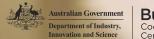


Many towns and cities face water management challenges but lack the tools and knowledge to make them more water sensitive.

Toward water sensitive cities: a collaborative approach

The CRC for Water Sensitive Cities provides a diverse talent pool of researchers from more than 20 different disciplines based at a wide range of universities, research centres, government organisations, and private industry.

Collaborative
research and
industry-led application
is the foundation of the
Cooperative Research
Centre for Water
Sensitive Cities.



Business
Cooperative Research
Centres Programme

Creating a water sensitive suburb

Local engagement and collaboration are of vital importance when transitioning communities to greater water sensitivity. This was highlighted by our research project in Elwood, a flood-prone bayside suburb in Melbourne's southeast, in the state of Victoria.

Once swampland, Elwood has strong historical connections to water. Increasing the suburb's water sensitivity will involve complex, long-term social and technical change, making community engagement a key to success.

Twenty-four local residents participated in research discussions to develop a citizen-led vision of a future water sensitive Elwood: a suburb celebrating, rather then resisting, its natural water presence, able to adapt to rising waters, and enjoying its thriving biodiversity. The locals then identified the changes necessary to achieve their vision.

This transition planning process yielded diverse ideas and strategies, demonstrating interconnection between water, people, infrastructure, and the landscape.

Ideas for change related to:

- catchment governance
- · regulatory frameworks
- · community connectedness
- individual resilience and adaptive capacity
- urban planning
- transportation
- · public and private spaces
- local waterways and foreshore environments.

Linking our research

with on-ground change



The Elwood case study shows the real-world application of the CRCWSC's research, highlighting that the transition to a water sensitive community can lead to genuine innovation if local citizens are engaged as partners in the process.

Empowering local residents to discuss their concerns, values, and aspirations around water, infrastructure, and environment not only boosts the agenda's legitimacy, but also builds ownership of the local changes and their vision for the future. The message is positive: sustainable, resilient, productive, and liveable communities are well within reach if communities are actively engaged.

treat

CA HEND STORAT social research **Mapping** water sensitive city solutions community visions, local solutions and transition strategies

Community preferred outcomes and performance measures.



A collaborative approach

Support for making water sensitive city decisions - flood risk modelling and analysis of adaptation strategies

Possible urban debate about the

Urban densification and greening – urban resolutions for ad risks sensitive outcomes.

Performance of urban design solutions evaluated against community water cycle measures

