

Call for Abstracts



Stormwater2027

31 May – 2 June 2027

Geelong, Victoria



STORMWATER
AUSTRALIA



STORMWATER
VICTORIA



Call for Conference Abstracts

Abstracts for Concurrent Conference Session Papers due by
Friday, 13 November 2026

Authors advised of the outcome of their submission by
Friday, 11 December 2026

Presenters to confirm their involvement in the program by
Thursday, 21 January 2027

Full Program released
Monday, 1 February 2027

Final Refereed Papers for Peer Review due by
Friday, 19 March 2027

Final Non-Refereed Papers or Extended Abstracts for Program Committee Review due by
Friday, 19 March 2027

Early Bird Registration Closes
Friday, 19 March 2027

Final PowerPoints due by
Thursday, 27 May 2027

Stormwater 2027 Conference
Monday, 31 May – Wednesday, 2 June 2027

If you require further information about
the abstract submission process
please contact:

Julie McGraw
Program Manager
GEMS Event Management

02 9744 5252
Stormwater2027@gemsevents.com.au

For information about technical content of
presentations, please contact:

Alice Lisitsa
National President,
Stormwater Australia and
Co-Chair, Stormwater
2027
0411 268 923
alice@floodplan.com.au

Peter Woodman
Co-Chair, Stormwater
2027
03 8687 8351
0419 151 742
peter.woodman@ghd.com



Invitation to Participate

The Conference Organising Committee invite you to present at **Stormwater 2027**, the **2027 Stormwater National Conference**. The Conference will be held at **Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre**, Victoria from **Monday, 31 May to Wednesday, 2 June 2027**. Optional pre-conference workshops and a Technical Tour are planned for the morning of Monday 31 May.

The theme for **Stormwater 2027** is **Confluence: Where catchments, communities and solutions meet**. A confluence is the point where separate streams join and become something larger. That is what this conference sets out to be: the first national conference delivered jointly by Stormwater Australia and Stormwater Victoria, and a meeting point for the people, places and ideas that shape how stormwater is managed across the country.

Every catchment is different, and so is every community that lives in it. The solutions that work are the ones designed with both in mind. With good planning, stormwater management together with considered asset design and maintenance can improve water security, reduce flooding and support waterway health. In turn, this fosters biodiversity and creates cooler, greener and more resilient places to enjoy now and in the future.

Stormwater management across Australia must address complex challenges from a growing population and a subsequent critical need for housing, to the impacts of climate change and a need to protect humans, wildlife, and waterways from both flooding and extreme heat and drought events. While we all face unique local problems, the state of knowledge across Australia is growing, and with it, our capacity to find solutions.

Stormwater 2027 presents an opportunity for stormwater professionals across Australia to learn from each other. Collaborating by sharing knowledge, wins, and lessons learned nationally will allow us to respond better to the unique stormwater management challenges our states and localities face.

Tell us what you have learned in your catchment, how you worked with your community, and which solutions others can take home and apply. Whether your work is in policy, research, design, construction or asset management, Stormwater 2027 is where it meets the rest of the industry.

Conference Program and Audience

The Conference Program will include two and a half days of keynote, plenary and concurrent sessions and a trade exhibition, providing an excellent opportunity to learn about the latest in product innovation and advancements in the urban water management sector.

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

Topic Areas

Under the banner of Confluence: **Where catchments, communities and solutions meet**, the Conference is seeking presentations built around the following topics.

Community, Society and Leadership

- Leadership in innovation and process development
- Community engagement
- Co-design and place-making
- Sustainable solutions
- Cross sector collaboration and partnerships

Policy

- Integrated water management and catchment planning
- Planning for and adapting for future water demand
- Planning for and adapting for increased urban development
- Flood risk policy, planning, management, and mitigation
- Planning, design, resilience and adaptation to climate change
- Incorporating Indigenous and cultural values of water
- Stormwater offset collection and implementation

Research

- New stormwater treatment technologies
- International trends in water management
- Big data and systems analysis
- Use of AI in stormwater management
- Stormwater management for flood mitigation



- Innovation in stormwater (e.g. modelling, stormwater treatment and asset management)

Technology and Practice

- Data management
- Asset management
- Stormwater modelling, software and design
- Asset design for unique environments or objectives
- Maintenance and operations
- Stormwater harvesting
- Stormwater quality management
- Allotment and precinct scale design and practice
- Flood risk assessment
- Safety in design
- Afflux management and implementation of Afflux Practice Notes
- Asset performance testing and evaluation
- Learnings from “real world” stormwater management

In addition to the key topics above, abstracts that extend these topics in such a way to maximise value and diversity to delegates will also be considered.

Abstracts can be submitted for:

- Concurrent Paper Sessions – peer reviewed (30 minute oral presentations only)
- Concurrent Paper Sessions – not requiring peer review e.g. case studies
- Concurrent Sessions - Extended Abstracts
- Poster Presentations
- Pre-Conference Workshops
- A combination of the above

Type of Submissions

The Conference aims to create a Program with a mix of the following presentation types:

1. **Oral Presentations – Main Program (30 mins)**
Oral presentations will be offered 30-minute sessions, which means a strict maximum of 25 minutes of content to allow for formalities and questions.
2. **Quick Fire Presentations – Main Program (15 mins)**
Quick Fire presentations will be 15 minutes in length. Multiple x 15-minute presentations will be followed by a 15-minute Q&A panel of all presenters speaking in the concurrent block.



We encourage oral and quick fire presenters to consider ways to engage with the audience, a projector screen for PowerPoint presentations will be available, but consider other interactive multimedia such as Slido, Visme, Vyond etc.

3. **Poster Presentations**

Poster presentations will be on display in the Exhibition Area for the duration of the Conference, with a dedicated poster session to enable focused interaction between presenters and delegates.

4. **Pre Conference Workshops – Half day proposals will be considered**

Submissions for half-day Pre Conference Workshops are welcome. These workshops should be designed to allow for a deep dive into your topic. Presenters should aim to make their workshop as interactive and engaging as possible. Please indicate in your submission the maximum number of delegates that can attend your workshop, along with any pre-requisites for attendees. Selected workshops are contingent on achieving minimum registration numbers required to cover costs.



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**.

Abstracts should provide:

Non Peer Review Papers or Extended Abstracts

1. Overview (400 words) – this section should provide an overview of presentation for review.

Peer Review

2. Objectives/Rationale (100 words) – this section should state the main **objective** and rationale of your project
3. Method (100 words) – this section should outline the **methods** used to accomplish the objectives of the project
4. Results (100 words) – this section should list your project's **results** or product (or projected or intended results or product if your project is not yet complete)
5. Conclusions (100 words) – this section should draw **conclusions** about the implications of your project

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.
Biography	Up to 200 words for all presenting authors
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, poster or paper/extended abstract, to be uploaded to the Stormwater Australia 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.
Topic Areas:	Please indicate the most appropriate Topic Area for your presentation based on the options outlined on pages 4 and 5 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, 13 November, 2026.**

- Presenters will be advised of the outcome of their submission by no later than **Friday, 11 December 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.
- 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 Submission Terms and Conditions

- Abstracts should be no more than 400 words in length.
- All abstracts are to be submitted by Friday, 13 November 2026.
- Submissions must include a biography of each presenter of up to 200 words per person. Submissions not including a biography of the presenter will not be considered.
- The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any submissions and extend or shorten the presentation duration.
- Presenter changes require written approval from the conference organising committee. Only co-authors named on the original abstract may be considered as replacements. The committee reserves the right to remove a paper from the program if no suitable replacement is available.
- Presenters must adhere to the title and abstract originally submitted. Any changes to the title or content require written approval from the conference organising committee.
- All accepted presenters are required to register for the conference.
- All presenters will retain the intellectual property of their presentation.
- Each concurrent presenter 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.
- Each poster presenter 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.



- The presenter(s) grants GEMS Event Management Australia, Stormwater 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 Australia and Stormwater Victoria. This includes, but is not limited to, publication on websites, electronic and print journals, and trade and non-trade publications.
- GEMS/Stormwater Australia/Stormwater Victoria claim copyright of any image and may 'alter' any image for the lawful purpose of GEMS/Stormwater Australia/Stormwater Victoria and the presenter/s release GEMS/Stormwater Australia/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.



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	Consistency with the nominated stream Does the abstract contain questions/challenges and identify the answers that will be discussed? Must include a brief statement about how your abstract aligns with the nominated stream.					
2.	Originality Is the paper an original piece of work, be it research, experience, case studies, or policy development?					
3.	Innovation Does the paper demonstrate innovation in stormwater management, e.g. testing or demonstrating novel techniques, technologies, or policies in stormwater management?					
4.	Significance of the subject/project Does the paper add to the knowledge, understanding and practical application of stormwater management?					
5.	Technical content and methods Is the paper structured to clearly outline the methodology used by the project?					
6.	Shared lessons and replicability Does the paper demonstrate solutions and provide information about the lessons learned? Can these lessons be applied by others, for example through future on-ground projects or policy/strategy development?					
7.	General quality of the material presented Is the paper clearly structured and coherently presented? Abstracts will also be judged on spelling, grammar, and layout.					
	Sub Total					
	Total		Average Score (between 5 and 0)			



What is the difference between a Refereed and Non-Refereed Paper?

Refereed papers describe new techniques, tools, theories or inventions, or present case histories that extend our understanding of stormwater and urban water management. Papers undergoing peer review must present **new** ideas, backed by repeatable methodology and will be reviewed by acknowledged experts in the field of stormwater and urban water management. Authors typically request for their paper to be refereed when they are seeking to be part of the post conference publication process.

A benefit of choosing the peer review stream is to receive constructive evaluation from leaders in the field. Specialist feedback improves the quality of papers, and therefore the quality of the conference.

A robust and credible peer review relies on appropriately credentialed people being available. While we are interested in receiving the broadest range of papers in line with the conference theme, we may not be able to offer a peer review beyond the expertise of the review panel.

The referees will evaluate the paper, noting weaknesses or problems along with suggestions for improvement. Referees' evaluations usually include an explicit recommendation of what to do with the paper from options provided by the journal or funding agency. Most recommendations are along the lines of the following:

- to unconditionally accept the manuscript or proposal
- to accept it in the event that its authors improve it in certain ways
- to reject it, but encourage revision and invite resubmission
- to reject it outright.

Where modifications are required, the paper will be returned to the Author for update based on the recommendation of the reviewer. The revised paper is then returned to the reviewer for final approval before it will be accepted for presentation and publication.

Non-refereed papers or Extended Abstracts are less formal than refereed papers and are reviewed by the Conference Technical Committee for inclusion in the program. They are not subject to the peer-review process undertaken for academic papers. All papers that are presenting case studies should be submitted as a non-refereed paper or extended abstract.



General policies and requirements

Guidelines for REFEREED paper review

Refereed Papers are distributed to a scientific panel for review and evaluation. The review process is typically carried out over a number of weeks and aims at maintaining or enhancing a certain quality of work. As the review process involves a number of unbiased opinions relating to the topics, arguments and conclusions presented, Refereed Papers are therefore typically viewed as more credible. Peer review is a pre-requisite for papers to be considered for publication.

- Submissions must be in English.
- Submissions must be accompanied by a biography of the presenter of up to 200 words.
- Final papers are not to be more than 8 pages in length.
- Manuscripts should conform to publication style listed later in this document. A manuscript template will be provided when your abstract is accepted into the program. When a paper has been accepted, author(s) will be required to ensure that it conforms to publication style and to supply an electronic version.
- Authors requesting refereed status shall state clearly at the top of the manuscript, "To be Refereed." Only papers stating this request will be circulated to the Scientific Committee. To assist with selection of peer reviewers the manuscript should also indicate the most pertinent topic area(s).
- An independent scientific committee will be convened by the Conference Program Chair for the purposes of reviewing papers in accordance with Stormwater Australia Peer Review which will be available on the website shortly.
- Evidence of review will be provided to the author in pro forma showing anonymous comments of the expert reviewer and the scientific committee's determination. This will be in the form of a notification of acceptance (possibly subject to amendment). Authors should keep the pro forma as evidence of satisfactory peer review.
- All refereed papers will be identified as such and published in full on the conference website.
- With the consent of the author, refereed papers of a high standard may be identified for submission to other industry journals.
- Completed papers to be refereed **MUST** be submitted to the Scientific Committee through GEMS Event Management **by Friday, 19 March 2027**.
- Failure to do so will cause the presentation to be removed from the program or downgraded to an extended abstract.
- Communication will only occur with the 'first author' of a paper. In the case of co-authored papers, 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**.

Stormwater Australia Peer Review Policy

Stormwater Australia has adopted a policy for peer review that will ensure reviews are completed in a credible, defensible and unbiased manner. This is considered as important to protect the quality of papers and conference reputation. The policy can be accessed on the Conference website shortly.

Guidelines for NON-REFEREED paper review

- Non-refereed papers are still required for review by the Conference Program Committee.
- Submissions must be in English
- Submissions must be accompanied by a biography of the presenter of up to 200 words.
- Final papers are not to be more than 8 pages in length.
- Manuscripts should conform to publication style listed below. When a paper has been accepted, author(s) will be required to ensure that it conforms to publication style, and to supply an electronic version.
- Completed Non-Refereed Papers **MUST** be submitted to the Conference Program Committee by **Monday, 19 March 2027**. Failure to do so will cause the presentation to be removed from the program or downgraded to an extended abstract.
- A final review of the paper will be conducted to ensure it:
 1. Meets the general promise of the submitted abstract, or is likely to provide equal or greater interest in the chosen topic
 2. Does not expose the conference organisers to excessive risk of libel or defamation by unfavourably identifying any product, practice, process, company or person in specific terms that would allow them to be identified
 3. Is of sufficient general interest and avoids oblique references to products, companies or proprietary know how that could be considered by a reasonable person as advertorial in nature.
- Communication will only occur with the 'first author' of a paper. In the case of co-authored papers it will be the responsibility of the 'first author' to pass on to the co-author(s) communications from the editors.
- All concurrent paper presenters are **required to register for the Conference**.



Publication Style

- The Oxford English Dictionary is the standard for spelling.
- Documents are to be prepared in Microsoft Word using 11-point Times New Roman. No pdf documents will be accepted.
- Any graphics included in the document are to be attached separately to the final document as jpeg files.
- No headers and footers are to be used.
- Substantial quotations should be indented without quotation marks. Other quotations should be enclosed by single quotation marks. Double quotation marks should be used only as innermost quotation marks within single quotation marks, or where necessary to ensure fidelity to another's work.
- Published works referred to in the text should be in parentheses containing author, date (and page number(s) if necessary).
- Books and journal articles should be listed as follows:
Macpherson, C.B. (1972). The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism: Hobbes to Locke. Oxford University Press, London.

For information about technical content of presentations, please contact:

Alice Lisitsa

National President, Stormwater Australia and
Co-Chair, Stormwater 2027
0411 268 923
alice@floodplan.com.au

Peter Woodman

Co-Chair, Stormwater 2027

03 8687 8351
0419 151 742
peter.woodman@ghd.com



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, Stormwater 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 Australia and Stormwater Victoria. This includes, but is not limited to, publication on websites, electronic and print journals, and trade and non-trade publications. GEMS, Stormwater Australia and Stormwater Victoria claim copyright of any image and may 'alter' any image for the lawful purpose of GEMS, Stormwater Australia and Stormwater Victoria and the presenter/s release GEMS, Stormwater Australia and 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 Stormwater2027@gemsevents.com.au.