

Building regional capacity in WSUD

COUNCIL NAME

Blacktown City Council

WEB ADDRESS

blacktown.nsw.gov.au

SIZE

247 square kilometres

POPULATION

336,962

PROJECT PARTNERS

Sydney Water Corporation

Central West Councils Salinity and Water Quality Alliance

Parramatta River Catchment Group

City of Sydney

CRC for Water Sensitive Cities

FUNDING PROGRAM

Building Resilience to Climate Change

Overview

Splash is a collaborative network to build capacity of staff and organisations to transition to water sensitive cities as a means of increasing liveability and resilience to climate change. In just over 18 months, Splash developed networks and linked communication and education resources between 280 individuals and 80 organisations including local and state government, consultants and universities. Splash also delivered over 15 workshops and seminars to over 450 people.

Background

Cities that are water sensitive are more liveable, sustainable, productive and show greater resilience to climate change. At a local scale, councils have identified climate change risks associated with more frequent and severe drought and storms impacting their assets, operations and stakeholders. Blacktown City Council built on their existing Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) program and expertise to establish peer to peer learning and regional capacity-building network to understand the benefits of WSUD for adapting to climate change. Through online platforms and a workshop series, Splash promoted water sensitive urban design outcomes and provided tools and resources that will help project partners implement water sensitive projects and be better equipped to deal with a changing climate.

Implementation

A Steering Committee consisting of the Metropolitan Water Directorate, WaterNSW, Central West Environment and Waterways Alliance, Centre for Cooperative Research for Water Sensitive Cities, Parramatta River Catchment Group, Georges River Combined Councils Committee, Sydney Coastal Councils Group, Cooks River Alliance, Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Office of Environment and Heritage and StormwaterNSW was formed at program inception. Steering Committee members also provided valuable technical expertise to the network and helped to disseminate information to their stakeholders.



REFERENCES

sydneywatertalk.com.au/splash-network

preferred engagement options. Sydney Water already used a collaborative online platform, which Splash was able to use to engage Sydney Water staff and developed a Yammer network for others. However, restriction and subscription requirements led to a LinkedIn trial and this platform will be continued to be used into the future as it is much easier to share relevant information with members.

Capacity building and knowledge sharing was achieved through a series of workshops, seminars, site tours and lunch time talks. Topics included an introduction to WSUD, stormwater harvesting, water quality, planning and design tools and influencing and engaging. The events have also helped to expand the network creating a community of practice. Resources developed for Splash and from project partners are available on the [Sydney Water Talk](http://Sydney Water Talk website) website.

Outcomes

Since its inception, Splash achievements include:

- Leveraging over \$100,000 of additional funding to build on the Building Resilience to Climate Change project.
- A central hub sharing 18 practical resources, links to 10 key knowledge holders, 12 implementation guidance opportunities and symposiums, as well as an active news feed and discussion forum, spanning water sensitive urban design for climate adaptation and resilience.
- Developed networks and linkages between over 280 individuals and 80 organisations including local and state government, consultants and universities.
- Delivery of 15 workshops to over 450 people working in the water sector and beyond.
- Initiated collaboration between organisations undertaking water sensitive urban design capacity building and projects.
- Increased understanding of opportunities to implement WSUD across a range of council projects.

The project also introduced the Living Waterways Framework, a methodology that encourages and incentivises traditional stormwater or drainage projects to include aspects of liveability, resilience, sustainability and productivity, to NSW practitioners. Support from stakeholders is being sought to continue the Splash program.

Key Learnings

The main lessons learned from the program were:

- Choose your Steering Committee wisely to ensure members are aligned to program objectives and committed to the success of the program.
- Build flexibility into the program to respond to opportunities or challenges.
- Build partnerships and capacity by aligning and leveraging the efforts of key organisations.

Contact

Name: Kristy Good

Position: Splash Coordinator

Phone: 8849 4455

Email: kristy.good@sydneywater.com.au



This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust