

# Stormwater management funding: Summary of lessons from elsewhere and options for NSW

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My summary of what we've  
heard

# Victoria (Jeremy Cheesman)

- The key need as “joining the dots”
- Mechanisms to understand:
  - How much is being invested
  - What sort of impact investment is having
- Examples
  - Liveability investments (including stormwater)
  - Council rates – but what’s going where? (flooding, amenity, other)
  - New development is investing in stormwater management (but how much?)
  - Household investments (e.g. garden and home maintenance)
  - IWM forums – special to

# Queensland (Kath Thrupp)

- BAU funding vs. funding needed to address climate change and other evolving needs
- Buckets of funding – integrated approach rather than silos
- Qld case studies
  - Resilient rivers
  - Reef credits
  - Environmental markets
- SEQ and Brisbane lessons learned
  - There are gaps – how to address these?
- Funding options – including innovative funding mechanisms from elsewhere in the world

# NSW (Matt Edgerton)

- Vision and objectives for greener, more liveable cities
  - We know that stormwater is part of this picture
- But challenges in delivery
  - Funding is an issue
  - But there are also governance and capacity issues
- Examples in NSW where Sydney Water and councils have made the case for more funding for improved stormwater management outcomes
- Issues with the current framework
  - SMSC being fixed over time
  - Hurdles for councils trying to raise revenue for stormwater via SV process

My key takeaways

# Issues we need to examine

## Clarify goals

- BAU and future goals
- Integrated outcomes (e.g. liveability)

## Clarify gaps

- Where existing funding is going
- Why it is falling short

## Establish willingness to pay

- For various benefits
- Among various sectors of the community

## Consider the best mechanism

- Fairness/equity
- Stability
- Efficiency
- Feasibility

# Why not simply raise the rate of the SMSC?

## Clarify goals

- Its goals are unclear - it can be used for many purposes

## Clarify gaps

- It's not clear where SMSC funding is going (e.g. drainage vs. water quality improvement)

## Establish willingness to pay

- This could be challenging if the goals are unclear!

## Consider the best mechanism

- It may not be the best mechanism

# Why can't each council raise a special rate variation?

## Clarify goals

- Makes sense when the goals are local – but what about catchments and waterways beyond LGA boundaries?

## Clarify gaps

- There is a need to understand the whole picture – including all funding sources: local government, Sydney Water, state government

## Establish willingness to pay

- A tough ask for some communities and political leaders – particularly when the goals are regional and outcomes are long-term

## Consider the best mechanism

- It may not be the best mechanism

# Next steps for us

## Clarify goals

- Broad goals are clear
- Are we clear enough on the role of stormwater management and the level of investment required to achieve desired outcomes?

## Clarify gaps

- All the sources of existing funding
- Where this is going
- Why it is falling short

## Establish willingness to pay

## Consider the best mechanism