

1. Introduction

Council's Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Policy for Council Infrastructure Assets was adopted in May 2016. This Policy is supported by Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Guidelines for City of Yarra Works, May 2016.

2. Policy Purpose

The purpose of the Policy is to:

- articulate Council's position on WSUD; and
- ensure there is an integration of effort across council divisions to achieve sustainable and integrated WSUD projects resulting in improved liveability outcomes for the community.

WSUD principles are that council seeks to:

- improve liveability outcomes in all planning and works activities;
- improve the urban environment with increased green infrastructure
- reduce dependence of high cost potable water;
- use storm water for non-potable purposes;
- create water projects of various scales;
- protect public health and the environment; and
- enable heat mitigation.

3. Policy Scope

Council is bound by the regulations listed in the Environmental Protection Act to undertake improvements to stormwater management and in particular the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) Waters of the Yarra Catchment - Schedule F7 and Waters of Port Phillip Bay - Schedule F6

Key outcomes of WSUD projects are:

- an improved urban environment with healthy waterways containing reduced stormwater volumes and pollutants;
- increased and higher quality green infrastructure, thereby enabling a range of social and environmental benefits including urban heat mitigation;
- a healthier, greener municipality enabling greater contact with nature for the community and a more attractive urban environment benefiting businesses and the community;
- the replacement of potable water for irrigation of open space; and
- improved greening of the urban environment including streetscapes, with passive irrigation of street trees.

4. Policy Statement

It is the Policy of Yarra City Council;

- To acknowledge that stormwater is an asset.
As the manager of the local drainage and stormwater system Council has the ability to capture, store and use stormwater as an alternative to potable water.
- Require the use of stormwater treatment measures that improve the quality and reduce the flow of water discharged to waterways.
- To identify and investigate WSUD opportunities at project inception, ensuring WSUD principles are included in project briefs and tender documents and in Project Implementation Plans.
Further, wherever possible, incorporate WSUD into the following:
 - kerb and channel reconstruction;
 - new traffic treatments;
 - street tree planting in streets;
 - replacement of permeable surfaces with impermeable where loss of permeability can be feasibly offset;
 - proposed works modifying existing drainage;
 - proposed new garden beds;
 - proposed new community garden projects;
 - construction of new parks and conversion of roads to open space and
 - construction of new Council buildings or renewal, upgrade or maintenance of existing buildings.
- To ensure Council's infrastructure works seek to comply with the best practice performance objectives for total suspended solids, total phosphorus and total nitrogen and litter, as set out in the *Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines*, Victoria Stormwater Committee 1999 (or as amended)
- Continue to cooperatively work with other agencies to implement WSUD projects that benefit the City of Yarra and its environment and create a more water sensitive city.

5. Procedures

All Council officers responsible for the management of Council assets are required to investigate opportunities for WSUD in all works. Council officers are required wherever possible to observe and work towards achieving the adopted policy and targets outlined above.

6. Related documents.

City of Yarra Water Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines 2016.