



NEWS RELEASE

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No more water down the drain

Stormwater Victoria has awarded the cities of Port Phillip, Yarra, Melbourne and Stonnington a Merit Award for Regional Action in Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD).

The four inner city council's have joined together through the Inner Melbourne Action Plan (IMAP) to reduce the impact of urban development and promote sustainable water management.

"WSUD is the design of buildings, subdivisions and works which minimises the impact of urban development on the surrounding environment, and in particular by reducing the use of potable (mains) water and the transfer of pollutants to Port Phillip Bay," said Mayor Cr Frank O'Connor.

"IMAP recognises that we must both reduce the amount of mains water we use and improve the water quality of stormwater that enters our streams and Port Phillip Bay. One of the key actions was to develop a common local planning scheme policy that encouraged new development to be more water efficient. That is, to include WSUD through a regional approach.

"Council has adopted the guidelines set out by IMAP and supports a new Local Planning Policy in regards stormwater management and WSUD".

"We will request that the Minister of Planning provide authorisation to exhibit the amendment so that council can receive public comment. All going well, we will in due course request that the Minister approve the policy which will apply WSUD to new developments and introduce an assessment tool for future planning decisions by council.

"The Cities of Melbourne, Yarra and Stonnington have already adopted these guidelines and now it's our turn to get onboard and develop a cohesive regional approach to stormwater management" he said.

Stormwater Victorian President Andrew Allan says "It is a strange paradox that in these times when many of our cities are experiencing unprecedented water shortages, more stormwater runs out to the sea than what our cities consume.

"The modern stormwater practitioner is able to build upon a growing body of science and knowledge to provide contemporary solutions. These allow stormwater to be used in local environments, support enhanced and liveable cities, improve the quality and manage the quantity of stormwater entering our waterways and Port Phillip Bay and provide innovative solutions to drainage challenges such as urban flooding."

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