



## Highway Design, Stormwater Planning and Local Waterways

### Executive Manager Sheridan Blunt<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Loci Environment & Place Inc.

#### **Biography:**

Sheridan Blunt, Executive Manager of Loci Environment & Place has extensive expertise in delivering progressive urban and infrastructure sustainability policy, projects and educational programs to help support city liveability and environmental outcomes.

This direct experience has been spread right across the areas of climate adaptation, urban ecology, urban forestry, urban planning, integrated water management, sustainable transport, land contamination, greenhouse mitigation, waste prevention, green purchasing, and sustainable business.

*Sheridan has been Executive manager of Loci since its foundation in July 2015, and has previously worked as City Sustainability Coordinator at Moonee Valley City Council, Sustainable Water Program Coordinator at City of Melbourne, as an environmental planner in the Philippines, and an urban planner in both the Victorian and NSW State Government. Sheridan also lectures and tutors at the University of Melbourne for its Masters of Urban Planning program.*

As a non-profit organisation seeking new sustainability planning and design solutions, Loci Environment & Place Inc., has been pleased to partner with VicRoads and Major Roads Project Authority to explore environmental excellence initiatives that can be applied in highway design. Our project is designed to 'work beside' the road organisations and confront the barriers for ourselves as we seek implementation of these new sustainability solutions.

Loci, and its supporting specialists, worked to a multi-disciplinary brief to consider new approaches in integrated water planning alongside equally complex and intertwined issues including ecological restoration, wildlife movement, greenhouse emissions, materials reuse and sustainable transport challenges.

The project put us, the same people often thwarted by inflexible road design approaches, on the other side of the problems, which has enabled us to pinpoint and articulate the reasons why these challenges arise. It is clear that all of us in the industry continue to have a role in helping to address these issues as it is not just road engineering processes that are the problem. There are critical gaps across the spectrum of policy, processes, evidence, communication, asset management, maintenance and monitoring need to be addressed. Each issue is generally more practical than monumental in its ability to be resolved.

This presentation will share some of these insights, in particular using a case study from Western Victoria to explain how absent integrated water planning is from the regular approach, and the ways that this can be turned around for future road projects.