 10 Minute Survey

CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, which has as an aim to provide public good outcomes, is currently undertaking a project on the issue of governance of rainwater tanks. This survey is directed at water, plumbing and building professionals in private and government agencies around Australia and aims to find some baseline data on concerns (in particular relating to operation and maintenance) and solutions that may help resolve such concerns. Your participation in the survey would be greatly appreciated, and it shouldn't take more than 10 minutes to fill it out. Refer: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Rainwatertank>

External Events and Training

Following are links to WSUD related events over the next 3 months and which have been entered on the External Events Calendar of the WSUD Program website. For events scheduled in subsequent months, refer also to: <http://www.wsud.org/events-training/>

- [Wed 6/4/2011: Fundamentals of Erosion & Sediment Control for Main Road Construction](#)
- [Tue 12/4/2011: Anaerobic Digestion - A Sustainable Solution](#)
- [Wed 27/4/2011: MUSIC: Introductory Course](#)
- [Wed 27/4/2011: MUSIC: Intermediate Course](#)
- [Fri 29/4/2011: MUSIC: 1 Day Advanced](#)
- [Mon 9/5/2011: Ozwater 11](#)
- [Mon 9/5/2011: Ozwater](#)
- [Mon 16/5/2011: WASH Conference 2011](#)
- [Wed 18/5/2011: Source Catchments: Introduction](#)
- [Wed 18/5/2011: Sensible Adaptation Measures for Wetlands](#)
- [Thu 19/5/2011: Source Catchments: Intermediate](#)
- [Wed 8/6/2011: NSW Sustainable Development Conference - Improving Environmental Planning](#)
- [Fri 17/6/2011: MUSIC: Development Application Assessors](#)
- [Mon 27/6/2011: Flood Mitigation Conference](#)
- [Wed 20/7/2011: MUSIC: Introductory](#)

Please forward the e-newsletter via your networks and for those who may benefit.

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