



## Water-Sensitive Communities – Understanding Context and Enabling Collaboration

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The term community describes a group of people having a particular characteristic in common, for example living in the same place. However, both urban and rural places are comprised of multiple communities. Different communities have different relationships with water; the type and diversity of these relationships are as varied as the communities themselves. Location (place) is one of several factors that influence community relationships with water. Strengthening the relationships communities have with water and enhancing their capacity for collaboration supports the transition toward water-sensitive communities.

Clearwater delivered a series of integrated water management capacity building workshops across Regional Victoria in May and June 2017. Workshops were held in the Coliban Water, Central Highlands Water, Barwon Water and Wannon Water regions and were supported by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as part of the implementation of Water for Victoria (Action 5.7). The workshops helped to build a shared understanding – by individuals and across organisations – of the role of water in supporting the values and needs of communities with their region. They also encouraged participants to explore possibilities enabled through collaborative, integrated water planning at local and regional scales.

This presentation provides a reflection on the workshops focusing on: (i) the identification of a group of common requirements for collaborative and integrated water planning and management, and (ii) an exploration of several planning characteristics identified as having an important influence on the required process and likely outcomes of initiatives aimed at increasing the sustainability, liveability and resilience of communities.