



## **Council Depots - What Lies Beneath**

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Enthusiasm for WSUD has grown within councils and policies have been created for private developments to implement WSUD. But what about the critical areas where pollution concentrations are amongst the highest - Council Depots? Council's own operations are often overlooked and it could be perceived as though councils have adopted a "do as I say and not as I do" approach in their role as the authority. Although not excusable, in many instances poor practices are unintentional and would go unnoticed or without major implications.

Council Depots are potentially the highest concentration of pollution in the municipality with storage of garbage trucks, street sweepers, construction equipment, pesticides and hydrocarbons as well as presence of workshops, washdown bays, nurseries and waste transfer stations. There is so much expected from a single depot site and that expectation seems to be ever increasing. So the big question is whether these depots are a shining example of pollution management or simply a cesspool? There are some progressive Councils that have looked at this issue whether it's an acknowledgement they have outgrown their current facilities or germinating from a thought of individual Council staff. We have been fortunate to have worked with a few of these Councils and have been able to compile some typical issues and corresponding solutions.

It's easy to miss the impact that everyday practices have on the health of our waterways so this presentation aims to highlight how common depot practices impact the quality of stormwater runoff and eventually the health of our creeks. Council Depots are an opportunity for councils to lead by example and educate the community about the importance of protecting waterway health.