



## Embedding Successful WSUD Asset Management Practices

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Local government are responsible for managing more WSUD assets than ever before. This increase in WSUD asset numbers is exacerbating the existing WSUD Asset Management challenges faced by councils from an asset class that does not neatly fit within their traditional maintenance regimes.

The challenges are due, in part, to WSUD being a relatively new technology that combines civil (i.e. pits and pipes) and landscape (i.e. plants) components. This requires input and involvement from a range of skillsets and staff in the planning, design, construction, establishment, handover and maintenance of these assets.

A local government community of practice has formed to actively develop a successful and sustainable approach to WSUD Asset Management. These councils identified the key challenges as 'bringing it all together', i.e. integrating the not-so-complex individual elements within clear, effective, documented processes and systems that support effective asset management.

A group of six Greater Melbourne councils (Moreland, Moonee Valley, Yarra, Greater Geelong, Brimbank and Melbourne), supported by Melbourne Water's Living Rivers program, have embarked on a process mapping and gap analysis project as the first, critical step to understand and document current practices and identify specific priorities tailored to each council, which subsequently can be addressed.

Specifically, the project:

- Documented existing WSUD Asset Management processes and systems at each council
- Identified gaps and opportunities
- Identified strengths
- Recommended improvements
- Provided a report and presentation to each council and a collective summary report and presentation

Following completion of this project, a subsequent stage will implement the recommendations to embed the successful WSUD Asset Management Practices with participating councils – effectively creating a best practice 'blueprint' for the broader industry.

This paper will provide background on the process mapping and gap analysis undertaken, and provide an overview of some of the key lessons and recommendations for councils.