



Green Adelaide

A new approach to managing our urban environment – the importance of integrated urban water management

Presentation to Hydrological Society of SA

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Background

- Resources: groundwater, watercourses, wetlands and surface water.
- Geography: hills to sea; terminal wetlands/reedbeds; estuaries; sandy and rocky coasts.
- Climate (& change): rainfall increase west to east; Mediterranean/cold monsoonal; climate change predictions, sea level rise
- Management: reticulated water supply, water catchments; managed aquifer recharge; recycled water
- Governance: SA Water, local government, NRM Board.





Green Adelaide

- Will be established as part of the State Government's reforms to natural resources management. Landscape SA Bill's imminent completion.
- Recognises that the metropolitan environment faces a number of unique challenges – urban heat islands, infill and densification, reduction of habitat, connections of citizens with nature and maintaining health and wellbeing.
- Will have a focus on natural resource management in the metropolitan area, including seven priority focus areas.





Green Adelaide Board

- High level, strategic and influential board – but also with an understanding of grassroots concerns and issues - that delivers on practical outcomes for the community.
- Up to 10 members, appointed by the Minister.
- Presiding Member will be appointed in the first instance to support the recruitment process for other members.
- Will guide the development of a 5 year regional landscape plan to target actions at priorities identified in Landscape South Australia Act.



Urban Water Management (DEW)

- Current context
 - AMLR Water Management Services Team
 - Urban Water Team
 - Managed Aquifer Recharge
 - Water Industry Act review
- Future
 - Green Adelaide
 - water operations & projects
 - water planning & strategy
 - Wetland management
 - DEW Urban Water Team



Green Adelaide Seven Priorities

- Coastal management
- Water resources and wetlands
- Biodiversity sensitive and water sensitive urban design (WSUD)
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna and flora in the urban environment
- Controlling pest plants and animals
- Nature education





Urban rivers and wetlands

- Current arrangements
 - Includes mixture of local government, state government, statutory authorities and SA Water roles and responsibilities
- Issues/challenges
 - Complex governance
 - Dry conditions, adequate infrastructure and urban flooding
- Opportunities
 - Integrated “hills to sea” approach
 - Leadership role to drive improvements in policy and planning reforms
 - Improved coordination
 - Maximising the benefits of stormwater



Water sensitive urban design (WSUD)

- Current arrangements
 - Implemented by local councils, guided by the state planning policy library
- Issues/challenges
 - Mixed levels of adoption across Adelaide
 - Balance with growing urban infill development
 - Climate projections included at every level
 - Aging infrastructure
- Opportunities
 - Further implementation with the new Planning and Design Code
 - Linkages with urban greening outcomes
 - Coordinate with biodiversity sensitive urban design.



Coastal management

- Current arrangements
 - DEW delivers the Coast Protection Board's (CPB) Adelaide Beach Management strategy
 - The strategy specifies coastal protection (beach and dune buffers) and beach amenity between Kingston Park and Outer Harbor
 - Local government undertakes day-to-day care, control and management of the coast
 - CPB, AMLR and DEW work in partnership with local government, eNGOs, and community groups
- Issues/challenges
 - Adelaide's beach are naturally erosive
 - Funding limitations have led to increased risks to development in some areas e.g. West Beach
 - Updated metropolitan coastal management strategy
- Opportunities
 - Leverage "New life for our coastal environment" election commitment to achieve GA's biodiversity goals
 - CPB and DEW partner with GA, local govt and others to deliver ecological benefits from beach management

Opportunities/Challenges

- How can 'modern' hydrology can be applied to seek improvements in the efficiency of use of the available Adelaide water sources?
- Utilisation of emerging technologies for water treatment and groundwater storage?
- Key partnerships?
- Research prospectus?



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