



Cities of the future will be water sensitive.

*We offer real-world
solutions to get you there.*

We leverage our world-class urban water research,
and engage with local stakeholders to create cities that
are more sustainable, resilient, productive, and liveable.



CRC for
Water Sensitive Cities



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Business
Cooperative Research
Centres Programme

Cities face critical challenges.

A water sensitive approach is the solution.

Across the globe, designing cities that can better withstand extremes of droughts, heat, and floods is a priority. At the same time, making cities healthier, more liveable and sustainable can critically boost their economic productivity. The challenge lies in finding solutions that deliver all of these outcomes.

How can a water sensitive approach help?

When planning or developing cities, a water sensitive approach offers powerful solutions in both developing and developed regions. It recognises the crucial importance of water to thriving future cities, and enhances:

- water quality and security of supply
- resilience to floods and climate change
- natural environments, by improving habitat for biodiversity
- the built environment, by making it more water and energy efficient
- open spaces, by making them vibrant, green, and active.

Together, such outcomes have big picture results: creating water sensitive cities can help drive poverty eradication, sustainable food production, public health, economic growth, and social equity.

The CRC for Water Sensitive Cities: A collaborative hub generating new water knowledge for on-ground solutions

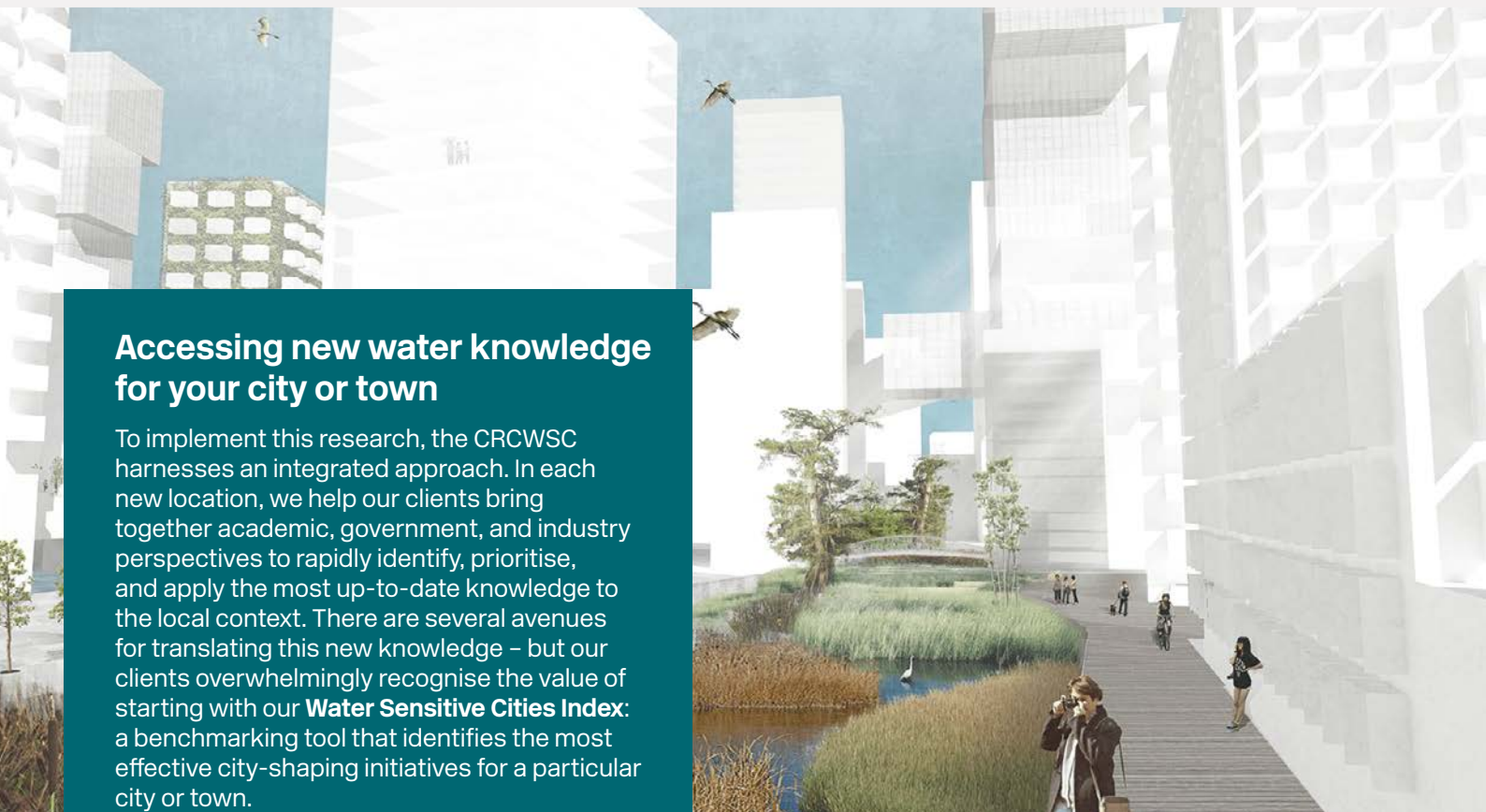
The **Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities** (CRCWSC) is an Australian Government funded research centre that generates new urban water knowledge.

With industry thought leaders and world-renowned experts from over 20 disciplines, our people are everyone from engineers and urban planners, to architects to social scientists. Together, we are working to revolutionise urban water management.

We envision water sensitive cities as communities where people want to live and work. Accessing the knowledge needed for this outcome is complex – but we are here to help.

Accessing new water knowledge for your city or town

To implement this research, the CRCWSC harnesses an integrated approach. In each new location, we help our clients bring together academic, government, and industry perspectives to rapidly identify, prioritise, and apply the most up-to-date knowledge to the local context. There are several avenues for translating this new knowledge – but our clients overwhelmingly recognise the value of starting with our **Water Sensitive Cities Index**: a benchmarking tool that identifies the most effective city-shaping initiatives for a particular city or town.





Water Sensitive City Index – benchmarking tool

Our Water Sensitive Cities Index enables organisations to set targets for urban water management, model the impact of management responses, track progress, and collaborate more effectively with other stakeholders.



Water sensitive city envisioning

We help our clients shape a vision for water and its role in city-shaping. The envisioning process builds a common understanding of water challenges and aligns strategic actions with national, state, and local directions.



Concept design

In collaboration with local government and industry, we translate innovation into tangible concept designs for cities.



World-class urban water research



Strategic planning

We facilitate urban planning strategies that transform cities. This strategic planning is informed by on-ground assessment of current physical conditions, institutional arrangements and community needs.




Innovation

We help our clients turn the latest research into structural and non-structural water related initiatives that reframe the value of water and its infrastructure in cities.



Capacity building and engagement

We design bespoke education programs that ensure practitioner capability exists to implement water sensitive solutions. Programs are delivered through collaborations with the CRCWSC's education and training partners.



Tapping into water sensitive opportunities: New knowledge in action

Work with our international clients is already yielding success. In China, for example, our close collaboration with the City of Kunshan has seen innovative urban design implemented to great effect, and resulted in Kunshan being named one of China's Ecological Garden Cities.

As a knowledge partner under the Asian Development Bank's Future Cities Program, we have applied our Water Sensitive Cities Index tool to assess and diagnose the strategic urban water needs for cities in Fiji, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

In fact, the cities of Suva and Mandalay offer prime examples of our diagnostic approach. For those cities, we have leveraged contemporary, global research in urban water innovation to identify key activities: initiatives that complement existing practices and infrastructure projects, but are tailored to leave these two cities more sustainable and resilient. Ultimately, such an approach is optimising the way forward for each community, and improving the health and livelihoods of their citizens – especially those who are most vulnerable.

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Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities

📍 Level 1, 8 Scenic Boulevard
Monash University, Clayton VIC 3800

✉ info@crcwsc.org.au
🌐 www.watersensitivecities.org.au



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