

Terms of Reference Steering Committee

SPLASH Network

*mainstreaming improved water management to
build resilience to climate change*

Context

The SPLASH Network is funded through a Building Resilience to Climate Change grant (OEH and NSW Environmental Trust, administered by Local Government NSW), Sydney Water and Blacktown Council. The purpose of the network is to integrate water cycle management into urban planning and design so as to minimise the impacts of climate change on local communities.

The project will provide the tools for staff within Councils and Sydney Water to think more strategically about the potential vulnerability of our communities to climate change, and combat these through adaptive planning, improved asset management, effective stormwater management and green infrastructure projects. Splash will encourage networking, and offer multidisciplinary education and training, provide case studies and research findings and distribute expertise, collaboration opportunities, events and materials to enable the implementation of WSUD projects in urban and regional NSW Councils.

The project will develop capacity to implement water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and climate change resilience solutions by attempting to build climate change consensus, addressing skills gaps, sharing knowledge and experience, and improve the evidence base on the cost-benefits of WSUD adaptation and extend community knowledge.

The specific objectives of the Project are to:

1. Build capacity to implement WSUD projects, through networking and sharing of information across urban Sydney and regional NSW councils, encouraging peer to peer learning, access and use of relevant research, and improving organisational and institutional capacity.
2. Improve knowledge and skills within councils (and related professional and layperson communities) regarding climate change impacts and potential responses in order to implement effective climate change adaptation projects. It will target individuals' technical capacity and fostering leadership and management capacity to create an environment to support WSUD.
3. Provide, consolidate and disseminate relevant resources, including those already developed by Blacktown City Council and other Councils, inclusive of State Government and research organisations.

Purpose of the Steering Committee

Representatives on the steering committee will

- Provide leadership and direction for the project and the incumbent officer.
- Disseminate information between organisations and the project officer to improve networking and knowledge sharing of effective Water Sensitive Urban Design and management approaches to improve resilience to climate change.
- Identify opportunities to undertake organisational strengthening, directive and facilitative reform, capacity building interventions and knowledge building and professional development.

*Draft Pending Approval
28 January 2016.*

- Report, foster and promote WSUD projects within their organisation for the term of the project (till July 2017).

Membership of the Steering Committee

- Representatives from each of the following organisations will be invited to join the steering committee:
 - a. Blacktown City Council
 - b. Central Tablelands Local Land Service
 - c. City of Sydney
 - d. Cooks River Alliance
 - e. CRC for Water Sensitive Cities
 - f. Environment and Waterways Alliance
 - g. Georges River Combined Councils Committee
 - h. Greater Sydney Local Land Service
 - i. Metropolitan Water Directorate
 - j. Office of Environment and Heritage
 - k. Parramatta River Catchment Group
 - l. Stormwater NSW
 - m. Sydney Water
 - n. Water NSW
- Further representatives may join the Committee over the course of the Program.

Meetings

- It is expected that the group would meet every 6-8 weeks for approximately 2 – 3 hours throughout the course of the Program, and correspond via email more frequently.
- Meetings will be hosted at Blacktown Council, or the Parramatta Sydney Water office and will have a teleconferencing option available.
- The meeting will be chaired by a representative of Sydney Water or Blacktown Council, or on a rotating basis if required.
- Nominated representatives could send a colleague in their place if unable to attend.

Quorum

- Quorum is representatives from at least 50% of member organisations present.
- Voting will be majority consensus of members present, funding partners (at this stage OEH, Sydney Water, Blacktown Council) have deciding vote if required.

Agenda Items and Minutes

- All Agenda items will be forwarded to Blacktown Council's WSUD Capacity Building Officer (or Project Officer once employed) 10 working days prior to the next scheduled meeting.
- The meeting Agenda will be distributed at least 5 working days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

- The minutes will be prepared by the WSUD Capacity Building Officer or Project Officer. Full copies of the minutes, including relevant attachments, will be provided to all committee members within 10 working days following each meeting.