



Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

23-4-2015

Via email. ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee,

We are providing this letter to show support for the current Senate Inquiry into;

The future management of stormwater in Australia.

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia, Victoria Division IPWEA Vic represents Public Works Practitioners and has an interest in stormwater management for the following reasons:

- (a) The effective capture and reuse of the stormwater resource in Australia is currently very limited and there are a large number of significant and mutually beneficial projects for communities and business interests which should be encouraged and facilitated based on this potential to make optimal use of the resource.
- (b) Establishing a consistent and manageable value proposition around the resource will allow a range of diverse management practices in areas of flooding, environmental impacts, waterway management to be greatly enhanced beyond simply controlling risk and nuisance, clearly this value framework must recognise the efforts of stakeholders to address the issues and risks and also their capacity to derive material and social benefits from this water resource planning.
- (c) Councils are generally only charged with the responsibility for effectively conveying stormwater through their municipal district in a manner that avoids nuisance and minimises risks to safety and property damage. There is a need to develop an effective framework for those communities to be able to trade and realise the value of the Stormwater asset so that reasonable cost recovery models can be established to ensure tangible benefits from Capital Investment and so that Life Cycle costs are properly understood and managed.
- (d) There is a key role to play for Public Works Practitioners to assist in the role of developing and implementing measures based on knowledge derived from scientific advances which continue to be made in improving stormwater management outcomes.

- (e) The role of PW practitioners includes providing technical advice and direction to LGAs which are a significant stakeholder group in this issue and they can provide support in policy and operating framework development to ensure effective integration of these policies to help unlock the full suite of economic benefits.
- (f) The IPWEA can also assist in informing and educating PW professionals in the application of model land use planning and building controls which maximise benefits and minimise impacts in both new and legacy situations.
- (g) Our members are generally responsible for Infrastructure Asset Management and operations and therefore well understand the importance of efficient investments and in these long lived assets which have substantial capacity to provide benefits.

IPWEA vic looks forward to the final report and recommendations when the committee reports later in the year.

Regards

Bruce Douglas

Acting Chief Executive Officer – IPWEA Victoria Division