



A framework to Map Social Values of Waterways and Target areas for investment

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Biography:

Milos is a Technical Leader for Spatial and Information Services and a senior consultant at Jacobs. He comes with a strong conceptual, solution-orientated and project delivery skill set. Milos has +25 years' experience in applying spatial information and technologies across diverse portfolios in the Water and Natural Resource Management and Infrastructure sectors.

Several recent stormwater projects include; The Stormwater Area of Interest tool), Feasibility of Stormwater Management Actions tool, Development of Environmental Significance Overlay Envelopes pilot

Milos' interests lie in the application of spatial information and analysis technology to strategic planning for investment, risk and future development, particularly in the Water Sector. He has a strong belief in pivotal role that information access and communication factor in project success. He uses these as a core organizing principle in designing and delivering solutions. Milos' technical interests lie in information management and integration, workflow automation in strategic planning, and information communication technologies.

Liveability, amenity, social licence to operate, social dividend – these are all ideas and demands that major utilities like Melbourne Water are now having to consider alongside their traditional roles as bulk water supplier and waterway manager for the Greater Melbourne. Liveability is a core theme that is emerging as a metric to measure level of performance in promoting, protecting and preserving social values when managing waterways.

Concepts of liveability and amenity are not new in urban planning, however “mapping” these ideas are still an area of significant contention and development. Liveability is now a key input to planning at Melbourne Water as it is across many regional catchment area.

In the recent update to the Healthy Waterway Strategy (HWS) Melbourne Water was looking to include social value of waterways explicitly as a spatially referenced value (a value at a location and or catchment). Melbourne Water commissioned a pilot project over the Maribyrnong Catchment to test concepts and develop a method that would work within the context of the HWS.

In addressing the challenge the project team need to consider a typology of criteria that would represent social values, document a set of criteria and their spatial representation, define the resolution at which the social value would be assessed, develop a spatial database framework to house criteria and enable interaction and methods to target areas for investment.

In considering these challenges, a critical principle that guided development was “...to assign a management action a decision-maker needs to know both where a value occurs and why that is considered of value...”.

The result of the pilot was an evidence-base (spatial database) that enabled strategic planners at Melbourne Water to explore the different aspects (metrics) of social value and to develop data-driven targeted areas for inclusion into processes like the HWS. The success of the pilot saw the concept rolled out across the whole of Melbourne Waters operational area.