



An Integrated Water Management Approach for the Monash National Employment Cluster

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The Monash National Employment Cluster (NEC) is one of seven major centres of health, education and employment identified in Plan Melbourne 2017 – 2050. South East Water and Water Technology embarked on an Integrated Water Management (IWM) Study to provide greater value to our communities by identifying synergies in water cycle planning and management. The study involved state and local government bodies and research organisations.

Given the projected growth over the next 35 years, it was realised that an integrated approach would be required to manage the existing and future water demands within the NEC. Successful place-based IWM planning requires the organisations responsible for managing the urban water cycle to be committed to collaboration, sharing data and implementing integrated servicing solutions. A key product of the study was an online map of potential opportunities, while the main intangible outcome was piloting a method to efficiently engage multiple time-poor stakeholders. The online map greatly improved the efficiency with which project synergies could be identified, reviewed and shared, and was used to plan a large stakeholder workshop at the conclusion of the project.

Through initial one-on-one consultation, plans, projects, objectives and targets were collated across the organisations and plotted online in a GIS environment for all to share. Clicking on a site revealed the status of the project, contacts and, the integrated water opportunities that were brought to the table by each. Once spatially displayed, it became easier to identify neighbouring opportunities for collaboration. The final workshop used the map to find potential collaboration opportunities. The workshop was an outstanding success with many connections made, agreements on working together into the future and most impressively, early discussions of merging projects from different parts of the water cycle that previously didn't know about each other.