



Living Waterways for Resilient Communities

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The environmental impacts of climate change are also of concern to our natural environments that support healthy lifestyles and nature experiences in the urban environment. Changes in stream hydrology caused by urbanisation are set to become more extreme, further putting the environmental and social value of local waterways at risk. The potential for urban stormwater not only to be better managed in a risk context, but also to be used as a resource to build positive relationships with water and resilience in the community is being realised, but uptake of these principles has been slow.

Living Waterways is a policy framework that was developed in Queensland to help councils and utilities articulate their desired urban water outcomes and incentivise an integrated approach for both new development and retrofit projects. Early feedback on the framework has been positive, and when an opportunity emerged for stakeholders in NSW and Qld to work together on building climate change and resilience elements into the framework we jumped at the chance.

Working with Stakeholders in both NSW and Qld, SPLASH and Water by Design have built in new measures into the framework to better support urban water managers in their efforts. This will help local councils, utilities and the community to adapt to future changes and build a more sustainable future for our growing cities. In this paper we will discuss how the recent update is informing a new phase of urban stormwater management that is promoting community resilience and climate adaptation in NSW.