



# STORMWATER NEW SOUTH WALES

E-mail: [admin@stormwater.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@stormwater.nsw.gov.au)

Ph: (02) 9744 5252

Fax: (02) 9747 8366

ABN: 96 988 307 922

SIA NSW Secretariat

PO Box 1221

Burwood NSW 1805

---

## 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9.00 am – 9.30 am Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2023

Via Zoom

## MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE

Alan Benson – Water NSW

Amna Arif – Holcim

Andre Magar – Atlan

Andrew Thomas – Cooks River Alliance

Brett C Phillips - Stantec

Craig Bush – Blacktown Council

Gerry Quinn – Kingspan

Greg Mashiah -

Lachlan Shackcloth Bertinetti – Ocean Protect

Louis Nguyen – Woolacotts

Murray Powell – Optimal Stormwater

Nerida Taylor – Sydney Water

Brett Phillips – Stormwater NSW

Louis Peralta

Greg Mashiah – Clarence Council

Adrian Smit – City of Sydney

Jacqueline Woodlock –

Roshan Khadka – Liverpool City Council

Nima Aryan

### APOLOGIES

Andrew McMillan – Civile

Ruby Ardren – Alluvium

Stephanie Kermode – Jacobs

Erin Sellars – Sydney Coastal Councils

### PROXYS

Anthony Pridam to Mircea Stancu

## 2023 STORMWATER NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Ruby Ardren to Nerida Taylor  
Ana Terrazas to Craig Bush

### 1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

Dr Andrew Thomas, Acting President of Stormwater NSW, welcomed Association members attending the 2023 AGM and declared the meeting open at 9.10 am.

### 2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DATED THURSDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2022

Motion: That the Minutes of the 2022 Stormwater Annual General Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 be ratified:

Moved: Andrew Thomas  
Seconded: Murray Powell

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

GEMS declared that there was no correspondence arising from the Annual General Meeting held in 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### 5. 2023 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the last few years, we have seen flood, fires, and a global pandemic. These events ring the bell on the need for change as we face the unique and complex challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Fortunately, there are solutions at hand. But the challenges our industry faces are not so much technical (these have been well worked through), but rather socio-political. We must act to see these solutions implemented in the face of long-established vested paradigms. And with this in mind, Stormwater NSW is gearing-up to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century head-on.

It is hard to believe just how much has taken place in the last five years. We went from raging bushfires in the summer of 2019-20, where, even if not directly affected by fire, most of our streets were filled with smoke so elevated that visibility and exercising outside was not an option. Within a few short weeks, the COVID outbreak hit Australian shores, seeing consecutive lock-downs and restrictions placed on all of us. This led to fundamental changes in how we viewed the work place, working from home, how we conducted meetings, how we value our local environment, and even how we saw living itself. Issues such as the inequities of access to naturalised blue and green space became acutely apparent, with those located along the eastern suburbs being able to enjoy ample access, unlike many of their fellow citizens in central and western Sydney. Then, as the COVID restrictions began to fall away, the rain came. Lots and lots of rain. Torrential rain not seen in at least 60 years, sweeping away the homes and livelihoods of many.

So, what does these events have to do with Stormwater? Everything. The way we respond to the impact of extreme weather events that lead to the fires (drought, high temperatures) and floods

## 2023 STORMWATER NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

(intense storms) is a direct consequence of how we manage and put stormwater to use. Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles include solutions for maintaining water security and dealing with the urban heat island phenomenon that plague our urban areas. And, of course, effective stormwater management is central to flood mitigation, where diligence should require us to look beyond mere conveyance to include the mitigation of flooding and peak flow rates via the incorporation of detention and retention solutions. Or just not building ill-named 'affordable housing' in flood prone areas! And perhaps most interesting of all is how COVID made it abundantly clear just how important access to blue-green space is to our health and wellbeing, further demonstrating the critical importance of WSUD principles.

With the advent of Climate Change, it is now patently obvious that stormwater should no longer be the poor cousin to water supply and sewerage, but rather a pivotal component of how we build resilience into our society. And you would think that after the fires and the floods, NSW would be racing to address these issues, compounded by a housing shortage and rising insurance premiums that threatens to create a new underclass (see the Australian Government's 2023 Intergenerational Report). But disturbingly and for reasons still unclear, in 2022 the previous state government removed critical important flood, fire, and WSUD development requirements for tackling climate change just a few short weeks after their introduction, drawing criticism not just from the stormwater industry, but also other sectors, including the NSW chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects.

Moreover, well developed tools for protecting our waterways, such as the Risk Based Framework, continue to lack any substantive legislative support, being implemented by only our most forward thinking councils. As a consequence, it is clear that NSW is not preparing itself for the future ahead, falling behind other Australian states such as Victoria and Queensland; the costs of which is most likely to be borne by those who can least afford it.

However, there is reason for hope. We now have a new state government that we hope will be more amenable to the development of humane and environmentally responsible planning instruments. Likewise, the signs are good at the Federal Government level. For example, their Urban Rivers program is designed to fund on-ground, local actions that recognises the importance of our urban rivers not just to biodiversity, but also to the health and well-being of citizens. And for us at Stormwater NSW, we are more determined than ever to support our members by not just promoting best practice stormwater management, but to also lead the charge in promoting its role in building a better, more resilient NSW by bringing together a diverse range of industries and professionals to advocate for better practices. Accordingly, It is my sincere hope that you will continue to support Stormwater NSW, and proactively join us in this important work for our children, and theirs.

Andrew Thomas  
(Acting) President, Stormwater NSW

Motion: That the 2023 President's Report be accepted.  
Moved: Murray Powell  
Seconded: Brett Phillips  
Vote: 11 For 2 Abstained

## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Brett Phillips, Treasurer of Stormwater NSW provided the Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's Report and Audited Financial Statements are included in the 2023 Stormwater NSW Annual Report which will be available on the Stormwater NSW website following the AGM and are included as Appendix A to these minutes. Dr Brett Phillips, Treasurer of Stormwater NSW, provided an overview of the audited financial reports for 2022 - 2023.

Brett advised that after 16 years he was stepping down as the Treasurer for Stormwater NSW and wished the association and GEMS all the best for the future.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Murray Powell

Seconded: Andre Magar

Vote: 15 For 2 Abstained

## 7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND OFFICE BEARERS

The term of a committee member is two years and half of the committee stand for re-election each year while the terms of the second half's is continued until the following year.

### Action Arising from Non- attendance at Committee Meetings

All members must attend at least 60% of meetings (Committee and Sub Committee Meetings) to be eligible for the Committee the following year.

There were no members seeking re-election who have fallen under the previous requirement of 60% attendance for the 2022 – 2023 year.

The following serving member has advised that they would not be nominating for the Stormwater NSW Committee for the 2023/2024 year.

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jeremy Brown (Ocean Protect) | Category: Manufacturer |
| 2. Andrew McMillan (Civille)    | Category: Consultant   |
| 3. Ruby Ardren (Alluvium)       | Category: Consultant   |
| 4. Alan Benson (Water NSW)      | Category: Government   |

### Appointment to the Committee for 2023/2024

A ballot was not required to be carried out as nominations were not in excess of the number of members required to fill all vacant positions on the Committee nor in excess of representatives from any one industry category as agreed in the Association Rules.

## 2023 STORMWATER NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The following committee members were not required to renominate:

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Dr Brett Phillips (Stantec)             | Category: Practitioner         |
| 2. Murray Powell (Optimal Stormwater)      | Category: Consultant           |
| 3. Dr Andrew Thomas (Cooks River Alliance) | Category: Catchment Management |
| 4. Craig Bush (Blacktown Council)          | Category: Local Government     |
| 5. Amna Arif (Holcim)                      | Category: Manufacturer         |
| 6. Craig Naughton (Ku-ring-gai Council)    | Category: Local Government     |

The following nominations for the 2023 – 2024 Committee were tabled at the meeting:

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Nerida Taylor (Sydney Water)           | Category: Water Authority      |
| 2. Andre Magar (Atlan)                    | Category: Engineer             |
| 3. Anna Thompson (Sydney Water)           | Category: Surveyor             |
| 4. Gerry Quinn (Kingspan)                 | Category: Manufacturer         |
| 5. Phi Do (McGregor Coxall)               | Category: Consultant           |
| 6. Erin Sellers (Sydney Coastal Councils) | Category: Catchment Management |
| 7. Louis Nguyen (Woolacotts)              | Category: Consultant           |
| 8. Jacqueline Woodlock – WMS Engineer     | Category: Consultant           |

As the nominations received were not greater than the number of members required to fill the vacant positions, all nominations were accepted.

Each committee member should be reminded that there is an expectation from every committee member that they be actively involved in a Sub Committee, which involves approximately 4 hours per week on average.

Resolution: That the 8 nominations for the 2023/2024 Stormwater NSW Committee be accepted for a period of 2 years.

Move: Murray Powell

Second: Alan Benson

Vote: 17 For 0 Abstained – Carried

### **Nomination of Office Bearers**

Nominations were tabled for the Management Committee positions.

- Andrew Thomas was nominated for the role of President (unopposed)
- Andre Magar was nominated for the role of Vice President (unopposed)
- Lachlan Shackcloth-Bertinetti was nominated for the role of Treasurer (unopposed)
- Murray Powell and Erin Sellars have nominated for Secretary.

Due to two people nominating for the position of secretary, Murray Powell elected to nominate for the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president position, having been vacated by Jeremy Brown.

## 2023 STORMWATER NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

As the nominations for executive positions did not outnumber the available positions, it was moved that the Management Committee of Stormwater NSW for 2023/2024 be approved as follows:

Dr Andrew Thomas	President
Andre Magar	Vice President
Murray Powell	Vice President
Lachlan Shackcloth-Bertinetti	Treasurer
Erin Sellers	Secretary

Moved: Brett Philips  
Seconded: Anna Thompson

Vote: 17 For 3 Abstained - Carried

### 8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Resolution: That E H Tan be reappointed as auditors for the Stormwater NSW for 2023/2024

Moved: Brett Phillips  
Seconded: Murray Powell

Vote: 17 For 3 Abstained - Carried

### 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Andrew Thomas thanked Alan Benson for his leadership over few very difficult years which included COVID-19 and the courage to support the franc.sydney conference. While the Conference is yet to make a surplus, we have increased our numbers significantly over previous years.

Also thanked GEMS for their constant support. We saw a significant improvement over time on our financial status since GEMS were appointed and thank Julie McGraw and her team for all their efforts.

Also, thanks to the committee for their support of the past few years and to those who have come before us.

Alan Benson thanked Andrew Thomas and Jeremy Brown for the support given to him during his time and also thanks to GEM for their support during his presidency.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting for Stormwater NSW will be held in September 2024.

### 11. CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the President, Andrew Thomas closed the meeting at 9.42 am.

## 2023 STORMWATER NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

These minutes form a true record of the business of Stormwater NSW 2023 Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Prepared by:** Julie McGraw, GEMS Event Management Australia  
**Date:** Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023