



Thirty two percent – the average functionality of GPTs in Australia

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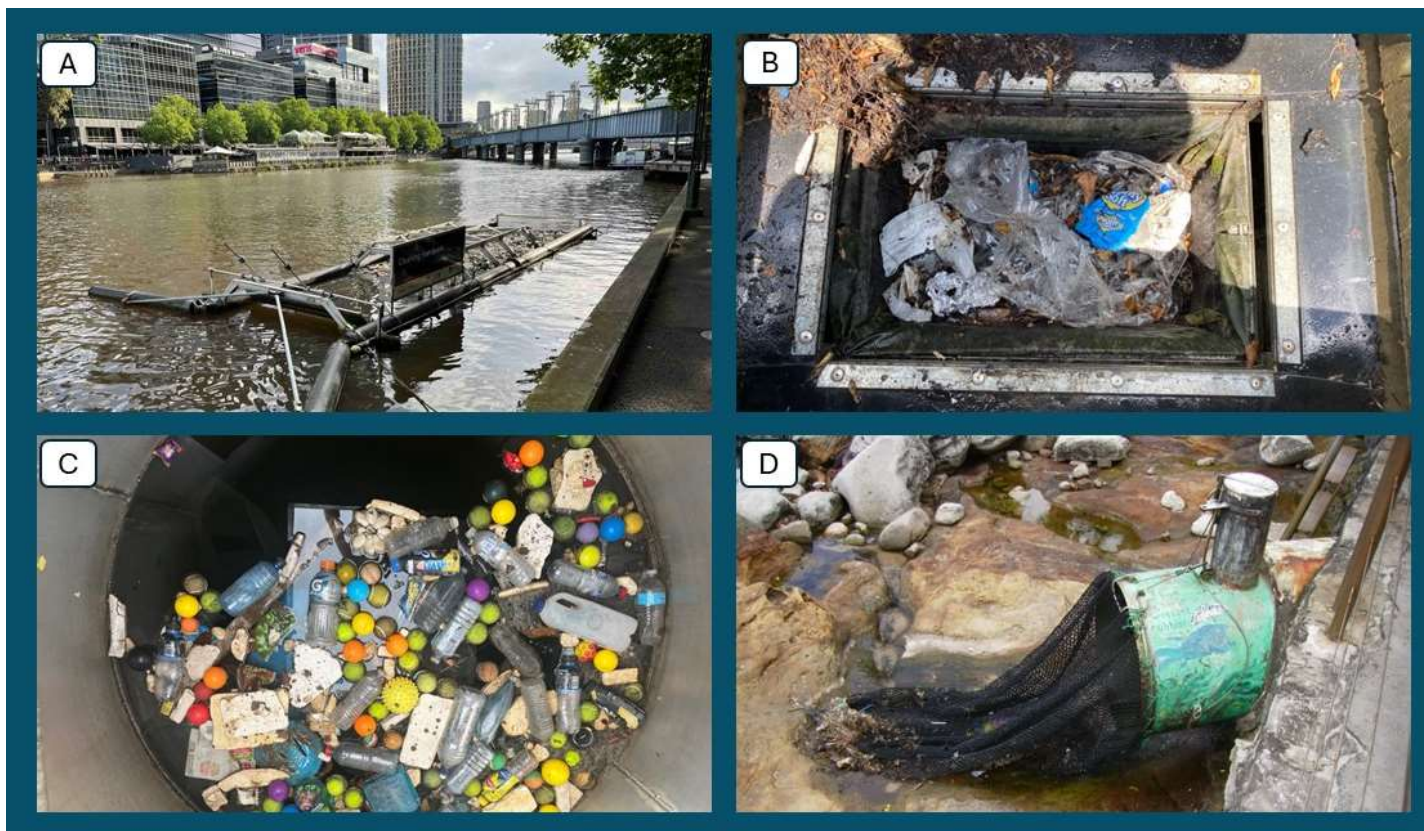




In Australia, around 170,000 tonnes of litter is lost to the oceans each year, predominantly from stormwater outlets.

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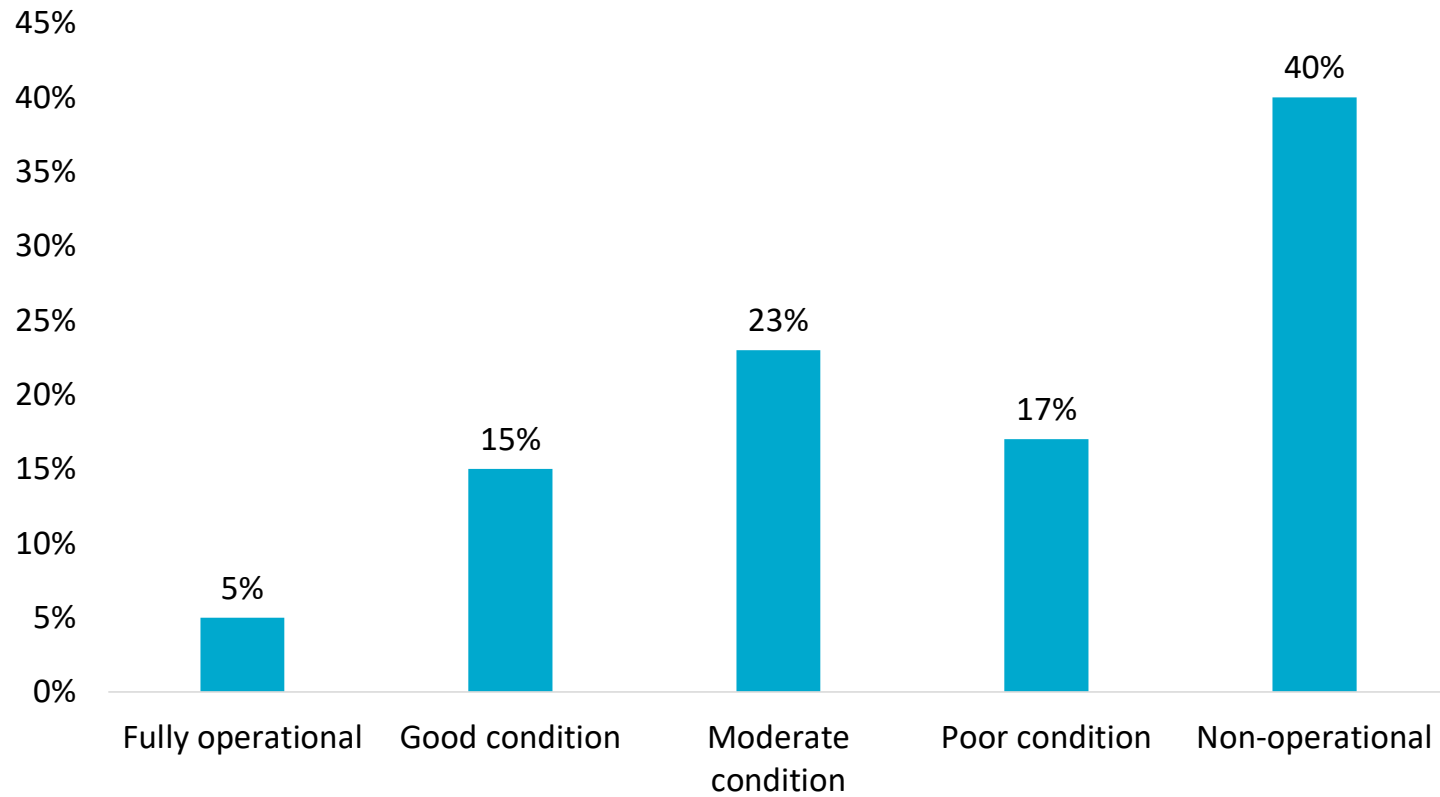
Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs)



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Condition of GPTs in Australia



Condition rating assigned to GPTs (n = 1,269)

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We need to do better!



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Is it illegal to not maintain GPTs?

NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

It is illegal for a “*substance to leak, spill or otherwise escape... in a manner that harms or is likely to harm the environment*” and/or *pollution of waters*

Individual = Up to \$2 million
Corporation = Up to \$10 million



Up to 7 years imprisonment



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Barriers preventing GPT maintenance



Lack of resources (e.g., funding, staff, equipment, specific information about GPTs)



Lack of consequences for not maintaining GPTs



GPT maintenance is a low priority within LGAs



Lack of understanding of the need to maintain GPTs



Lack of clear and aligned stormwater policies outlining GPT maintenance

1. Lack of resources

Challenges

- Money for installation of GPTs but not maintenance.

Solutions

- Ideally, nationwide funding model.
- Stormwater levy in municipality rates.
- More awareness of maintenance costs.
- Stricter conditions/fees for developers handing over the maintenance responsibilities of GPTs to councils

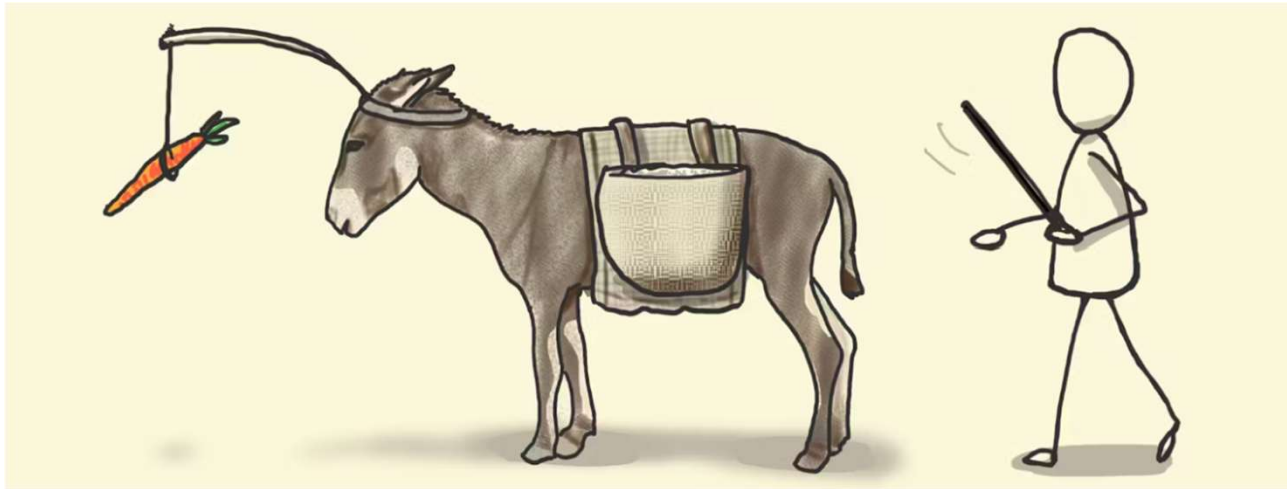


2. Lack of consequences

Challenges

- No established pathway for consequences

Solutions



3. GPT maintenance is a low priority

Challenges

- Stormwater treatment is hidden (physically and metaphorically) → low priority
- Competing issues within a municipality

Solutions

- Increasing awareness
 - Internally (budget requirements)
 - External (public pressure)



4. Lack of understanding of the need to maintain GPTs

Challenges

- Knowledge gaps among stormwater professionals

Solutions

- Shared knowledge – industry responsibility
- Community of practice
- Formalised training



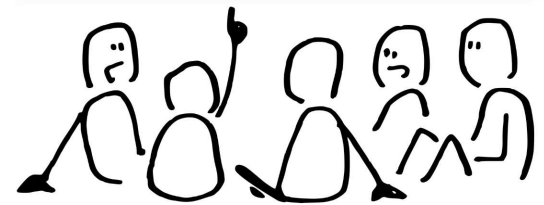
5. Lack of clear and aligned policies

Challenges

- Fragmented policies
- It is hard to make improvements when each jurisdiction is different (state and local government)

Solutions

- Nation-wide GPT standards mandating effective maintenance
- Alignment of best practice



Council guidelines

Improved functionality of GPTs if

- ☛ Following manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance
- ☛ Follow a maintenance schedule

Around **1/4** of councils don't have a register of stormwater treatment assets.

Improvements in Justine-land

- ☛ GPT pollution level sensors (Matter)
 - WA, SA, VIC, TAS, NSW, QLD
- ☛ Model to estimate litter quantities =>
 - ☛ Installation: selecting device size
 - ☛ Maintenance: scheduling based on local factors (potential for real-time monitoring)
- ☛ National hub of GPT pollution data (Matter)
- ☛ AI model for detecting floating litter in waterways
- ☛ Analysis of policy gaps (national and state)
- ☛ Advocacy and industry collaboration



Reduce Australia's litter outputs significantly by ensuring all stormwater litter is trapped.

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