

Community values: What is current public understanding of stormwater and WSUD in Georges River Catchment?

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Distributed and green urban drainage infrastructure known as Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) is increasingly being implemented in cities globally to combat climate change and urbanisation effects. While local city councils have started implementing these systems around Sydney almost 10 years ago, with a fast changing and growing communities, it is not clear whether general public has recognised these WSUD technologies as water retention and treatment systems, or they are observed as merely green and blue spaces. Furthermore, some inadequate WSUD designs might have given public a wrong perception of all WSUD systems and negatively affected future widespread implementation of WSUDs in certain areas. This project aims to understand current general public knowledge of stormwater and WSUD assets in Georges River Catchment, so that it can inform local governments on how best to approach future legislations and implementation of WSUDs. Community surveys and questionnaires will be performed, to find out how much different communities value green and blue spaces, water savings and water quality. We intend to discover how communities would like to use the Georges River and its surroundings, so that we can understand if improvements to water quality should be made and what would be the best approach to creating more livable Georges River Catchment.