

CRCWSC Communications and Adoption in WA – Proposal for capacity building activities by New WATER Ways 2016/17

Introduction

A critical component of the delivery of Cooperative Research Capacity for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC) long term outcomes, is to mainstream water sensitive cities practices by building knowledge and capacity through influence, impact and collaboration. It is understood that the CRCWSC will make \$40,000 available in 2016/17 for the delivery of actions consistent with the CRCWSC Communications and Adoption Strategy (Tranche 2, 2016/17 - 2020/21).

It is proposed that knowledge brokering and capacity building needs are coordinated by the existing WA program, New WATER Ways Inc. [New WATER Ways](#) delivers capacity building through a range of knowledge broker activities which are broadly categorised as knowledge sharing; transfer through demonstration and synthesis, tools and frameworks; and partnerships and collaboration.

New WATER Ways aims to provide easy access to best practice and supporting WSUD information and facilitate the upskilling of WSUD practitioners to deliver improved water sensitive outcomes for Western Australia based on trusted and reliable science. Key stakeholder groups include state and local government, developers and industry consultants in the fields of planning, engineering, landscape and asset management. New WATER Ways assists in establishing and maintaining the frameworks which implement water sensitive practices in a range of changing contexts.

CRCWSC Communications and Adoption Strategy

A draft Communications and Adoption Strategy has been prepared by the CRCWSC. Key adoption strategies and actions which are considered appropriate for delivery by NWW include:

Adoption strategy	Performance indicator and target / Action
Industry has access to knowledge brokers to facilitate the application of knowledge, tools, products and services	Ensure key industry liaison roles have appropriate capacity and capability to support knowledge sharing and to provide advice for industry end users.
Industry has access to guidance and training to apply business case frameworks	Work with RAPs to identify local priorities for developing skills and capacity to use appropriate business case frameworks
Policy and decision makers are supported to deliver innovative policy outcomes founded on a strong evidence base and facilitate integrated outcomes across relevant organisations	A short list of priority policy initiatives are identified by the RAPs and considered for further influence strategy development; and Develop Industry or policy notes and guidance (e.g. synthesis report on key policy challenges) that support the translation of IRP outcomes and findings for policy-makers
Industry has the access to guidance and a range of training and education programs to help build the capacity to innovate and transition	RAPs have developed a local work plans that identified priorities for building skills and capabilities for priority industry end users.

Recommended activities

There is a need to capture the learnings from CRCWSC research to build a community of practice around water sensitive cities which, through improved service delivery, leads to enhanced liveability, sustainability and resilience within our cities and towns.

Based on the needs assessment undertaken by WA, key areas of focus for capacity building and knowledge transfer are:

- options for management of groundwater quality and levels in an urban context;
- preparation and assessment of supporting information and documentation;
- sharing latest findings with respect to WSUD science on the Swan Coastal Plain; and
- maintenance of WSUD assets, as it is critical that information on requirements, timing and costs is gathered and disseminated effectively to local governments to improve current attitudes towards maintenance.

The following actions are proposed in order to increase access to effective tools and products within locally relevant contexts. This will facilitate improved understanding, backed by practical knowledge, of requirements for planning, design, construction and maintenance of WSUD options.

1. Review outcomes of T1 to identify those that are most effective in strengthening support for the identification, planning, design, construction and/or maintenance of WSC solutions and opportunities in WA;
2. Undertake a stakeholder needs and opportunities analysis - identify priorities for building skills and capabilities including priority industry end users and preferred delivery mechanisms for stakeholders through an industry survey and targeted phone calls;
3. Develop a local work plan for communication and adoption activities for CRCWSC outcomes for 2017 to 2020 which responds to the findings of Tasks 1 & 2;
4. Assist the WRAP to prepare a short list of priority policy initiatives for CRCWSC input and coordinate the response;
5. Facilitate and deliver two (2) focussed events to assist in the integration of CRCWSC messages and research findings and recommendations into agency policy/ strategy/ systems;
6. Facilitate two (2) WSC Index workshops (or alternative if required) with key stakeholders;
7. Develop one (1) locally relevant industry note on a topic to be determined in response to findings of the needs analysis and T1 review;
8. Share knowledge of research findings and outcomes through reporting in e-newsletters and links to resources on the New WATER Ways website, as well as organising three (3) effective presentations of research findings and outcomes (at either WSC Speaker Series or Hydropolis conference) that are targeted at practitioner needs;
9. Co-host two (2) cross-agency forums (e.g. with UDIA, PIA, LIAWA, Property Council, PLA or AWA) to share and discuss research findings and their implications for practice, targeting the “unconverted”; and

10. Demonstrate on-ground outcomes through one (1) demonstration tour – sharing successes and failures to assist learning of how future water sensitive initiatives can be improved.

Delivery of the above activities will be guided by the RAP, which will advise on preferred topics, priority stakeholders and timing.

Links to research needs and long term critical outcomes.

The identified activities address twelve out of the seventeen key research needs.

Enabling structures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening and aligning policy, legislation and regulation in support of water sensitive cities 2. Creation of a shared vision and narrative for water sensitive cities that connects with community values, which can then drive decision making 3. New financial model and incentives that recognise the values and benefits of water sensitive cities
On-ground practices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Guidance on how to develop context-specific solutions and asset management regimes 8. Achieving multiple benefits through integrated planning, and design of water systems and the urban form 10. Monitoring and evaluation for improved system design and performance 11. Efficient and effective operations and maintenance systems to achieve water sensitive city outcomes
Social capital	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Influencing water sensitive city outcomes through leadership, collaboration and networks 14. A culture of learning and innovation 15. Translation and sharing of water sensitive cities knowledge 16. Building community and industry connection and engagement 17. Building capacity to deliver a water sensitive cities

The activities also closely align with the following research gaps which were identified at the WA stakeholder needs analysis workshop in late 2015.

Research gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance information (tasks, costs, funding and delivery frameworks) • Community behavior change program for WSC • Stakeholder needs assessment post T1
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The proposed activities will also assist in delivering seven out of ten of the long term critical outcomes identified in the CRCWSC Strategic Plan 2014/15 – 2016/17 as being critical to the long-term successful achievement of the CRCWSC vision.

Policy and regulation	Investment	Engaged communities	Tools and techniques	Available technology
Informed decisions	Industry led	Capacity capability	On-ground implementation	Operational acceptance

Work plan budget

The following estimate is proposed to support delivery of the above activities, at a total cost of \$40,000 (excl GST).

Deliverable	hours/mth or session	total/mth or session	Disburse ments	# sessions	Total cost	Running total
Review outcomes of T1	16	\$ 3,200		1	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200
Needs analysis - online survey and phone calls	24	\$ 4,160		1	\$ 4,160	\$7,360
Local work plan for 2017 to 2020	6	\$ 1,200		1	\$ 1,200	\$8,560
Short list of priority policy initiatives	4	\$ 800		1	\$ 800	\$9,360
Focussed events	20	\$ 3,840		2	\$ 7,680	\$17,040
WSC workshop	12	\$ 2,240		2	\$ 4,480	\$21,520
Industry practice note/ guidance	28	\$ 4,800		1	\$ 4,800	\$26,320
Researcher presentations	6	\$ 1,160	\$ 180	3	\$ 4,020	\$30,340
Cross-agency forums and networking events	18	\$ 3,120		2	\$ 6,240	\$36,580
Demonstration tours (partially subsidised - Ticket sales estimate 40 @ \$50 pp, \$2000)	26	\$ 4,560	\$ 900	1	\$ 5,460 (\$2,000)	\$40,040
e-newsletters and links to resources on NWW website	1	\$160		12	\$ 1,920	\$41,960