



Auditing to lower Maintenance Costs.

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Newcastle City Council is located north of Sydney and sits on a large area of bio-dynamic importance. The Hunter region includes river, wetlands and coastline that is becoming increasingly popular with visitors and an increasing population. The area is currently subject to significant new urban growth which is placing pressure on its waterways and natural environment.

Newcastle City Council has a large number of older trash rack style Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) and is now starting to take ownership of more proprietary underground GPTs and other stormwater treatment measures such as wetlands and bio retention basins due to its Water Sensitive Urban Design Policy requirements and other Council led stormwater quality projects.

In order to improve the management of stormwater within the City, Council commissioned an audit of Council's Gross Pollutant Traps with the aim of identifying issues and improving the performance and condition existing devices.

The project sought to provide an understanding of the City's existing primary stormwater treatment and identify where improvements can be made. Another purpose for the audit is both the improvement of maintenance and the possibility of lowering costs while increasing productivity. Newcastle is rising to the challenge of identifying where and what all their primary treatment devices are, how they work, how they could be improved and where other primary treatment solutions should be targeted around the LGA. The results have shared lessons and replicability for all stormwater quality managers.