



How to Make it Easy to Comply with a Stormwater DCP in a Notoriously Complex LGA

Mark Liebman^{1,2}

¹*Sustainability Workshop, NSW, Australia,* ²*Blacktown City Council, NSW, Australia*

Blacktown Council worked for nearly 3 years to develop a set of WSUD standard drawings covering a broad range of WSUD measures including biofiltration - including tree pits, raingardens, small and large bioretention systems, permeable pavement, rainwater tanks, swales and environmental OSD systems which see Council be the first in Sydney to adopt an OSD policy that is friendly to the environment. These drawings are to be registered in the creative commons and are freely available.

The drawings have been peer reviewed by industry and independently by Goff Hunter. The drawings were developed jointly by Council's Waterways and Asset Design Team with significant input from landscapers, maintenance, construction teams and Council's General Manager. The drawings are truly a multidisciplinary effort which Council hopes will create more certainty and clarity for developers.

The drawings include many interesting innovations which would be presented in detail (if the abstract is accepted). For example the use of a trench grate upstream of permeable pavement to prolong the life of the pavement, extensive use of upflow pits to help dissipate energy and evenly distribute the pollutant load across a bioretention system - also to prolong asset life.

Council has simultaneously chosen to streamline its development assessment process so that projects which have stormwater related development controls can now use an on-line deemed to comply tool. This tool is based on the S3QM model but provides a unique interface that allows users to rapidly determine which development controls are applicable to their specific development and to then develop complying solutions. The tool includes:

- 1) OSD calculations to help size OSD systems including drowned orifice calculations.
- 2) Rainwater tank sizing tool to help business and industrial users comply with Council's 80% target
- 3) Water quality treatment sizing when using GPTs and bioretention and rainwater tanks in a treatment train.

It is envisioned that together the standard drawings and deemed to comply tool form a package that enables developers to rapidly assess what they need to do on a site,

to size any mitigation measures using the tool and to then design the treatment measures with confidence. Initial feedback is very positive.

This work was undertaken following an external review of Council's DCP and forms part of the suite of measures put in place by Council to facilitate better WSUD outcomes.