

Building water industry capabilities for a liveable and resilient city

Clearwater was established in 2002 as part of a state government initiative (the Victorian Stormwater Action Plan) to improve the quality of Victoria's water environments through better environmental management of urban stormwater.

Melbourne Water has hosted and provided primary funding to Clearwater since 2006, with additional program funding and support provided by partner organisations, including the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), the Environment Protection Authority (EPA Victoria), Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Stormwater Victoria (SV) and the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Water Sensitive Cities.

Over time, the Program's service offering has adapted to align with the changing needs of the water sector and respond to emerging trends and challenges.

Clearwater's capacity building services have expanded from stormwater management to incorporate technical and non-technical aspects of water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and integrated water management (IWM).

Clearwater regularly undertakes a comprehensive planning and evaluation process to ensure the program is responding to current industry needs.



Clearwater strategy milestones

Strategy development		Delivering the strategy		
March 2018	December 2018	March 2019	June 2019	July 2019 onwards
IWM Environmental Scan to better understand Clearwater's current and future role in IWM capacity building	Business Strategy 2018-2021 to clarify Clearwater's purpose and value, and scope how our services can be refined to reflect the current context and future needs of our customers	Multi-year program planning process incorporating customer and stakeholder engagement to inform the validation and prioritisation of our services	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to move beyond outputs reporting towards more clearly demonstrating the outcomes, impact, effectiveness and value of the Clearwater Program and inform future initiatives	Continuously strengthen the quality of our existing services, or create new services to meet the needs identified through the multi-year program planning process
				

In mid-2018, Clearwater reviewed and clarified its purpose, value proposition, strategic alignment and key stakeholders. At completion of this process, Clearwater refined and prioritised its capacity building services through a consultation process with Melbourne Water, local government, water utilities, consultants, state government agencies and academia/researchers. Through the consultation process, four key priority areas were identified. For further detail on these priorities, see table below.

Focus for the next 3 years (2019-21)

Context

The way water is managed influences our sustainability, resilience, liveability and productivity. Communities, government and business are increasingly working together to address complex challenges associated with climate change, population growth and urbanisation.

Vision

Healthy environments and thriving communities

Purpose

Clearwater actively enhances the capacity of government and water-sector organisations to undertake sustainable water management and sustainable development through knowledge-sharing, skills-development and network-building

Customer Needs

Issue

Implement Victoria's new Stormwater Planning Provisions

Cross-sector collaboration for more liveable and resilient outcomes

WSUD technical skills in asset design, construction, maintenance and quality control

Involvement of regulators in stormwater management

Audience

- Local Government
- Private Sector
- Industry Associations

- Local Government
- State Government/ Agencies
- Private Sector
- Regulators

- Local Government
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- Knowledge Sector

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Objectives

- Drive increased consistency of practice across the sector
- Increase industry skills to enable effective consideration and comparison of the different WSUD on-site treatments options suitable to the development type and that meet the new stormwater requirements under the Victorian Planning Provisions

- Embed IWM in the practice of local government, planning and the development sectors for broader community benefit
- Maximise the outcomes and resources when working together in an integrated approach

- Sustainable assets that deliver design intent and are cost effective over their life cycle
- Avoid legacy issues, need for rectification and unintended consequences
- Better functioning assets and therefore improved waterway health

- Better understand the involvement of regulators and more clarity around roles & responsibilities
- Industry wide and consistent approach to investigation and enforcement