



Innovative Passive Irrigation Soak Wells in Moonee Valley

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Biography:

Ralf is an Environmental Engineer, well-recognised within Melbourne's Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and Integrated Water Management (IWM) industry: with seventeen years experience in both private and public enterprise. In all of his work, he has applied his engineering skills within a landscape, green infrastructure and open space context.

Over the last 9 months Ralf Pfleiderer Environmental Consulting (RPEC) has worked with Three Acres Landscape Architecture (3ALA) and Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC) to develop a unique, low cost, passive irrigation approach for street trees in suburban areas. If the trial is successful, the approach is to be rolled out across MVCC. The design development included several site visits and workshops with the relevant officers from across council, including the Engineering Maintenance team. A simple to construct, easy to clean and low cost approach was required. RPEC has seen many approaches tried across Metro Melbourne over the last 10 years with a common failure point, sedimentation across the inlet blocking water getting in. With this in mind RPEC and 3ALA came up with a design that was similar to normal side entry pits, minimised blockage opportunity and conformed to existing maintenance practises for pit cleaning. The soak wells are designed to be placed between existing or new street trees in the nature strip or under footpaths. The soak wells were installed in April 2019 and this presentation will run through some of the on-ground issues and how they were resolved.