

## The Alliance wants to hear your views

To put the final touches of the Water Sensitive Design Policy in place we need to ensure we understand your needs in making the transition to Water Sensitive Design in your Council.

Let us know what they are by contacting us. Our contact details are at the bottom of this page.

## Salinity & Water Quality Alliance

Councils participating in on-ground water quality and salinity improvement works across the Central West Catchment are:

Bathurst Regional Council  
Blayney Shire Council  
Bogan Shire Council  
Cabonne Council  
Coonamble Shire Council  
Dubbo City Council  
Gilgandra Shire Council  
Mid Western Regional Council  
Narromine Shire Council  
Orange City Council  
Warren Shire Council  
Warrumbungle Shire Council  
Wellington Council



Let us  
know  
what you  
think!

## About our Water Sensitive Design Policy

*Securing the Sustainable Growth of all our Communities*



For more information contact the Central West Catchment Management Authority (CWCMA)

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Central West Councils  
**SALINITY**  
**WATER & QUALITY**  
**ALLIANCE**

## Who are we?

The Salinity & Water Quality Alliance represents a group of 13 councils in the Central West that work collaboratively to address water quality & salinity issues using a whole-of-catchment approach.

## What are we doing?

The Alliance is currently preparing a Water Sensitive Design policy to be adopted by its member councils through the current Planning Reform process. It should be noted this policy is distinct from traditional WSUD, in that it embraces the whole water cycle and is not confined to urban areas or new developments.

A draft of these documents was recently distributed, which generated some discussion around issues such as ease of implementation, practicability and barriers to development (if you haven't seen a copy and would like one, please contact us).

It is worth revisiting the reasons for having a water sensitive policy embodied in our planning process in the first place, and get you to help us identify some of the tools you'll need to make it work for all – for planners, engineers, councillors, developers and domestic planning applicants.

*"The Water Sensitive Design Policy changes the way we all relate to water. It adds some new steps to the process you are currently familiar with"*

As professionals and members of our interdependent communities we all know we're in this together. Without being proactive in the face of global climate change and the increasing demands on water and pressures on water quality locally, we could all face much more stringent and costly restrictions - imposed on us if not by government then certainly by nature!

It is preferable to draw on the traditional knowledge and practical common sense that has always been a feature of our rural communities, and support development aspirations and day-to-day needs with step-by-step, easily-adopted, low-cost solutions. Our policy is in place to ensure that small or even extensive development can continue without compromising the quality of our water or the sustainable growth of our communities.

## So, why are we doing this?

- Using water smartly means we can carry on developing and growing our communities
- As stewards of our land it enables us to feel secure that we're preserving the viability of our communities for future generations
- Sharing responsibility for managing water resources between local government and private individual applicants achieves integration and efficiency
- The Alliance has invested in a comprehensive scientific survey, and have responded with practical, simple steps to address its findings
- The policy is easy to apply and neither difficult nor costly when compared to the benefits

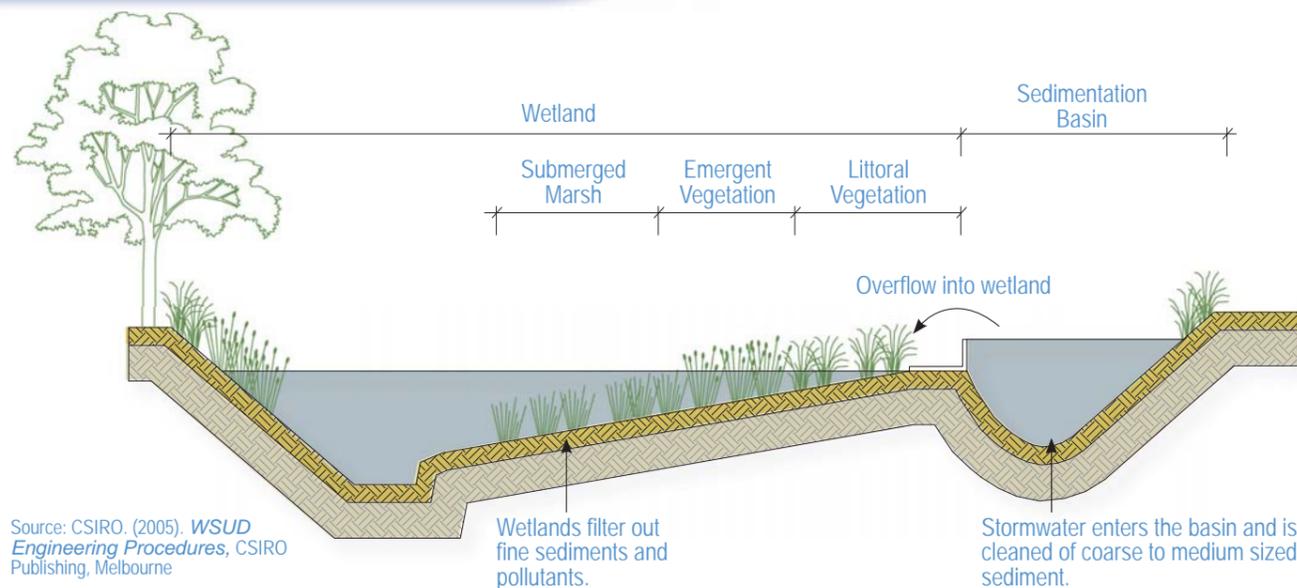
## What are the benefits of the policy?

- Adds value to developments
- Encourages best practice
- Simplicity: apply the policy and you can be secure that we've planned for the water implications
- Best management practice for Councils' own activities
- The policy works seamlessly with BASIX and the Housing Code



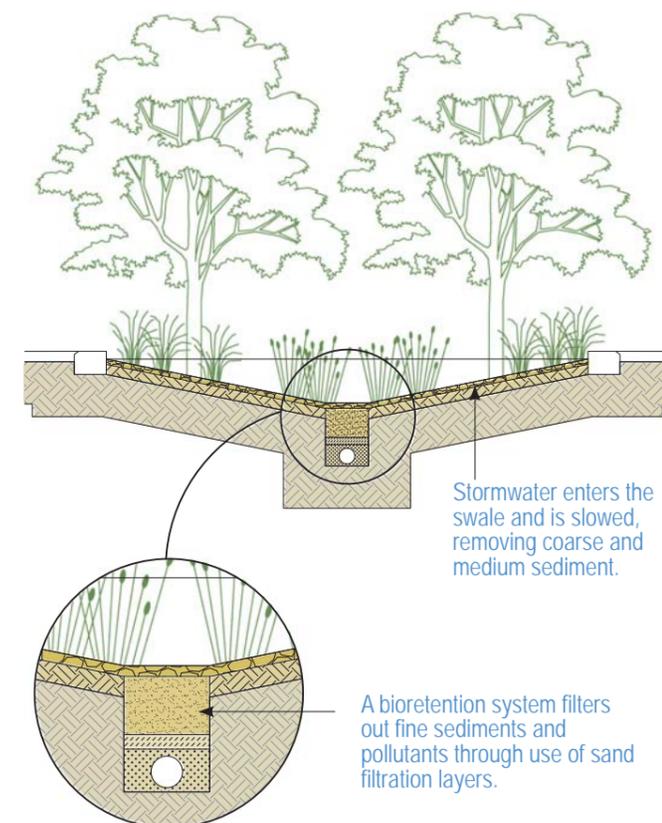
## But what will it really cost us?

- For an individual applicant it may mean a larger water tank and some other practical measures. But this will be offset by a reduction in their water bill and reduced subdivision development costs.
- It could cost us a very great deal more if we don't : How can we place a value on our communities or even the Macquarie Marshes?



## Water Sensitive Design aims to:

- Prevent the damage caused to our environment by traditional stormwater management
- Design our environments so that they more closely match what happens in nature
- Improve the quality of water draining into our creeks, rivers and wetlands
- Improve the quality of water abstracted for drinking and all other purposes
- Use our landscape more effectively by integrating stormwater management
- Protect our land, creeks and rivers from erosion and siltation and to prevent unnatural flooding
- Add value while minimising development costs
- Reduce potable water demand



## Support tools

The Alliance can provide the following support tools:

- Technical Guidelines
- A simple, one page implementation chart
- Brochures to help communicate the Policy and its requirements with the development community
- Our staff, just call us!

## What other support do you need?

We think we have anticipated some of the ways we can help you to implement the Policy and make the transition to water sensitive design, but let us know of any others you will need, such as training requirements.