



Better Best Practice Notes – Stormwater and Beyond

Sheridan Blunt¹,

¹*Loci Environment & Place Inc., Seddon, Australia*

Is environmental best practice, the best we can do?

As a capacity building organisation, Loci's experience working with State and Local Government has uncovered a discrepancy between the latest environmental evidence and what is being delivered as environmental best practice.

Not only do we have greater knowledge that can be applied, but too often the rules, standards and regulations coined as 'best practice' limit the environmental outcomes that projects can achieve. It is often felt that Best Practice is barely above Minimum Standards.

To address this gap, Loci has developed a number of Better Best Practice Notes that present exciting new evidence, coupled with a series of steps and actions for use by practitioners who have a role in planning our cities. And we call them 'Better' Best Practice Notes to recognise that our best is always getting better.

These Better Best Practice Notes can be attached to project briefs, or can inform in-house policy development and contract management. They can also be used by the community to support greater environmental outcomes.

They are purposely designed as a leap forward for the majority of practitioners and projects as they strive for best possibilities.

An important feature is the cross-disciplinary approach applied. This is helpful to stormwater quality professional as it sets out methods to support other goals such as reducing air quality and increasing the application of traditional ecological knowledge in our work. At the same time, other professions such as arborists and ecologists will learn how they can adjust their own work to help deliver our stormwater improvement goals.

Loci will present how and why our newly developed 'Better Best Practice Notes' set out the best steps and evidence to help today's busy practitioners apply city sustainability. And also work through examples of how each of us can apply Better Best Practice in our work.

A sample of Loci's Better Best Practice Notes includes:

- Planning for Passive Irrigation
- Carparks and Green Infrastructure

- Healthy Soils for Urban Landscapes
- Locating Trees for Living Infrastructure Outcomes
- Urban Design for Air Quality
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge for Cities

This presentation will provide some exciting new evidence in different areas of urban planning, design and management that we hope you can find a way to implement in your own projects.

