

2021 and beyond

Shaping water sensitive cities of the future

Our Strategic Plan at a glance: 2017–2021

For the world's cities and towns, water is profoundly important to shaping healthy, productive places that meet our social and environmental needs, now and into the future.

Challenges and opportunity for cities and their regions

Without water, cities and towns cannot support healthy, productive, liveable communities. But growing populations, stressed budgets, and a changing climate threaten our precious water resources.

It is therefore vital that cities embrace water sensitive thinking: a revolutionary way of designing cities and towns to better counter water scarcity, manage heat and flooding, protect ecosystems, and ensure prosperity.

Yet many towns and cities lack the tools and knowledge they need to become water sensitive. This is where the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC) helps.

In a water sensitive city...



All sources of water – including wastewater, stormwater, and rainwater – are recognised as valuable resources, collected locally, and used appropriately.



Streets are planted with cooling greenery that cleanses stormwater and diverts floodwater



Communities are connected and water literate. Citizens contribute to decision-making.

How do we catalyse action?

By uniting government, universities, industry, and community, we provide the missing knowledge and tools to empower towns, cities, and regions. The result is that users go beyond the conventional approach to urban water management. They harness diverse water sources, apply new green technologies, and achieve a broad range of benefits.

Our vision: The world's cities are liveable, resilient, sustainable, and productive.

Our mission: We **research** interdisciplinary responses to water problems, **synthesise** diverse research outputs into practical solutions, and **influence** policy, regulation, and practice to promote adoption.

Achieving and sharing our vision is an ambitious goal – but we are embracing the future with an exciting plan geared to translate and apply new knowledge for real-world change.

2021 and beyond

Shaping water sensitive cities of the future

Our changing focus

Outcomes to guide our next 4 years

Grounded in our existing achievements, the CRCWSC's activities will now have a different focus: translating research into tangible impact.

Over the next four years, we will work towards the following outcomes:

- Industry leads on-ground water sensitive actions
- Government and industry have adopted water sensitive principles
- Water utilities, local governments, and private operators are equipped to operate water sensitive infrastructure and technologies
- Australia is known as a world-class provider of water sensitive research, development, education, technology, capacity building, and advice
- Strong water sensitive city partnerships and national forums exist between government, industry, and research institutions
- All major Australian cities are aspiring to be water sensitive; at least one is a world leader in water sensitive urban design.

These outcomes will help to answer a core question: **how can we mainstream our existing gains in water sensitive thinking and application?**

Creating a legacy for a water sensitive future

The CRCWSC is committed to creating an enduring legacy and genuine change beyond 2021. We aim to ensure that:

- Australia continues to lead water sensitive city research, collaboration, and application
- Institutions, tools, industry capacity, and culture support the collective adoption needed for lasting change
- Water sensitive city principles are applied internationally to support local communities and return new lessons to Australia.

The promise of sustainable, resilient, productive, liveable communities is closer than ever before. **With a solid plan for the coming years, the CRCWSC is working to provide the knowledge and tools for cities to design and deliver their own water sensitive future.**

Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities



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

www.watersensitivecities.org.au



info@crcwsc.org.au



[@crcwsc](https://twitter.com/crcwsc)



CRC for
Water Sensitive Cities