



Unlocking Colac's Future Development Potential via Engagement

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Biography:

Scott is the sector leader for Engeny Water Management's Victorian office in Flooding and Drainage with 14 years' experience in the stormwater industry. His experience includes a range of stormwater management projects including drainage design and Water Sensitive Urban Design, and floodplain modelling. He has gained this experience across projects at various stages of their project-life, from preparing submissions, interacting with specialist consultants through to preparation of construction documentation.

The need for the Colac Stormwater Development Strategy has been driven by Council's planning department as a key input to the Colac 2050 planning strategy to guide the future development of Colac.

The objective of the Strategy was to assess the performance of existing drainage infrastructure through detailed flood modelling and to define the extent of overland flow paths that could impact future rezoning of the town. The Strategy identifies sustainable and economic solutions to address areas of poor drainage performance and enable the future development of Colac to be appropriately planned for. The drainage works identified in the Strategy have been proven, through detailed modelling, to facilitate future development on large areas of currently flood affected land.

Engagement of the local community has been a key input to the preparation of both the Colac 2050 Growth Plan and the Stormwater Development Strategy. Numerous engagement activities were undertaken and included drop-in sessions, meetings by appointment, a detailed Citizen's Jury process and a public exhibition process. The activities were conducted at various times of the day, week days and weekends and well received with the following feedback form the community noted:

"If we wanted more information we felt confident to ask and we were given that information; we were well supported by independent experts in everything from drainage to urban planning.

"The process enabled us to make informed decisions in a democratic way. It was a good process."

This presentation will detail the engagement process undertaken as part of this project with comparisons drawn to engagement undertaken as part of similar projects.