



The Future of Stormwater Quality Targets in Sydney: A Review and Case Study

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Many councils across Sydney have adopted WSUD planning provisions within their DCPs which typically require a reduction in the baseline annual pollutant load of total suspended solids by 85%, total phosphorus by 65% and total nitrogen by 45%. Between councils there is slight variation in the specific percentages, but they are supported by similar requirements of Landcom developments as well as the development code of the Growth Centres SEPP.

In 2017 UrbanGrowth NSW published new WSUD targets as part of a suite of targets to *deliver innovative and productive urban places with world class standards of liveability, resilience, inclusion, affordability and environmental quality*. The proposed WSUD targets are for all projects to complete and implement a WSUD Strategy (Nitrogen 65, Phosphorus 85, Suspended Solids 95). The proposed targets represent a departure from those targets typically adopted by councils in NSW, but they are broadly consistent with stretch targets identified by UrbanGrowth NSW in its 2009 Sustainability Strategy, and Stormwater design excellence targets identified by the Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA). See Table 1.

Table 1: Comparison of Council and UrbanGrowth NSW current and Proposed WSUD Targets, as well as SOPA WSUD Targets.

Indicator

Target adopted by Councils in NSW, UrbanGrowth (current(and SEQ and Victoria

UrbanGrowth NSW

Proposed Target

SOPA Targets

Reduction in the baseline annual pollutant load of gross pollutants

90%

90%

95%

Reduction in the baseline annual pollutant load of total suspended solids

85%

95%

90%

Reduction in the baseline annual pollutant load of total phosphorous

65%

85%

85%

Reduction in the baseline annual pollutant load of total nitrogen

45%

65%

65%

Also in 2017, the Greater Sydney Commission within the each of the six draft District Plans, identified as Sustainability Priority 1: Maintain and improve water quality and waterway health. This priority calls for waterway health targets to use a framework developed by OEH that applies a risk-based framework in the strategic planning process to assist decisions that maintain, improve or restore water quality to help meet the NSW Water Quality and River Flow Objectives.

This presentation will review of current WSUD targets across Sydney and identifies other jurisdictions which require targets similar to those proposed by UrbanGrowth NSW. The presentation will review the current and proposed targets in meeting the risk based framework for waterways as identified by the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Environment Protection Authority, via a case study of Blackwattle Bay.