

June Newsletter

This month featuring highlights such as **The Stormwater 09 SIA Conference, LGSA NSW Council NRM Engagement Capacity, Water Sensitive Cities Report, USSA Report – Barriers to Sustainability** and much more.



Hello All,

Unfortunately, we are still having technical difficulties with the GIS Register at the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. I know from your emails how keen people are to see this up and running and as am I. I am assured; July will be the month of release, so keep an eye out over the next few weeks for my email announcement.

I would like to congratulate Penrith City Council for achieving Sydney Water's 'Five Star' water management rating. Since joining the Every Drop Counts Business Program in 2006, their council water use has reduced by over 94 million litres. The council is now using automated irrigation systems and rain sensors at playing fields, reusing backwash at swimming pools and installed water efficient taps and showerheads at all council facilities.

Penrith is one of 44 Sydney councils working with the Every Drop Counts team and who are collectively using three million litres less water each day in 2008 when compared with 2007 water usage figures. Measures include efficiencies, conservation, best practice initiatives and replacing potable sources with recycled water, where possible.

Those practitioners who did not showcase their environmental leadership at the SIA Conference, may like to use the opportunity of 2009's Local Government Week – Keeping it Local. Held from the 3rd to 9th August, the initiative is a good opportunity to '*focus on the positive outcomes your council achieves, the breadth of work your council undertakes and your council's plans for the future*'. The Local Government Week website lists suggested activities, logos, posters and a list of activities other councils did last year. Raise the profile of your council's water sensitive urban design initiatives amongst your community and build their capacity to participate in the future.

For more information, refer www.LGweek.lgsa.org.au

As ever and until next month, be in touch.

Cheers, K.

Kate Black

Program Manager

The **June 2009 (No. 59) WSUD e-newsletter** contains information on:

(1.) Stormwater09 SIA (NSW&VIC) Conference **(2.)** LGSA NSW Council NRM Engagement Capacity **(3.)** Water Sensitive Cities Report **(4.)** USSA Report – Barriers to Sustainability **(5.)** IWC Training & Scholarships **(6.)** www.wsud.org Website Updates **(7.)** Research Linkages & Opportunities **(8.)** Grants & Rebates **(9.)** Events Calendar **(10.)** Websites of Interest

1. Stormwater09 – SIA NSW & VIC Joint Conference – Albury NSW

Stormwater09 – Lets Think Systems is the 13th NSW Stormwater Industry Association (SIA) Conference is a joint collaboration with the Victorian and NSW SIA branch. The event's themes include Stormwater Harvesting, Water Quality Management, Policy and Planning and Stormwater Systems. Coupled with networking opportunities and an exhibitor tradeshow are pre-conference workshops and a technical tour. Keynote Speakers include Rebekah Brown from Monash University's Urban Water Governance Program. Conference registration close 3 July 2009, based on my experience at last year's event and this year's schedule of speakers, I highly recommend attendance. For more information, refer

<http://www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater/>

2. LGSA Report – NSW Council Capacity to Engage & Participate in NRM

The Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA) published a report in July 2008 that communicated the results of a survey identifying the varying capacity of NSW councils and highlights areas where council might need support to strengthen the delivery of Natural Resource Management (NRM). The broader NRM focus is directly translatable to the narrower scope of sustainable urban water management. Council officers may like to consider these findings when developing projects, programs and initiatives, particularly when engaging Federal and State Government and/or leveraging off existing initiatives to develop more robust capacity building and/or education initiatives. Copies of the report may be downloaded via:

http://www.lgsa.org.au/resources/documents/Survey_Report_Finalversion.pdf

3. Monash University – Water Sensitive City Workshop Findings Report

The results of Monash University's Water Sensitive Cities Workshops held in the Metropolitan cities around Australia with a total of 529 participants overall with 119 in Sydney (second only to Melbourne's 162) have been summarised in a report produced by the International Water Centre. The key findings in the context of water sensitive cities include:

- Issues;
- Opportunities;
- Characteristics;
- Priority actions;
- Personal actions – practitioner level;
- Constraining and enabling factors;
- Recommended action for governments.

Key messages identified and based on an analysis of the raw data are also included in the report and will, I am sure, continue to inform future initiatives developed by Government, Researchers and industry. For example, workshop participants on a generic level identified that State Governments should take a leadership role visioning water sensitive cities; align policies and integrate planning; commission large demonstration projects and invest in intellectual capital; and build awareness about what a water sensitive city entails.

Keep an eye-out in further editions of this e-newsletter for future outcomes and opportunities that will benefit all of us in our individual and collective efforts to transition to water sensitive cities. Copies of the report may be downloaded at:

<http://www.watercentre.org/resources/publications/attachments/Creating%20Water%20Sensitive%20Cities.pdf>

4. USSA's Barriers and Drivers to Sustainability in Local Government

The Urban Sustainability Support Alliance has released a report delivered on their behalf by the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney encompassing the following derived from desktop literature reviews and interviews with nominated individuals:

- The main drivers and barriers in relation to achieving sustainability in Local Government experienced by council staff;
- The tools and approaches being used by NSW councils to measure progress towards sustainability;

- A summary of evaluation frameworks and tools used more broadly in Australia and overseas.

In addition to the barriers and drivers identified by councils, practitioners may be interested to read the support requested by councils - type of training, skills development, information referral (eg. case studies, templates and evaluation tools), mentoring, benchmarking, funding resources and advocacy on policy issues, communities of practice amongst councils (information sharing and networking). Councils themselves, may be interested in the tools for evaluating projects and programs and assisting decision making. Download a copy of the report for free at:

http://www.lgsa-plus.net.au/resources/documents/Drivers_and_Barriers_to_Sustainability_in_Local_Government.pdf

5. IWC Master of Integrated Water Management - Training & Scholarships

The International Water Centre (IWC) is offering full and partial tuition Water Leader Scholarships to study the **Master of Integrated Water Management** in 2010. Multi-disciplinary in nature, the program offers a whole-of-water cycle approach with lectures delivered by water professionals and academics in a range of disciplines, from around the world and IWC member universities (Queensland, Griffith, Monash and Western Australia). Applications close 1st August and are as follows:

- **Full scholarships** – AU\$36,000 – cover all tuition costs for the three semester program (Australian and international students).
- **Partial scholarships** cover some tuition costs (Australian and international students). Scholarships are available for full-time and part-time study. (part-time study option available to Australian citizens and residents only)

Refer: www.watercentre.org/education/programs/scholarships or email: scholarships@watercentre.org and telephone +61 7 3123 7766

6. www.wsud.org Website Updates

The following information, tools and resources have been added to my website and as follows:

Planning Guidelines Page:

The National Water Commission's Online Water Governance Resource that explains the key water management institutions (who is responsible) and legislative and administrative arrangements (how it is done) for each Australian State and Territory.

Refer: <http://www.nwc.gov.au/www/html/1112-water-governance.asp?intSiteID=1>

Technical Guidelines Page

Regional MUSIC Guidelines are available as follows:

- **Brisbane City Council**, version 7 (available since 2003):
http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/bccwr/building_and_development/documents/pollutant_export_modelling_guidelines_v7_2.pdf
- **Gold Coast City Council**:
http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/t_standard.aspx?PID=5782
- **Mackay Regional Council**:
http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/business/strategic_planning/stormwater_management/music_model_for_urban_stormwater_improvement_conceptualisation_guideline

The **Construction and Establishment Guidelines: Swales, Bioretention Systems and Wetlands** were produced for South East Queensland, but has relevance across much of Australia. Freely available for download (<http://www.waterbydesign.com.au/CEguide>), the document includes the following:

- Civil and landscape specifications;
- Step by step construction and establishment procedures and protocols. Printed on A3, the documents could be laminated for use on-site during construction;
- Sample sign-off forms and checklists for certification and compliance;
- Clear illustrations and photographs.

WSUD Literature

The NSW Diffuse Source Water Pollution Strategy provides, for the first time, a framework for coordinating efforts in reducing diffuse source water pollution across NSW. The Strategy promotes partnerships, provides a guide for investment, and provides a means to share information on projects and their outcomes across the State. Refer:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/water/09085dswp.pdf>

Water Service Association of Australia's (WSAA) Position Paper No. 3 – Vision for a Sustainable Urban Water Future builds on the identified emerging challenges facing Australia's urban water industry (rapidly increasing investment programs, rising water pricing, public health, skills shortages, higher community service expectations, urban/rural water trading, managing water/greenhouse outcomes, impacts of drought and climate change and institutional reform) to deliver a proposed roadmap for the water industry based on the following issues:

- Integrated water management;
- Sustainable pricing;
- Responding to climate change and carbon trading;

- Industry structure and competition reforms;
- Regulatory reform.

The report provides practitioners an overview of industry thinking and potential direction that councils could incorporate into their planning, policy and operations and whether metropolitan or regional.

Refer: <https://www.wsaa.asn.au/Publications/Documents/WSAA%20PositionPaper%203%20-%20Vision%20for%20a%20Sustainable%20Urban%20Water%20Future.pdf>

This project, **Environmental Water Requirements to Maintain Wetlands of National and International Importance** culminated in a report, which Council officers and consultants may like to consider and/or translate to the development of policies and projects within the Sydney Metropolitan region and as follows:

- A comparison and analysis of various methodologies used for the determination of environmental water allocations for wetlands (Chapter 3);
- A framework for environmental water allocations for wetlands (Chapter 4);
- Opportunities and limitations for environmental water allocations for wetlands (Chapter 5).

The report is available for download at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/environmental/rivers/nrhp/wetlands.html>

Weblinks

NSW Government's Water for Life's new interactive website is available at: <http://www.waterforlife.com.au/>

7. Research Linkages & Opportunities

Two opportunities this month include the following, please forward the first one to your decision makers in council and to ensure funding is allocated in the 2010/11 council budget; and promote the second to your research and consultant's networks and schools within your LGA:

While some councils wanted to participate as a funding partner in Monash Universities **Cities as Water Supply Research Program**, they were unable due to time and budgetary constraints. As a result, existing Sydney Metropolitan Consortium members have come up with some concessions to enable these councils to seek funding and therefore still participate via funding from 2010/11 budget cycles. Additional council who wish to join the Sydney Metropolitan Consortium are welcome on the proviso they comply with the following conditions, please contact me via wsud.org for more information or assistance in promoting the initiative to your superiors:

- LGA's are situated within the Sydney Metropolitan Region;
- Sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

- Provide written commitment by 30 June 2010 of paying \$20,000 plus a \$2,050 consortium administration fee in the first year (2010/11) and \$10,000 plus \$2,050 consortium administration fee per year in the subsequent three years (2011/12 to 2013/14). Note, the \$2,050 administration fee would be reviewed annually and in accordance with Research Program Work Plan revisions and may therefore change incrementally.

The CSIRO supported Science in Schools Program are looking to pair school teachers and scientists (doctoral candidates, applied scientists, engineers, technical/laboratory assistants and others who work in a science-related area). Teachers sign up with the program to work with a scientist and scientists nominate their preferences for age groups, subject areas and location. Please be assured there is flexibility to set up the partnership in a way that suits both (style of partnership, frequency of visits, amount of interaction with students, preferred schools etc).

Refer: <http://www.scientistsinschools.edu.au>

8. 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. A new addition this month includes the 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>

9. Events Calendar

The following events are scheduled over the next few months:

- Randwick Council's Local Living Economies - Michael Shuman in Conversation with Sydney Sustainability Educators. Randwick Community Centre, 27 Munda Street, Randwick. 1 July 2009, 3 to 5pm. Essential for catering purposes RSVP to Fiona Campbell at fiona.campbell@randwick.nsw.gov.au
- ICEWarm and the Australia Water Association's Australian Water Industry Essentials Course. Sydney New South Wales. 7th to 8th July 2009. Refer: http://www.icewarm.com.au/userfiles/File/AWIE_multiple_09_lr.pdf

- DECC Resource Efficiency Training for Environment Officers (Free), Hunter Region 8 July 2009. Registration via Lindy.Woodburn@advitech.com.au. Limited numbers only. One day course includes:
 - Resource (energy, water, materials & waste) efficiency techniques;
 - Roles of council officers in promoting sustainability;
 - Practical tips on working with businesses to maximise resource efficiency.
- Stormwater 2009 – Lets think systems. NSW and VIC Stormwater Industry Association Conference. Albury Wodonga Convention Centre. 7th to 10th July 2009. Refer www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater for more information.
- LGSA's Local Government Water Management Conference. 9th to 11th September 2009. Deniliquin, NSW. Register at www.WaterConference.lgsa.org.au
- Irrigation Australia's Irrigation Efficiency Training Course, Sydney. 8th and 9th September 2009. Refer: <http://www.irrigation.org.au/assets/pages/3A3D2AA5-1708-51EB-A6B76F5407434232/IEC%20Sydney%20Sept%20093%2Epdf>
- 12th International River *Symposium*. Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. 21st to 24th September 2009. Refer: www.riversymposium.com
- International Water Association's Efficient2009: Efficient Operation and Management Conference, Sydney Exhibition and Conference Centre. 25th to 28th October 2009. Refer <http://www.efficient2009.com/index.htm>

10. Websites of Interest

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

Social Learning for the Integrated Management (SLIM) and sustainable use of water at the catchment scale. The research, which ran from February 2001 to May 2004 and involved about 30 researchers from France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom; was about how social learning approaches and how they informed progress towards more integrated and sustainable management of water at the local level. Filled with case studies, guidelines and publications, the site may be of interest to policy makers and practitioners involved in the management of water and other natural resources:

<http://slim.open.ac.uk>

Of particular interest to water educators may be the policy briefings:

<http://slim.open.ac.uk/page.cfm?pageid=policybriefs>

The **International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management (ICE WaRM)** provides a national focus and international gateway to Australia's education, training and research expertise in water.

ICE WaRM promotes the connectivity between Australia's leading universities generating easier access for both national and international individuals, institutions and organisations to source the courses or programmes that best suit their interests. ICE WaRM also facilitates a series of scholarships, formal visits and exchanges and fellowship programmes, which are available to students, distinguished academics and industry professionals. For more information refer: <http://www.icewarm.com.au/index.php>

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.