

Victorian communities expect their cities and towns to be liveable. Research by the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities shows that cleverly combining water management with urban planning drives liveability.⁸

Helping Councils deliver

Heatwave plans

Irrigating shade trees can cool the ground by 2-3°C during the day and 4-5°C at night.¹¹

Irrigating grass can reduce the ground temperature by up to 20°C.¹⁰

Every 10% increase in tree cover can reduce ground temperatures from between 0.5°C and 1°C.¹⁰

Vegetation, especially trees, reduces the effect of heatwaves in cities. This cooling effect is influenced by tree health and water availability.⁷

Urban forest strategies and tree canopy targets

Adding street trees can improve neighbourhood character and aesthetics.¹²

Stormwater runoff and quality targets

Managing water better in urban landscapes can reduce stormwater pollution in streams and make ecosystems healthier.⁴

COMMUNITIES CARE



Heat

- People are willing to pay for projects that reduce peak summer air temperatures by at least 2°C.¹
- Heatwaves are Australia's most deadly natural phenomena.⁹ Even decreasing high temperatures by 1-2°C can save lives.²



Urban Amenity

- People are willing to pay up to 16% more for a house with greater access to green spaces.³
- >50% of people support the installation of raingardens in their street.⁴



Waterways

- Communities place a very high value on projects that improve the health of local waterways.⁵
- People are willing to pay more for a house close to a healthy waterway.⁶

References

1 Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC)(2014a). Selling your water sensitive city business case –practical strategies you can use. Page2. Melbourne, Australia: Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. Sourced from: https://watersensitivecities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/IN_BusinessCase-Web.pdf

2 CRCWSC (2016a). Ideas for Bentley. Page20. Melbourne, Australia: Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. Sourced from: https://watersensitivecities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/RS_Ideas-for-Bentley.pdf

3 CRCWSC (2016b). Enhancing the Economic Evaluation Of WSUD. Page17. Melbourne, Australia: Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. Sourced from: https://watersensitivecities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/IdeasforSA_EnhancingtheEconomic_WEB.pdf

4 Wong T.H.F., Allen R., Brown R.R., Deletić A., Gangadharan L., Gernjak W., Jakob C., Johnstone P., Reeder M., Tapper N., Vietz, G. and Walsh C.J. (2013). blueprint2013: Stormwater Management in a Water Sensitive City. Melbourne, Australia: Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, ISBN 978-1-921912-02-3. Sourced from: <https://watersensitivecities.org.au/content/blueprint2013/>

5 CRCWSC (2017a). Valuing the benefits of local stormwater management. Melbourne, Australia: Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. Sourced from: <https://watersensitivecities.org.au/content/valuing-benefits-local-stormwater-management/>

6 CRCWSC (2015). The value of restoring urban drains to living streams. Melbourne, Australia: Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. Sourced from: <https://watersensitivecities.org.au/content/new-publication-value-restoring-urban-drains-living-streams/>

7 CRCWSC (2017b) The Climatic benefits of green infrastructure. Melbourne, Australia: Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. Sourced from: https://watersensitivecities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/IndustryNote_Climatic-benefit-of-green-infrastructure.pdf

8 CRCWSC (2017c). How much do we value green spaces? Melbourne, Australia: Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. Sourced from: <https://watersensitivecities.org.au/content/much-value-green-spaces/>

9 PwC (2011) Protecting human health and safety during severe and extreme heat events: A national framework. Report by PriceWaterhouseCoopers Australia. Sourced from: <https://www.pwc.com.au/industry/government/assets/extreme-heat-events-nov11.pdf>

10 CRCWSC (2014b). Cities as water supply catchments — Green cities and microclimate. Melbourne, Australia: Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. Sourced from: https://watersensitivecities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/FS_B3-1_CitiesWaterSupplyCatchments_GreenCitiesMicroclimate.pdf

11 CRCWSC (2013). Ideas for Tonsley. Melbourne, Australia: Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. Sourced from: https://watersensitivecities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/RS_Ideas-for-Tonsley.pdf

12 Ashley R., Walker, A., D'Arcy, B., Wilson, S., Illman, S., Shaffer, P., Woods-Ballard, B. and Chatfield, P. (2015). UK sustainable drainage systems: past, present and future. Proceedings of ICE – Civil Engineering, 168(3), pp. 125-130.