

2026

Stormwater Victoria Conference

1-4 JUNE 2026

LORNE, VICTORIA



STORMWATER
VICTORIA

Call for Abstracts

Cloud to Coast



Call for Conference Abstracts

Abstracts for Presentations are due by
Friday, 19 December 2025

Presenters will be advised of the outcome of their submission by
Tuesday, 17 February 2026

Presenters to confirm their involvement in the program by
Tuesday, 24 February 2026

Full Program released
Tuesday, 3 March 2026

Early Bird Registration Closes
Friday, 20 March 2026

Final PowerPoint's are due by
Friday, 29 May 2026

If you require further information about the 2026 Stormwater Victoria Conference, please contact

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GEMS Event Management
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For information about technical content of presentations, please contact:

Leticia Da Silva Pinto or Ruth McDonnell
Program Convenors
2026 Stormwater Victoria Conference
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Invitation to Participate

The Conference Organising Committee invite you to present at the 2026 Stormwater Victoria Conference, with the theme of **'Cloud to Coast'**. The conference will be held at Mantra Lorne on Tuesday, 2 and Wednesday, 3 June 2026, with optional pre-conference workshops planned for Monday, 1 June and Technical Tour on Thursday, 4 June.

Victoria faces a range of challenges from climate change, a growing population, and a critical need for housing development to meet the needs of its growing population that all impact the water cycle in different ways. This could create the perfect storm, particularly in urban areas, with the potential for unmanaged stormwater to exacerbate flooding and degrade waterway health. Solutions to these issues are also sometimes conflicting and need to be balanced with considered planning, design and management.

These challenges and the range of solutions do however present a range of opportunities for our future, especially in cities and towns. With good planning, stormwater management together with considered asset design and maintenance can help with water security, reducing flooding, supporting waterway health. In turn, fostering biodiversity, and creating cooler, greener, and more resilient spaces for all to enjoy now and in the future.

Conference Program and Audience

The Conference program will include two days of multi-stream sessions and a trade exhibition, providing an excellent opportunity to learn about the latest in product innovation.

The primary audience for the conference is industry professionals and practitioners including engineers, asset managers, researchers, landscape architects, urban planners, developers, sustainability managers, policy development practitioners, politicians, and advisors. These professionals and practitioners come from all levels of the following to name a few:

- Government agencies and non-government agencies
- Local government engineers, environmental scientists, and planners
- Water (including reticulated) related consultants and contractors
- Research and education organisations (academics, students, and community groups)
- Manufacturers and retailers of stormwater and/or Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) proprietary products
- Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Bodies
- Urban Developers

The Conference will bring together thought leaders and innovators, and provide opportunities for the industry to share successes, as well as provide education that can be used to provide tangible benefits for the communities, businesses, and the environment that we all share and benefit from.



Call for Abstracts

The Conference Committee is seeking submissions to conduct concurrent and poster presentations from stakeholders across all facets of the stormwater industry. Authors are encouraged to submit an abstract for review and possible selection as a concurrent oral presentation or as part of a poster session. The Program Committee encourages case studies and examples within presentations as they understand the importance they play in sharing and supporting the key messages.

Concurrent presentations will be offered **30-minute sessions** inclusive of time for questions.

Poster presentations will be on display in the Exhibition Area for the duration of the Conference. Poster presenters will have the opportunity to interact with delegates during the lunch breaks on 2 and/or 3 June.

Under the banner of '**Cloud to Coast**' the Conference is seeking presentations built around several streams.

The Conference will showcase the learnings, advancements, issues and challenges from all aspects of the stormwater industry. We welcome and encourage submissions on policy, planning, modelling, design, delivery, and ongoing management activities that relate to one or more of the various disciplines involved in stormwater management, including:

- Flood management and mitigation
- Stormwater volume reduction, flow controls and ecosystem protection
- Stormwater quality improvement
- Integrated water management and stormwater re-use
- Land-use planning and development
- Monitoring of existing assets performance
- End of life asset activities, such as removal or renewal

Presenters will be required to indicate in which stream they wish their contribution to be considered in, including, but not limited to the concepts below.

Policy, Planning & Education

- Project outcomes based on policy implementation. What have we done well & what can we learn from others (including other countries and areas).
- Engaging communities, traditional owners to incorporate diverse views for establishing policy – what have we incorporated so far. Findings, Learnings, room for improvement.
- Case studies related to: policies and/or programs that are contributing to better stormwater management outcomes.
- How do we consider uncertainty with climate change in policy and planning
- Can education help with stormwater management and community resilience.
- Ways to deal with the range of policies from various areas that affect our industry.



Technical, Research and Innovation

- Potential to use AI in advancing our tools
- AI contribution in advancing research & development
- Are we disaster ready? Disaster preparation and resilience project examples.
- Sharing innovative data collection & management processes to empower others to act and be informed
- Bridging the gap between science, policy, and implementation – how do we consistently incorporate these into studies and designs in a robust and technically defensible way.
- Balancing risks, benefits and costs against community outcomes

Collaboration

- Managing competing priorities and how does it contribute towards a shared vision.
- Adapting to the changing world and learning resilience together.
- Identifying complexities in delivering collaborative projects. Lessons learnt.
- Case studies of working collaboratively with others to achieve common objectives, including with developers, Traditional Owners, and the community
- What data can and should we share for collective understanding and benefit.

Asset Management and Lifecycles

- Are existing projects addressing identified biodiversity Issues, as expected. What's on the ground currently, is it working, what can we do to make it better.
- Are we measuring best practice outcomes in existing assets. Are we achieving the expected outcomes. What can be done better.
- Capacity building: Involving all key stakeholders throughout the asset lifecycle to build capacity and deliver better operational outcomes
- Operationalisation of water systems using smart technology. Improving testing requirements using smart technology.
- How do we foster continual improvement in our work and/or designs to provide lasting community benefit?
- Are current planning controls appropriate for the outcomes we want?

Abstract Submission Guidelines

The following guidelines apply for the submission of abstracts for all presentations.

- All abstracts must be submitted via the online [Abstract Submission Portal](#).
- In total, abstracts should be no more than **350 words in length**. Abstracts exceeding this limit **will not be considered**.
- Submissions must include a biography of the presenter of **up to 200 words**. Submissions not including a biography of the presenter **will not be considered**.
- Submissions must include the following information:

Author(s):	Preferred Given Name, and Surname of all Authors
Presenter:	Name of person/s who will conduct the presentation at the Conference. Multiple presenters are allowed.
Title: e.g.	Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mx, Dr, Prof for all persons listed above
Position:	Official job title of the presenter/s e.g., Stormwater Engineer
Organisation:	The organisation/institution with which the presenter/s are affiliated
Presenter Status:	Authors must advise if this is their first time presenting at a Stormwater Victoria Conference
Sector:	Type of organisation (e.g. local government, state government, consultancy, academic, manufacturer, etc.)
Presentation Upload:	Authors must grant permission for a .pdf version of their slides or poster to be uploaded to the Stormwater Victoria Website post conference. An amended .pdf version can be provided.
Contact Details:	Mobile and email details must be provided for the presenter/s
Presentation Title:	This is the title that will be included in the Program, Conference App, and promotional material for the Conference.
Stream:	Please indicate the most appropriate stream for your presentation based on the options outlined on pages 6 of this document.

Supporting Info:

1. How does this abstract fit the theme that you have selected? (100 word limit)
 2. What are the benefits of attending your presentation? (100 word limit)
 3. What are the 3 key messages that attendees will learn from your presentation?
- Abstracts for presentations should be submitted by no later than **Friday, 19 December 2025**.
 - Presenters will be advised of the outcome of their submission by no later than **Tuesday, 17 February 2026**.
 - Please note that the Conference Organisers and/or Committee will communicate only with the 'first author' of a presentation. In the case of co-authored presentations, it will be the responsibility of the 'first author' to pass on to the co-author(s), communications from the editors.
 - All presenters are **required to register for the Conference**.
 - The committee reserves the right to accept or reject any submissions and extend or shorten presentation duration.
 - If the number of abstracts received exceeds space available, we will preference quality submissions (evaluated against the below criteria), diversity of speakers/organisations represented and opportunities for new speakers.



Abstract Evaluation Criteria

Abstracts will be evaluated against the following criteria:

	Criteria and Guiding Questions	5 To an Outstanding Degree	4 To a Strong Degree	3 Somewhat or Mixed	2 To a Limited Degree	1 Unclear To No Degree
1	<p>Consistency with the nominated stream</p> <p>Does the abstract contain questions/challenges and identify the answers that will be discussed?</p> <p>Must include a brief statement about how your abstract aligns with the nominated stream.</p>					
2.	<p>Originality and Innovation</p> <p>Is the paper an original piece of work, be it research, experience, case studies, or policy development?</p> <p>Does the paper demonstrate innovation in stormwater management, e.g. testing or demonstrating novel techniques, technologies, or policies in stormwater management?</p>					
3.	<p>Significance of the subject/project</p> <p>Does the paper add to the knowledge, understanding and practical application of stormwater management?</p>					
4.	<p>Technical content and methods</p> <p>Is the paper structured to clearly outline the methodology used by the project?</p>					
5.	<p>Shared lessons and replicability</p> <p>Does the paper demonstrate solutions and provide information about the lessons learned?</p> <p>Can these lessons be applied by others, for example through future on-ground projects or policy/strategy development?</p>					
6.	<p>General quality of the material presented</p> <p>Is the paper clearly structured and coherently presented? Abstracts will also be judged on spelling, grammar, and layout.</p>					
	Sub Total					
	Total		Average Score (between 5 and 0)			

Important Information for Presenters

The presenting author/s must register to attend the Conference for at least the day in which they are scheduled to present. Co-presenters must also register to attend the Conference. For all registration enquires and details, please refer to the conference website.

Concurrent Presenters must make their PowerPoint available prior to their presentation and agree for a .pdf of it (or an amended version) to be made available to delegates post conference.

Poster presenters must provide an A0 poster for display throughout the conference and agree for a .pdf of it (or an amended version) to be made available to delegates post conference.

By accepting the terms and conditions of presenting, the presenter(s) grants GEMS Event Management Australia and Stormwater Victoria the right to use any images taken at the Conference for the purposes of future publications conducted on behalf of Stormwater Victoria. This includes, but is not limited to, publication on websites, electronic and print journals, and trade and non-trade publications. GEMS/Stormwater Victoria claim copyright of any image and may 'alter' any image for the lawful purpose of GEMS/Stormwater Victoria and the presenter/s release GEMS/Stormwater Victoria from all claims and liability relating to any images taken or used.

Self-promotion and Commercial promotion in workshops or presentations is unacceptable.

Sponsorship Opportunities

We believe in networked communities and supporting partnerships. If you know of any organisations who may wish to support the Conference as sponsors of your session, please provide details to registration@gemsevents.com.au.

Further Information

Should you require any clarification on anything contained in this document, please contact:

Leticia Da Silva Pinto or Ruth McDonnell

Program Convenors

2026 Stormwater Victoria Conference

P: 0474 129 724 (Leticia) or 03 9872 2481 (Ruth) E: leticia@e2designlab.com.au or ruth.mcdonnell@yvw.com.au

If you require any assistance to submit your abstract via the online system, please contact:

Sarah Robinson

Senior Conference Manager

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