

Understanding the key construction hold points for bio-retention systems and wetlands

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Biography:

Kat leads the design, development and delivery of a range of IWM capacity building initiatives for Clearwater's metropolitan Melbourne program. Kat has extensive experience in the public and water sectors, with a local government background in environmental education and behavioural change programs for the community, and over 6 years of experience in the water industry, having previously worked in the Regional Services team of Melbourne Water managing waterways for river health.

Rachele leads Clearwater's regional Victoria program; a joint initiative between the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Melbourne Water where she works in partnership with regional stakeholders to enable the delivery of integrated water management (IWM) principles in alignment with the State's Water for Victoria strategy. Rachele brings over 8 years of experience in IWM with a background in social research, water sensitive urban design, capacity building and waterway protection.

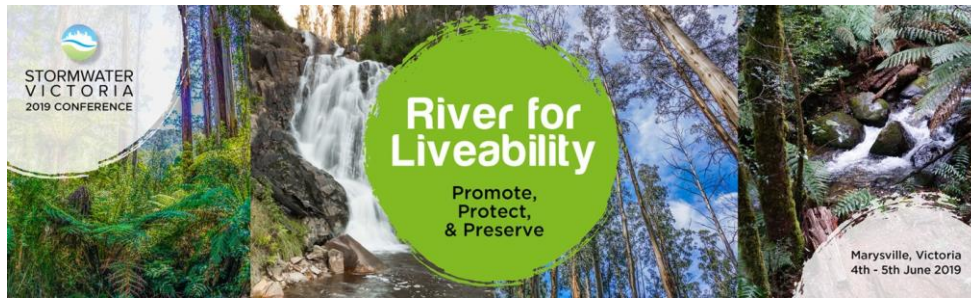
Clearwater's in-house training builds organisational capacity by bringing together multiple disciplines, improving knowledge and skills among Council staff and their contractors, and providing a platform for improved collaboration and processes.

This presentation details a new Clearwater training initiative, and explores the industry need for such training to support Council's implementation of WSUD, the lessons learnt and the subsequent steps that need to be taken beyond the training to embed new thinking and processes for managing WSUD across the entire asset lifecycle.

While Clearwater's popular 'Maintenance of WSUD Assets Technical Training has been delivered in Melbourne since 2012, as an industry, we are realising the importance of building capacity in the entire asset management cycle - from planning through to design, construction, maintenance and handover.

Construction Hold Points Training for bio retention systems and wetlands was originally created by Melbourne Water's Living Rivers Program. When project managing bioretention systems, the Living Rivers team found that Councils were generally unable to provide adequate construction management often leading to the creation of sub-standard assets. The Living Rivers asset audit performed in 2016 further identified that the construction phase was one of the critical points where WSUD systems failed.

Further to the feedback received via Living Rivers, Clearwater's Needs Assessment (first undertaken in 2014 for metropolitan audiences) identified the need for training for contractors, more hands-on



modules with real examples including demonstration projects, and sharing of failures as well as successes.

To create this training, we reviewed the critical hold points stated in the Living Rivers funding contracts, to alert project managers of the most common and potentially problematic points of constructing WSUD assets. In partnership between Living Rivers, Clearwater and Spiire, we developed training specifically for Council staff and their contractors to build in-house knowledge, confidence and skills to ensure that asset overseers understood the key points in the construction of an asset that required particular attention.

Feedback from attendees has been extremely positive and has shown that this training highlights exactly what to look for when arriving on site to complete a construction hold points check. Having people well trained in this area provides a benefit to Councils, industry and the community through the creation of better functioning WSUD assets.