



SPOUTING

Volume 1, Issue 3

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Is a Stormwater Levy required?

With the enormous interests and efforts over the years, in creating the best Integrated Stormwater strategies for the state, is it legitimate to ask what funding models are best able to ensure that the right projects can be delivered and maintained in providing liveability outcomes for the communities they serve.

The recent change of government in Victoria and the refreshing policy context that the Living Victoria roadmap process has the potential to deliver has sparked a little review of past history.

In 1999, with an understandable desire to set a new range of policy directions, the Bracks Labour Government announced its \$22.5 million Victorian Stormwater Action Program (VSAP) under its Greening Victoria policy, with a key aim of protecting water quality in Port Phillip Bay. The CSIRO Best Practice Guidelines were published at around the same time and were the product of research into stormwater management over the preceding years. Broadly, the VSAP model involved municipalities developing approved Stormwater Management Plans which would then be eligible for partnership funding and the program was supported by a number of capacity and knowledge building activities (eg Clearwater).

Funding under VSAP ran for a three year period (although project implementation continued for several years afterward) and in total \$50 million worth of stormwater investment was made across 273 projects. It is unclear why VSAP was discontinued, but perhaps one of the issues was very nature of the funding model which led to uncertainties around cost escalations and ongoing liabilities for maintenance. Certainly these are still questions which lurk around the traps when stormwater is mentioned in some circles.

10 years later, and we have continuous research efforts into various aspects of stormwater and integrated water management, one of the worst droughts in south eastern Australia's history, and a largely unpopular decision to construct Australia's largest desalination plant and a north-south pipeline.

CHAT AROUND THE TRAPS

While there has been growing interest amongst the broader water industry in Integrated Water Management and considerable federal government interest in developing localised water solutions, there still seems to be lacking a fundamental, ongoing and sustained funding mechanism that allows the range of necessary players to participate in an optimal manner.

The Ballieu government has provided the Living Victoria process, which provides promising outcomes for stormwater management for marine ecosystem protection a whole host of liveability benefits ranging from flood mitigation, resource efficiency, and place making. But is this sustainable?

In NSW, the state government legislated to allow Councils to voluntarily include a stormwater levy as part of the funds they could collect from their ratepayers and set out some principles to guide the expenditure of revenue collected. The stormwater levy provides a ongoing source of funds that can be used to develop projects, supply capital for implementation and ensure that maintenance activities can be carried out.

It is a legitimate question to ask of the MAC process, the broader stormwater industry and the range of supporting associations and institutions that will be needed to deliver a Living Victoria, what funding models are best able to do justice to past lessons learnt and ensure that the right projects can be delivered and maintained to deliver Liveability outcomes for the communities they serve.



Thanks Melbourne Water!

We give a very big thanks to Melbourne Water this month, for their ongoing support of Stormwater Victoria.

Melbourne Water have continually shown their commitment to the principles of integrated, sustainable stormwater management advocated by Stormwater Victoria, as long-term avid members and generous sponsors.

They recently kicked this commitment up to another level, by taking an innovative approach to sponsorship. Their munificent offer to sponsor our annual and ordinary events for the next three years truly highlights the value they see in our association, and we are thrilled to accept this.

As we are all aware, it is only with the support of our partners in the industry, such as Melbourne Water, that we are able to continue and improve our programs to deliver sustainable urban water management solutions and raise the awareness of stormwater management within the wider community.

There are exciting times ahead for us in stormwater and we look forward to working with Melbourne Water to achieve our common goals on smarter integrated water management.

Thanks Melbourne Water – we luv ya!

Stormwater Victoria Study tour scholarship

Stormwater Victoria is pleased to announce a \$5000 sponsorship to contribute towards participation in the 2011-12 Water Sensitive Cities study tour being organised by Melbourne Water.

To apply for the SV scholarship prospective candidates should fill out the application form downloadable from the Clearwater website (<http://www.clearwater.asn.au/>) and tick the box indicating they are applying for the SV sponsorship and follow the instructions for filling it out and lodgement.

This tour builds upon the experience of two previous tours which visited sites of interest in the United States, Europe and South East Asia. These tours have shown the strong value of developing strong professional networks which have

endured and many of the past tour participants are recognised as industry leaders and champions in developing alternate approaches to urban water management.

To be eligible applicants must either be current financial members of Stormwater Victoria or Victorian nominees of SIA sustaining members.

Entrants will be judged on the merit of their application, and in particular the leadership qualities demonstrated and how the knowledge and networks formed on the tour will be used to promote better management of stormwater.

Applications close on the 3rd August and the successful applicant will be announced at the Stormwater Victoria AGM at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club on August 10th.

Employment Opportunity – Regional Stormwater Advisor

Do you have a background in stakeholder engagement with experience in building and maintaining relationships?

Do you have experience in stormwater management?

Are you looking to work within an organisation of 'change makers' and contribute to making a difference?

An exciting opportunity exists to join the Clearwater team as a Regional Stormwater Advisor. Clearwater is hosted by Melbourne Water, a significant business which manages water supply catchments, sewage, along with rivers, creeks and major drainage systems. This role within the Clearwater Team will provide you with the opportunity to make a difference and contribute to a positive work environment.

In this 15 month fixed term position as the Regional Stormwater Advisor you will provide advice and support to regional Victorian Councils on new and emerging water-related policy as well as the implementation of Victoria Planning Provisions. You will be responsible for building the capacity of councils in stormwater management and promoting consistent approaches across local government boundaries.

This position is funded by Department of Sustainability, Environmental Protection Authority and Municipal Association of Victoria.

Visit [Melbourne Water](#) for a full position description and how to apply. Closing date: Tuesday 26 July, 2011

Water Leader Scholarships

Are you from local government do you and have a passion for water? Do you have a strong commitment to developing your leadership skills?

There are currently three scholarships for the new [International Water Centre Water Leadership Program](#) available for Victorian local government employees.

These scholarships are funded by Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne Water and Clearwater.

This unique program is designed for emerging leaders at the project to middle management level who want to be more effective at exercising influence, driving change, and advancing more integrated forms of water management.

The IWC leadership program has key industry support from the Water Services Association of Australia and the Australian Water Association. The delivery team involves some of the water industry's most experienced executive leaders including Rob Skinner, Jude Munro, John Langford and Mark Pascoe.

Visit [International Water Centre's](#) website to find out more about the program, scholarships, and how to apply.

2011 Annual Seminar

What an event!

We have had some fantastic feedback on this year's Annual Seminar from both attendees and speakers.

One speaker commented that it was a great opportunity to share their city's projects and learn from others states.

Others say it was well themed

and really enjoyed the networking and the food.

Rob Gell was entertaining and informative as usual but unfortunately could not stick around for the panel session in the afternoon.

A big thanks to Sheridan Blunt (Vice President) for doing a fantastic job filling those

shoes.

A really big thanks goes to the organising committee for this event, particularly Damien D'Aspromonte, for the mammoth effect they put in organising this event.

It is a real credit to them as the event was very professional and without a hiccup.

2011 Excellence Awards

Our Excellence Awards event was launched at the Annual Seminar last month. This is one of our very exciting annual events, which recognises and encourages excellence in the innovation, development, completion and management of stormwater projects and the people involved. It is a great celebration of our peers in the industry, and there are numerous categories including:

- Excellence in Strategic or Master Planning
- Excellence in Infrastructure
- Excellence in Asset Management
- Excellence in Research, Innovation, Policy or Education

The Minister of Water, The Hon. Peter Walsh, told me personally he would be honoured to be our guest for the night and presenting the awards.

Book the **7th September** in your diaries as this is party night at Crown!

See our website for more details and think about what projects you can nominate for an award. This is your chance to be proud of your achievements and your peers would love to learn about it. Entries close 22nd July.

2011 Annual General Meeting & "Who Else is Who"

Round of golf at Royal Melbourne anyone? It's that time of the year again – our AGM. This year the date is August 10th, and You will receive official notice shortly.

It is a rather official occasion but we try to make it fun and interesting each year.

No, we are not have the meeting on the golf course (for all golfing nuts). It will be in the function rooms and it is combined with the

Who Else is Who seminar.

Our Who's Who early this year was a huge success. By demand we've had to organise another, hence the "Who Else is Who?"

Some information on these events will be available on our website shortly. Come and here the achievements of last year and meet your new committee.

South Australia Tour ... Postponed

If it's not rain clouds then it is ash clouds!

Members of SV received disappointing news that the SA knowledge sharing tour of stormwater harvesting projects had to be postponed due to ash clouds generated by Puyehue volcano in Chile.

However there is good news, as it has been rescheduled for 4th & 5th August. This is timely, as the 3rd round of Stormwater Harvesting funding has just been announced. It also gives those who were unable to attend the previous tour a chance to juggle the diary and lock down these dates.

The tour has become very popular so the networking opportunities are on the rise. More information on this tour will be on our website soon.

EVENTS

Dates for the Calendar

July 22nd, 2011:
Entries close for Excellence Awards

July 26th, 2011:
AILA/SV Mini Seminar
Botanical Gardens

Aug. 5th, 2011
Submissions close for Flood Mitigation Inquiry

Aug. 10th, 2011:
Annual General Meeting

Sept. 7th, 2011:
Excellence Awards

Oct. 19th, 2011:
Mini Seminar #4

Have Your Say!

The Parliament of Victoria has launched an inquiry into flood mitigation infrastructure in Victoria with the recent widespread flooding that has occurred.

The Environment and Natural Resources Committed has invited SV to make a submission as we are viewed as a key stakeholder in stormwater management.

The terms of reference particularly relate to best practices and emerging technologies for flood mitigation; management of levees and waterways management.

SV has already approached The Minister for Water and DSE in relation to the Floodwise program used by Brisbane City Council. Although this system has suffered a little from network issues, the program has proved to be quite effective from a cost and function perspective.

Submissions are due by 5th August so we would need to coordinate a response by 29th July, in order to compile into the one submission.

Please indicate your interest to:
office@stormwatervictoria.com.au



Environment
and Natural
Resources

IN THE OFFICE

We have some sad news and some glad news.

After 3 years of service Ros Dann has resigned from SV just prior to the Annual Seminar. It is sad to see her leave but the good news is that Kate Dunn has hit the ground running and helping us stay on track. We are still catching up a little but have made progress on improving our financial reporting as well as finalising our membership packs.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

With the beginning of the new financial year, comes the time to renew your Stormwater Victoria annual membership, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your membership support over the last year.

This year, we have adjusted our membership categories to provide an exciting range of payment options offering great value for corporate members, and greater flexibility for firms with up to 12 staff interested in keeping abreast of the latest developments in the stormwater industry.

As a member, you will continue to enjoy the following benefits:

- Discounts on all our functions, events and seminars
- Subscription to our bi-monthly State-based e-newsletter called *Spouting* providing information on topical stormwater issues related to Victoria
- Subscription to our quarterly national-based newsletter called *SIA Bulletin* which provides a bigger picture of what all States are doing in stormwater management.
- Opportunity to advocate to government and business for sustainable stormwater management by having access to Stormwater Victoria committee members
- Opportunity to request information and education
- Lobbying power with the State and National backing to achieve Stormwater Victoria objectives.

We are constantly working to update and improve information and resources to our members. Some of the initiatives which are currently under development are:

- Updating the website in conjunction with a national communications strategy
- Hosting of the 2012 National Stormwater Conference in Melbourne
- Coordinating the national GPT validation project with CSIRO
- Continuing to build our relationship with the new Minister for Water, Hon. Peter Walsh

You should be receiving a membership application/renewal form via email, and the form will soon be uploaded to the website.

Should you have any questions regarding your membership, please don't hesitate to email the Stormwater Victoria office at office@stormwatervictoria.com.au, or call the office on 0409 978 453.

Thank you again for your membership support of Stormwater Victoria, and we look forward to seeing you soon at one of our upcoming events.

www.StormwaterVictoria.com