



Melbourne Water drainage schemes: friend or foe?

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Biography:

She has over 15 years' experience working as a Civil and Environmental Engineer. A great majority of this work has focused on Subdivision and Water Sensitive Urban Design through the land development process. She has worked closely with local government, developers, water retailers, and authorities like Melbourne Water to find efficient and economical solutions to many projects. She has knowledge of and experience in the application of various planning, legislatures and Best Management Practices. Her strengths are in the feasibility, concept design, detailed design and construction/superintending phases of a variety of projects including roads, intersections, sewer, water supply, drainage, and water quality assets.

When Clause 56 first landed in Victoria, the residential development industry went into a spin. Anything over 0.4ha needed water quality treatment but how? Melbourne Water's drainage schemes appeared to be the saving grace that allowed developers to pay for treatment elsewhere. It also provided the authorities with a more centralized asset that was easier to monitor and maintain. The schemes were prepared based on high level topography and modelling that considered both quantity and quality. Their focus was to protect the waterways from intense and polluted flows.

Now as DELWP seeks to expand the application to commercial, industrial and capital works, the industry needs to again adjust to the new expectations. Are drainage schemes the answer again? This presentation seeks to explore the complexities of some of the existing drainage schemes. From unknown topographical constraints, landlocked assets, existing culvert control, to smaller land allocations then required or even no land allocated at all!

With Integrated Water Cycle Management plans being required in some councils, we need to look at stormwater with a wider lens. Let's look at why a more integrated approach that incorporates broader assets may be required sooner than we think.