



Without Data, You Are Just Another Person With an Opinion

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Stormwater drainage assets typically comprise almost a quarter of a Council's asset base, and yet it is amazing that many Councils have very poor data on their stormwater drainage networks.

In our experience, the number of assets is often underestimated by around 30%, and in an extreme example there were almost 90% additional pits. Imagine how that affects a valuation, maintenance budgets, strategic planning and hydrological modeling.

Asset locations are often inaccurate, pits are often located on, or in front of, the wrong property, and pit heights and invert levels can be out by 10m. Asset attribute data is often wrong, inconsistent, incomplete or very limited.

In some Councils the stormwater drainage data is multiple disparate datasets, including mixed spreadsheets, and partial GIS layers.

All of this makes the task of efficiently managing your stormwater drainage assets extremely difficult, and certainly much harder than it needs to be.

For effective network management, a detailed pit and pipe survey should be undertaken including accurate pit and pipe locations, full network connectivity, invert levels and flow directions, and attribute details including types, materials, depth, dimensions, grade, condition and defects.

A detailed stormwater drainage survey will provide:

- Accurate stormwater drainage data layers in the GIS;
- An accurate up-to-date Asset Register for asset management purposes.

Good quality stormwater drainage data allows Councils to:

- Utilise accurate data for design purposes;
- Prioritise any additional condition investigations, e.g. CCTV;
- Prioritise maintenance requirements;
- Carry out detailed stormwater modeling and flood modeling;
- Accurately assess the capacity of the network and identify any network deficiencies;
- Calculate accurate asset valuation, depreciation and remaining useful life of the assets
- Establish realistic lifecycle costs;

- Determine renewal, replacement and maintenance requirements;
- Respond to events such as flooding, chemical or fuel spills etc.

Quality data allows asset managers to make well-informed decisions about their future maintenance and upgrade programs.

Quality visual data is like a crystal ball. You can see where to you need to allocate resources to effectively mitigate risk and meet service levels as well as valuation, modeling and strategic planning.

Data capture for stormwater drainage networks must be accurate, efficient and complete. Importantly it must be affordable. Staged data capture of individual catchments or townships can allow Councils to allocate sufficient budget annually to achieve this.