

2025 Stormwater Victoria Conference

2-5 JUNE 2025

WANGARATTA, VICTORIA



Conference Program

More than the sum of our parts:
the value of collective action

PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAM – MONDAY, 2 JUNE 2025

8.00am	Pre-Conference Workshop Registration				
	Navigating Climate Change: Capacity Building Workshop for a Resilient Future <i>Jessica Ward and Jacob Meehan, Spiire</i>		Bioretention 101 <i>Clearwater and Jamie Comley, J Comley Consulting</i>		Aquatic Plants for Constructed Wetlands <i>David Carew, Carew Environmental</i>
Room	Memorial Hall A		Memorial Hall B		Conference Room
8.30am	Welcome, objectives and Introductions Introduction to Climate Change Climate Change Impacts on Stormwater Systems and Flood Risk	9.00am	Session 1 - Introducing bioretention	9.00am	Session 1 - Aquatic plants and wetland performance
10.30am	Morning Tea, Foyer	10.30am	Morning Tea, Foyer	10.30am	Morning Tea, Foyer
11.00am	Current Climate Change Guidance and Regulatory Context in Victoria and Australia	11.00am	Session 2 - Design	11.00am	Session 2 - Features of key aquatic plant species for constructed wetlands
12.30	Lunch, Foyer	12.30	Lunch, Foyer	12.30	Lunch, Foyer
1.30pm	Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Building	1.30pm	Session 3 - Construction	1.30pm 1.45pm	Travel to Field Site Session 3 - Plant identification
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea, Foyer	3.00pm	Afternoon Tea, Foyer	3.00pm	Afternoon Tea, field site
3.30pm	Implementing Climate-Smart Strategies and Final Breakout Group Activity	3.30pm	Session 4 - Maintenance	3.30pm	Session 4 - Wetland inspection with discussion on aquatic plant health/performance
4.30pm	Workshop concludes	5.00pm	Workshop concludes	5.00pm	Workshop concludes, return to Conference venue
5.30 pm	Conference Registration and Welcome Reception , Foyer Exhibition Open				
7.30 pm	Welcome Reception concludes				

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM – TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 2025

Room	Quality Hotel Gateway			
6.30 – 7.30am	Morning Yoga Session			
8.00am	Conference Registration, Tea and Coffee on Arrival			
Room	Alpine Theatre			
9.00am	Welcome to Country <i>Given by a representative of the Yorta Yorta People</i>			
9.10am	Welcome to the 2025 Stormwater Victoria Conference <i>Emily Plymin, Conference Chair</i>			
9.20am	President's Welcome <i>Alice Lisitsa, President, Stormwater Victoria</i>			
9.30am	Opening Address			
9.40am	Platinum Sponsor Address			
9.45am	Stormwater Victoria's VUDM Update <i>Alice Lisitsa, President, Stormwater Victoria</i>			
10.15am	Morning Tea			
10.40am	Move to Breakout Rooms			
Stream	Innovation and crossing boundaries	Inspiring a Shared Vision (Strategy, policy & education)	Full Circle - Design to Operation and back again	Fostering Collaboration and Building Trust
10.45am	Provisional Patent for Stormwater Harvesting and Healthy Waterbody Habitats Using Water Clarifiers <i>Dr. Edmond Lascarlis, City Of Whittlesea</i>	Impact of Climate Change: a scientific approach to determine what to expect on flood planning <i>David Moret, DPM Consulting Group Pty Ltd</i>	Beautifying Kingston's Raingardens: A Creative Approach to Stormwater Management <i>Daniella Gerente, Kingston City Council</i>	Delivering a Water Sensitive Fishermans Bend: working together to support requirements for 'smart' rainwater tanks <i>Caroline Chandler, E2Designlab</i> <i>Dr Dale Browne, E2Designlab</i> <i>Todd Berry, E2Designlab</i>
11.15am	5 Minute Room Change			

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11.20am	Sharing the Load: a pathway for whole-of-catchment litter management through data and partnership <i>Dr. Christine Lauchlan Arrowsmith, Streamology</i> <i>Pearl Elgindy, Streamology</i>	Analysing Flood Risk: A Joint Probability Approach to Local and Regional Hydrological Interactions <i>Steeve Sablada, Afflux Consulting</i> <i>Andrew Allan, Afflux Consulting</i>	Smart Stormwater: Real-Time Control to Improve Stormwater Treatments <i>Dr. Xixi Shi, E2Designlab</i>	Streams from the Start: Understanding, Benchmarking and Co-Designing Urban Headwater Stream Protection <i>Dr. Belinda Hatt, Melbourne Water</i>
11.50am	5 Minute Room Change			
11.55am	Healthy Waterways Strategy Stormwater Targets – Progress Update <i>Gayani Chandrasena, Water Technology</i>	Tackling the Climate Change Challenge: Practical Case Studies in Adaptation <i>Ms Jessica Ward, Spiire</i> <i>Ms Sophie Cant, Spiire</i>	Contemporary approach for wetland renewal <i>Matthew Warry, Nation Partners</i>	Low Cost Frog Spas for Growling Grass Frogs <i>Amanda Dodd, City Of Whittlesea</i>
12.25pm	5 Minute Room Change			
12.30pm	Sediment production during the urbanization process: the damage is done early <i>Paulo Vitor Ribeiro M. da Silva, University of Melbourne</i>	A new approach to Flood Mitigation Assessment <i>Alice Lisitsa, BG&E</i>	Learning from Experience: Casey's Stormwater Harvesting Journey <i>Nausheen Obaid, City of Casey</i>	Water Planning in Dja Dja Wurrung Country: <i>Ross Allen, Three Seeds Agency</i> <i>Caroline Chandler, E2Designlab</i>
1.00pm	Lunch			
1.55pm	Move to Breakouts			
Stream	Innovation and crossing boundaries	Innovation and crossing boundaries	Full Circle - Design to Operation and back again	Fostering Collaboration and Building Trust
2.00pm	From Challenges to Solutions: Transforming Stormwater Management with MrsP across policy, planning and design <i>Dr Christine Lauchlan Arrowsmith, Streamology</i> <i>Dr Geoff Vietz, Streamology</i>	Going Deep: using ASR techniques to supplement flows in Deep Creek <i>Priya Van Ryn, Melbourne Water</i> <i>Wira Yan, Jacobs</i>	Stressed waterways: Enhancing development planning with geomorphic insights <i>Kira Woods, Streamology</i> <i>Sarah Law, Streamology</i>	North East Integrated Stormwater Community of Practice, a case study approach <i>Zoe Blakeney, North East Water</i> <i>Cath Botta, North East IWM Forum</i>
2.30pm	5 Minute Room Change			

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2.35pm	<p>Leaky streets? A permeable kerb and channel designed to irrigate street trees with stormwater</p> <p><i>Dr. Christopher Szota, The University Of Melbourne</i></p>	<p>Small flows, big assets: challenges of designing SWH schemes in the peri-urban environment</p> <p><i>Josie McGushin, Melbourne Water</i></p> <p><i>Gayani Chandrasena, Water Technology</i></p>	<p>We've invested in delivering a long term Flood Mitigation Program in Wangaratta - Now what?</p> <p><i>Priyanka Wickramasuriya, Stantec</i></p> <p><i>Andy Sheehan, Stantec</i></p>	<p>Stormwater Harvesting - Retailers getting in on the action</p> <p><i>Sam Innes, Greater Western Water</i></p>
3.05pm	Afternoon Tea			
3.30pm	Move to Plenary Room			
Room	Alpine Theatre			
3.35pm	<p>Keynote Presentation: Waterways as living entities: what does it mean for the future of stormwater stewardship?</p> <p><i>Prof. Chris Chesterfield, Professor of Practice, Monash Sustainable Development Institute and Dr. Erin O'Donnell, Senior Lecturer and ARC Research Fellow, University of Melbourne Law School</i></p>			
4.25pm	<p>Panel Session: Waterways as living entities: what does it mean for the future of stormwater stewardship?</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Prof. Chris Chesterfield, Professor of Practice, Monash Sustainable Development Institute</i></p> <p>Panellists: <i>Dr. Erin O'Donnell, Senior Lecturer and ARC Research Fellow, University of Melbourne Law School</i></p> <p><i>Sonia Cooper, Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner</i></p> <p><i>Ross Hardie, Director, Alluvium Consulting Australia</i></p> <p><i>Celeste Morgan, Australasia integrated water management lead, Arup</i></p>			
5.25pm	Best Presenter Award			
5.30pm	Day One Wrap Up			
5.40pm	Day 1 Close			
6.30pm	Buses depart Conference Dinner			
7.00pm	<p>2025 Stormwater Victoria Conference Dinner</p> <p>Return transfers between 9.30pm and 11pm</p>			

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM – WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE 2025

8.00am Conference Registration – Tea and Coffee on Arrival				
Stream	Innovations and crossing boundaries	Inspiring a Shared Vision (Strategy, policy & education)	Full Circle - Design to Operation and back again	Fostering Collaboration and Building Trust
9:00am	The Nitrogen Dilemma: Why Sediment Ponds Fall Short <i>Birgit Jordan, South East Water</i>	Merri-bek shares lessons learnt investigating a stormwater offset scheme, exploring trade-offs and local context. <i>Naomi Clarke, Merri-bek City Council</i>	That ANCOLD Puzzle – Sorting out Whats What for Retarding Basins <i>Michael Yule, Spiire</i> <i>Jessica Ward, Spiire</i>	An integrated approach to stormwater management through collaboration - The Bradmill Development Example <i>Tommy Plahcinski, Stantec Australia Pty. Ltd.</i>
9.30am	5 Minute Room Change			
9:35am	GIS-Based Analysis of Green Infrastructure for Control of Flow and Ecosystem Conservation <i>Adrian Darmawan, Spatial Frontier</i>	The top five advances in IWM since the IWM Framework for Victoria <i>Celeste Morgan, Arup</i> <i>Neha Shetty, Arup</i>	Brimbank City Council's IWM journey - There and back again in a western Melbourne municipality <i>David Collins, Brimbank City Council</i>	Turning Peter Hopper Lake from Murky Waters to Clear Solutions: A Tale of Algae, Engineering, and Community Spirit <i>Patrick Jeschke, City of Whittlesea</i> <i>Matthew Gaite, Spiire</i>
10.05am Morning Tea				
10.30am	Move to breakout rooms			
Stream	Innovation and crossing boundaries	Innovation and crossing boundaries	Full Circle - Design to Operation and back again	Fostering Collaboration and Building Trust
10.35am	Discussion on the status of application of Pre-burst in Victoria <i>Dr. Bahman Esfandiar, KBR</i>	PFAS removal by a radial flow cartridge system <i>Brad Dalrymple, Ocean Protect</i>	A Trifecta of Stormwater Harvesting Projects – differences, similarities and lessons learned <i>Mahnoush Najmi, Optimal Stormwater</i>	Flood Mapping Partnerships - Shaping Flood Resilience Together <i>Lucie Bright, Alluvium Consulting</i> <i>Damien D'Aspromonte, Foresight Advisory</i> <i>Nicole Sutherland, Melbourne Water</i>
11.05am	5 Minute Room Change			

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11.10am	Ranking Pipe Blockage Risk: An Innovative Methodology for Flood Resilience and Efficient Maintenance <i>Mehrdad Ahmadi, Rain Consulting</i> <i>Lucy McLaren, Melbourne Water</i>	Law & Order for the maintenance of WSUD assets in Victoria <i>Daniel Rider, Ocean Protect</i>	Determining the ideal inlet and trench size for passively irrigated trees in greenfield streets <i>Dr Paul Hanley, Streamology</i>	Flood to Flourish: Collaborating for Community-Led Flood Resilience Action <i>Prof. Chris Chesterfield, Monash Sustainable Development Institute</i>
11.40am	5 min room change			
11.45am	The next evolution in stormwater models for planning <i>Dr Dale Browne, E2Designlab</i>	Stormwater target guidance to protect receiving waters: What is it and is it gaining traction? <i>Dr. Geoff Vietz, Streamology</i>	Stormwater planning controls and infill development - what happens after the permit has been issued? <i>Kate Matthews, Tract Consultants</i>	From stakeholders to partners, becoming adaptive and collaborative in our approach to manage stormwater <i>Sophie Barton, GHD</i> <i>Osta Surjadi, Melbourne Water</i>
12.15pm	Lunch			
1.10pm	Move to Plenary			
1.15pm	Stormwater Victoria Update <i>Alice Lisitsa, President, Stormwater Victoria</i>			
1.30pm	Gold Sponsor Address			
1.35pm	Keynote Presentation: Whole of life cycle asset management, design and delivery <i>Dr Frédéric Blin, Director, Asset Management, AECOM</i>			
2.25pm	Panel Session: Whole of life cycle asset management, design and delivery Moderator: <i>Dr Frédéric Blin, Director, Asset Management, AECOM</i> Panellists include: <i>Dr Kathy Russell, Research Fellow, Waterway Ecosystem Research Group, School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences, The University of Melbourne</i> <i>Fiona Hoegh-Guldberg, PhD Candidate, RMIT University Centre for Urban Research</i>			
3.35pm	Best Presenter Award Exhibitor Prize Draws			
3.45pm	Conference Wrap Up			
3.50pm	Conference Concludes			

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POST-CONFERENCE PROGRAM – THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2025

8.00am	Technical Tour Registration
8.30am	<p>Technical Tour departs.</p> <p>For this year’s Technical Tour, we will be visiting several locations of interest around the township of Wangaratta. A number of Water Sensitive Urban Design assets, of various scale, purpose, age and level of success have been constructed in Wangaratta and we will be visiting some key examples as part of the Tour.</p> <p>Staff from Rural City of Wangaratta will accompany us to talk about the challenges, successes and shortcomings of each asset or project, sharing important lessons learnt with the group. There will be opportunity for attendees to ask questions and discuss the outcomes of each project amongst the group.</p> <p>Morning Tea and lunch will be provided as part of the tour.</p>
5.00 pm	Technical Tour returns to venue and guests depart

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