



## **Stormwater Quality Management: What's the Situation?**

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As part of any development approval, local governments require developers to meet stringent stormwater quality targets before allowing stormwater to discharge to local receiving waterways or adjoining public stormwater infrastructure. For over a decade now, these requirements have been met by use of various types of proprietary and non-proprietary stormwater quality improvement devices (SQIDs), including bioretention systems and gross pollutant traps. These devices require maintenance in order to consistently meet the stormwater quality improvement targets and other intentions of their design, however the implementation of effective maintenance and management has been slow and stifled across Australia.

When reflecting on our efforts in stormwater quality management over the last decade, several important questions arise, including:

- To what extent are the maintenance needs of publicly and privately owned SQIDs being met?
- Who is responsible for maintaining these devices? What are local governments' obligations? How are they different between local governments and across states?
- What obligations do private asset owners have for maintenance?
- What regulatory or incentive frameworks are currently in place to ensure these devices are maintained? What frameworks could be considered in the future?
- How does local government keep a track of their devices? Do they know where they are located? How much data or information do they have?
- How do they use this data or information? How do they store it? Who is responsible for managing and maintaining it?

A national online survey was commissioned in lead up to a stormwater quality asset management forum in Brisbane on March 30, 2017 that sought to answer the above and other important questions. The survey was targeted to local government employees involved in the management of SQIDs including asset managers, compliance officers, and environmental engineers and scientists.

This presentation will present on the results of the survey and other research into stormwater quality management strategies in Australia conducted by Renew Solutions Pty Ltd. It will provide a broad perspective on what approaches and strategies have and haven't worked, and will describe some pathways forward to improve upon poorly performing strategies.