



MONASH NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND INNOVATION CLUSTER: IWM PRECINCT SCALE STRATEGY

Miss Sarah Hollis¹

¹Water Technology

Biography:

Sarah graduated from the University of South Australia in 2011 with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) with honours. She has been involved within several different streams of engineering including transport engineering, structural design and large-scale agricultural developments before realising her passion for sustainability, the preservation of the environment and conservation of natural resources. Sarah accepted a position with Water Technology 7 months ago within the Integrated Stormwater Management team and has since been heavily involved with the management of stormwater as well as the development and implementation of strategies pertaining to stormwater.

The Monash National Employment Innovation Cluster (NEIC) is located 20km south east of Melbourne's CBD and currently supports 85,000 jobs and generates \$9.4 billion annually for the Victorian economy with the largest concentration of employment outside of the CBD. With the number of employees set to double over the next 35 years, a large investment in infrastructure is required to support business development and ensure the precinct is an attractive place to work. As part of this investment, South East Water with support from Water Technology took the lead to identify precinct scale Integrated Water Management (IWM) strategies through engagement of key stakeholders including Yarra Valley Water, Melbourne Water, City of Monash, City of Kingston, City of Greater Dandenong, Monash University and the Victoria Planning Authority. The engagement series included one on one stakeholder meetings followed by workshops that were targeted at identifying the following;

Current state and future pressures of the Monash NEIC;

Progress towards a common vision for the NEIC and identify institutional arrangements and barriers to achieving it;

Identification and prioritisation of potential IWM projects;

Within the workshop series, overall stakeholder objectives were identified including Liveability, Landscape Health, Waterway Health, Flood Resilience and Diversification of Water Sources with Liveability proving to be the primary focus for all stakeholders. Through an appreciation of the Monash NEIC objectives, several opportunities were identified, primarily the reimagining of Mile Creek. Mile Creek is currently an inaccessible, concrete-lined drain with poor aesthetic and environmental amenity. Three high-level conceptual designs were proposed with the preliminary performance of proposed scenarios assessed across a range of measures relative to each of the stakeholder defined objectives through the application of novel tools developed by the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities. The reimagining of Mile Creek has the potential to not just provide major positive impacts in terms of the identified Monash NEIC objectives but to also be transformative for the NEIC, its residents, employees and key stakeholders.