

April Newsletter

This month featuring highlights such as **SCCG Regional Water Quality Monitoring Program, Awards Program – Water, Water Industry Competition Act 2006, WSUD Conceptual Design Guideline, SIA Seminar Presentations** and much more.



Hello All,

I am very pleased to announce that the following organisations have committed to participate in the Cities as Water Supply Catchments through a Consortium led by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. Consortium Partners have committed \$10,000 plus approximately \$2,050 administration fees (paid to the SMCMA to facilitate governance, capacity building initiatives and communication) per year for the 5 years of the Research Program. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made this possible; it was an absolutely mammoth group effort. Thank you all:

- Auburn Council;
- Fairfield City Council;
- Hornsby Shire Council;
- NSW Department of Planning;
- Parramatta City Council;
- City of Sydney;
- Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority; and
- Warringah Council.

If you were unable to seek senior level commitment to participate as a member of the above consortium because approval time frames were too short, refer to Section 6 – Research Linkages & Opportunities to learn about the extension until mid-June 2009. Otherwise, you can give me a call to talk about it directly.

I was reading yesterday that the United Nations forecasts that by 2030, nearly half of the world's population will be living in areas of 'high water stress'. Compounded by climate change, it is estimated water scarcity could displace as many as 700 million people globally. Sitting at my desk writing this newsletter it is difficult to imagine what this world will look like and especially, as I drink from my tap filled glass. So what are we doing locally to ensure that we can meet current demands while preparing for population growth – recently described to me as the “elephant in the room” in our transition to Water Sensitive Cities?

Sydney's 2008 Metropolitan Water Plan progress report determines that plans for securing our water supply through diversification - a target of 70 billion litres of recycled water or 12% of Sydney's water needs by 2015 and via dams, recycling initiatives, desalination and water efficiency. To read a copy of the report and learn about the measures currently being used or in development refer

http://www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/about/2008_progress_report

To keep up-to-date on our progress locally, you may like to subscribe to the Water for Life Program's newsletters via http://www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/newsletter/newsletter_subscription. That is, the Water for Life Program coordinates water education across greater Sydney, which supports and encourages the greater Sydney community to play their part by using water more efficiently. Play your part and ensure your communities are up-to-date via your own communications.

If you're still not convinced of the benefits, read this article about water efficiency and connectivity with energy efficiency: <http://www.greenerbuildings.com/news/2009/02/27/water-efficiency-key-energy-savings>

As ever, and until next month or earlier if you are a Sydney Metropolitan Council, be in touch.

Cheers, K.

Kate Black

Program Manager

The **April 2009 (No. 57) WSUD e-newsletter** contains information on:

(1.) SCCG Regional Water Quality Monitoring Program **(2.)** Awards Programs – Water **(3.)** Water Industry Competition Act, 2006 **(4.)** WSUD Conceptual Design Guideline **(5.)** SIA Seminar Presentations **(6.)** Research Linkages & Opportunities **(7.)** Grants & Rebates **(8.)** Events Calendar **(9.)** Websites of Interest

1. SCCG Regional Water Quality Monitoring Program - Comments

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) has engaged Dr Ian Armstrong to improve the usability and accessibility of the Water Quality Monitoring Program Toolkit originally launched as a CD-Rom in 2000. Web based, the final version will be launched mid year and aims to assist councils (and other stakeholders) undertaking water quality monitoring projects. SCCG is seeking comments on their draft version situated at <http://edit.dev.environmentalmonitoring.keysoft.com.au/> and regarding the following to ensure the toolkit is in line with council needs. Please provide comments via geoff@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au by end of April 2009 and in terms of:

- Usability;
- Content;
- Gaps;
- Navigation issues;
- Practicality;
- Is it applicable for multiple monitoring purposes;
- Does it achieve aims: *“A user oriented resource for the design and implementation of environmental monitoring programs”*.

2. Award Programs – Water Categories

Our version of the Oscars, the **Banksia Awards**, are on again in 2009, applications close on 11 May 2009. The Water Category focusses on the “Protection, conservation or enhancement of Australia's freshwater resources and marine environments”. However and as with previous years, there are many more categories your organisation may wish to submit an entry for. For more information, refer <http://www.banksiafdn.com/index.php?page=131>

The Australian Museum is also calling for entries and nominations for the **2009 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes**, the largest national award scheme for research into critical environmental sustainability issues. For more information on how to qualify for the Research & Innovation prize category: Land & Water Australia Professor Peter Cullen Eureka Prize for Water Research and Innovation or other categories please refer to <http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka> or email eureka@austmus.gov.au. Entries close midnight on 1 May 2009.

The **United Nation's Association of Australia's World Environment Day Awards** nominations are now open and close on the 01 May 2009. Awards will be presented at a dinner held on World Environment Day, 5 June 2009 in Melbourne. Among other categories, you may wish to apply for the Local Government Awards and/or Excellence in Sustainable Water Management. For more information and to view the other categories, refer <http://www.unaavictoria.org.au/pages/awards-program/world-environment-day-awards.php>

3. Water Industry Competition Act, 2006 – Revenue Opportunity?

The NSW Government introduced the Water Industry Competition Act 2006 (WICA) as part of its strategy for a sustainable water future to harness the innovation and investment potential of the private sector in the water and wastewater industries. The Act also establishes a licensing regime for private sector entrants to ensure the continued protection of public health, consumers and the environment. A corporation (other than a public water utility) must now obtain a licence under the Act to construct, maintain or operate any water industry infrastructure or to supply water (potable or non-potable) or provide sewerage services by means of any water industry infrastructure. For more information on the licensing regime please go to <http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/water/private-sector-licensing/private-sector-licensing.asp>.

Keeping in mind the growing market for recycled water and the inevitable increase in the cost of potable water, Sydney Metropolitan council's may wish to consider opportunities from the sale of recycled water to third parties as a potential revenue stream to supplement WSUD capital works and/or operation and maintenance budgets

4. Water by Design Program – WSUD Conceptual Design Guideline

Drafted to assist urban design professionals, it was designed to conceptualise and develop design solutions that integrate best-practice urban water management into urban developments. Developed in collaboration with leading practitioners from the disciplines of engineering, freshwater ecology, urban design, urban planning, and landscape architecture; the guideline is also supported by training courses held in South East Queensland, both the guideline and training hold relevance across much of Australia. Copies of the guideline are freely available for download: <http://www.waterbydesign.com.au/conceptguide>

Otherwise, you may also like to visit my website to see the guidelines developed and released by NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change. Release dates for those yet to be finalised are also available: <http://www.wsud.org/literature.htm>

5. Stormwater Industry Association – Seminar Series

The NSW Stormwater Industry Association's seminar series presentations are available on line for those who were unable to attend either session. Councils may be particularly interested in Jan Orton's (Marrickville Council) and Anthony Collins' (Parramatta City Council) presentations from the seminar held in March – *“Put your Stormwater Management Plan in the Bin?”* and detailing the initiatives their organisations embarked upon building commitment and capacity to encourage the uptake of sustainable urban water management practices. Refer: <http://www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater/Seminar.asp>.

6. Research Linkages & Opportunities

Consortium Partners have committed \$10,000 plus approximately \$2,050 administration fees (paid to the SMCMA who will coordinate communications and capacity building initiatives from the project) each year for the 5 years of the Research Program.

Monash University confirmed that Councils can still join the SMCMA led Consortium up until contracts are signed in July 2009. As such, any council who still wishes to participate can do so by seeking senior management approval and providing a letter of intent by mid-June 2009. Committed funds must match other consortium member's contributions.

For more information about the Consortium or benefits for your council of participating in the project, please refer to further detail at: <http://www.wsud.org/seminar.htm>

7. Grants & Rebates

Please refer to <http://www.wsud.org/wsud.htm> for a comprehensive list of grants, rebates and other initiatives, which are updated monthly. You may also like to read the following document [http://www.wsud.org/downloads/WSUD Links/Grant Application Tips.pdf](http://www.wsud.org/downloads/WSUD%20Links/Grant%20Application%20Tips.pdf) for ideas on how to better leverage off grants to supplement and deliver our own initiatives while developing designing and delivering projects more strategically and in partnership with organisational and regional stakeholders.

Of particular interest to councils this month may be the following new additions on my website, refer to the above link for further information:

- Australian Government's National Urban Water and Desalination Plan - Stormwater Harvesting & Reuse Projects;
- Department of Planning's Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program;
- Department of Environment and Climate Change's Residential Rebate Program.

8. Events Calendar

The following events are scheduled over the next few months:

- FEFLOW Groundwater Modelling Course, Sydney. 28th April to 1st May 2009. Refer: http://groundwater.com.au/images/stories/courses_and_conferences/courses/flyer-feflow-modelling-courses-2009.pdf
- EcoForum Conference & Exhibition Water Focus, Sydney. 28th to 30th April 2009. Refer www.ecoforum.net.au/2009
- WSUD 09 – Towards Water Sensitive Cities and Citizens. Perth. 5th-8th May 2009. Refer www.keynotewa.com/wsud09
- NSW Sustainable Development Conference, Dockside Convention Centre. 12th -13th May 2009. Refer <http://www.halledit.com.au/nswsdc>
- Australian Water Association's Project Management for the Water Sector - Master Class, Deloitte 225 George Street, Sydney 13- 14 May 2009. Refer <http://www.awa.asn.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section= b May 09 b Project Management for Water Infrastructure&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=11898>
- Centre for Environment Training: Domestic Greywater Management for Sustainable Reuse Hornsby, 18 May 2009 \$379.50 per person. Contact 02 4954 4997 or mail@environmentaltraining.com.au
- MUSIC Training. Sydney. 27th to 29th May 2009. Registrations close 20 May 2009 <http://www.toolkit.net.au/training/TrainingDetail.aspx?id=1000075>
- Practical WET workshop on 'Recent approaches and techniques in managing wetlands' Sydney Olympic Park Authority. 4th to 5th June 2009. E-mail: wetworkshop@sopa.nsw.gov.au.
- NSW Maritime's Oiled Shoreline Assessment and Cleanup Course. Cronulla, Sydney. 16th to 17th June 2009. \$100 per person. Contact rob.lea@maritime.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9364 2435
- Stormwater 2009 – Lets think systems. NSW and VIC Stormwater Industry Association Conference. Albury Wodonga Convention Centre. 7th – 10th July 2009. **Early Bird Registrations close 15th May 2009.** Refer www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater for more information.

9. Websites of Interest

The following websites may be of particular interest to Councils who may like to promote them within their own organisation, communities and/or use the information, tools and resources within their own initiatives:

Environmental Defenders Office – Fact Sheets - The EDO produces a range of plain English Fact Sheets to explain different aspects of New South Wales and Commonwealth laws which affect the environment and environmental campaigning. <http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/factsheets.php>

Bridging the States Floodplain Conference – Entitled “One Floodplain One Unified Approach”, the 2009 NSW and Victorian joint Flood Management Conference was held in Albury Wodonga in February 2009. Papers and presentations may be downloaded at <http://www.floodconference.com.au/CallForPapers/>

Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures –The following page details findings from a research project that provides a better understanding of how different irrigation methods are used around Sydney Metropolitan homes and identifies opportunities for achieving significant water savings. Including tools, practices and strategies, which will encourage more efficient urban irrigation design, installation and operation to deliver the most significant reduction in overall water use:

<http://www.irrigationfutures.org.au/projects.asp?ID=24#Irrigation%20Toolkits>

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.