

‘Fixing the Gaps’ for Successful WSUD Asset Management

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Biography:

Jamie Comley

Jamie is an Environmental Engineer, Urban Planner and Geographer who has worked in sustainable water management for over 13 years. His experience encompasses a broad range of technical, strategic, policy and research areas associated with implementation of integrated water management and water sensitive urban design, as well as urban sustainability planning.

Jamie holds specialist expertise in WSUD asset management, capacity building and training delivery, environmental program design, stakeholder engagement and integrating sustainable water management into land use planning. Jamie has reinforced his professional skills and knowledge through extensive experience in water corporations, local government, large consulting firms and his own business – both in Australia and overseas.

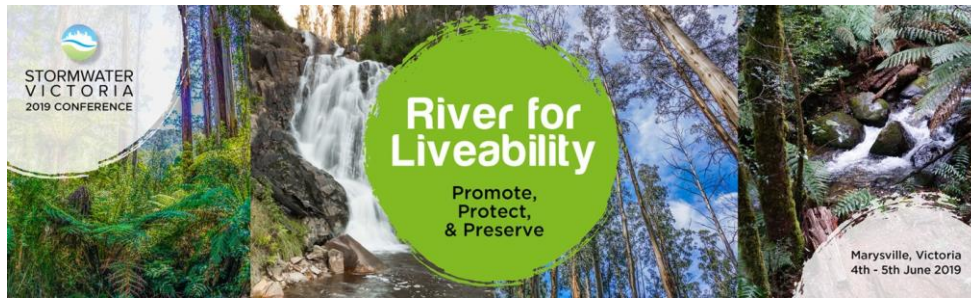
He is passionate about improving sustainability and liveability outcomes for our community and enjoys taking a big picture view and collaborative approach in addressing these issues.

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. These challenges are, in part, due to WSUD being a relatively new technology combining civil and landscape components and requiring involvement of a range of skillsets and staff in the planning, design, construction, establishment, handover and maintenance of these assets.

In late 2017, a local government community of practice formed and commenced a project to embed effective WSUD asset management processes within each council, in order to ultimately improve asset condition and ease of maintenance. This project was undertaken in recognition that, whilst many local government WSUD assets are in relatively poor condition or challenging to effectively maintain, it is primarily deficiencies in the project/asset management processes that are the root cause of such issues.

In order to address these process-related issues, it was agreed that it was first necessary to understand and document the current project/asset management processes utilised by each participating council, and where the deficiencies or gaps may lie.

Over two project rounds, a total of eleven Greater Melbourne councils (Moreland, Moonee Valley, Yarra, Greater Geelong, Brimbank, Melbourne, Casey, Monash, Boroondara, Whitehorse and Cardinia), supported by Melbourne Water’s Living Rivers program, have now completed 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:

- Investigated and 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

This presentation will share the findings and conclusions from the process mapping and gap analysis project, including an overview of key lessons and recommendations, as well as additional insights from councils who have commenced the next stage of the project, i.e. addressing the gaps and recommendations identified.