



Are Planning Controls the Best Approach to WSUD on Private Land?

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Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) has been increasingly undertaken in the public realm over the last 10-15 years. With public land estimated as only 30-40% of the total land area of cities, this leaves a substantial 60-70% of land where WSUD is not being applied.

However, in the last 5-10 years, a growing number of Councils in Melbourne have introduced provisions into their planning schemes for private land to address this issue. In 2017, one inner Melbourne Council undertook a review of the effectiveness of WSUD treatment systems on private lot developments, with some revealing outcomes and shortfalls. This was then compared to alternative approaches to achieving healthy stormwater outcomes on private land.

As WSUD implementation on private land progresses, industry is beginning to collectively investigate and analyse the various implementation and compliance approaches being applied for WSUD on private land across greater Melbourne.

Which approaches are working and / or most successful and what can Council's learn from each other, especially from the 'early adopters'? Can stormwater controls on private land be better linked with interdisciplinary green infrastructure controls that also address urban forestry and urban ecology?

What is the exact role of urban planners in this, and how can practitioners from other disciplines work alongside urban planners to support integrated water solutions on private land?

A review of the approaches can help guide all decision makers about how to approach WSUD on private land as we step into the next decade.

This presentation will:

- a) share lessons learnt, and present the findings from the WSUD on private land project
- b) outline the structure, opportunities and limitations provided by our planning controls
- c) discuss possible next steps for the journey towards implementing WSUD on private land.