

For Immediate Release

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Groundbreaking project to integrate green infrastructure into asset management

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia and project partners are pleased to announce the launch of a South Australian led project '**Asset Management for Green Infrastructure**'.

The project will bridge the knowledge gap, overcome barriers, and empower asset managers to confidently integrate green infrastructure into their financial and asset management plans. The incorporation of green infrastructure into mainstream asset management has the potential to increase the uptake of nature-based assets, ensure their care is effectively resourced and funded, enhance the services they can provide, build climate resilience and reduce impacts to the environment.

The project will develop an industry-leading best practice guideline (Practice Note) and an online training course tailored to asset managers, engineers, local governments, consultants, arborists, and ecologists. These resources will synthesise the latest policies and research in green infrastructure and asset management into practical, actionable guidance.

"IPWEA is excited to collaborate with our project partners to deliver world-leading guidance on the incorporation of nature-based assets into mainstream asset management. This project will ensure green infrastructure is valued in the same way as traditional assets, with the resources and funding needed to sustain it." Jacqueline Balston, Director of Sustainability, IPWEA

Traditional grey infrastructure accounts for approximately 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions and half of all resources used and waste created globally and so has an enormous responsibility to reduce its demands on the natural environment. A critical step forward is to recognize the benefits of existing natural assets and employ nature-based green infrastructure options that support or replace grey assets.

Green infrastructure assets provide essential, cost effective, sustainable, climate-resilient services for the land, water and coast including slope and coastal dune stabilization, sediment capture, air and water purification, flood mitigation, water storage, urban shading and cooling. They also provide a range of additional biodiversity, ecosystem and human wellbeing co-benefits. However, they are often overlooked in public asset and financial management plans, leading to their neglect and degradation.

"Applying a tried and trusted asset management framework to green infrastructure is the key. This seminal Practice Note aims to bring a diverse but related set of professionals together to provide practical steps and a shared vocabulary on implementing green infrastructure solutions. It will be applicable internationally and is what many of our members and broader public works community have been asking for." David Jenkins, CEO, IPWEA

The project encompasses a broad spectrum of green infrastructure assets, including street trees, green roofs and walls, parks and gardens, urban forests, community gardens, hybrid reefs, seagrasses, saltmarshes, mangroves, and water-sensitive urban design features such as constructed wetlands, bioswales, and rain gardens.

"Money and risk are the currency of business and government. Empowering green assets such as trees and the landscape they reside in by articulating their value in metrics using agreed approaches will facilitate better and balanced decision making for the long-term benefit of everyone in our society".
Simon Strauss, Arboriculture Australia.

Best practice guidance will be developed for: land, water and coastal green infrastructure assets; valuation and condition assessment methodologies; co-benefits; service provision; demand management; lifecycle analysis; risk assessments; long-term strategic and financial management planning; costs; threats; case studies; decision tools and templates. Outcomes from the project will be the inclusion of green infrastructure assets into asset management plans and registers, as well as strategic and long-term financial plans to optimise the services provided by green infrastructure assets for our communities.

The Asset Management for Green Infrastructure project is a collaboration between the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA), South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance (SACCA), Water Sensitive SA (WSSA), the Landscape Foundation Australia (LFA), Active Green Services, Living Shorelines Australia, Green Adelaide and the Australasian Green Infrastructure Network and South Australian Councils. The project has been funded by IPWEA, project partners and the Local Government Research and Development Scheme administered by LGA South Australia.

For further information about the project or to get involved please contact Project Manager, Dr. Jacqueline Balston, IPWEA Director of Sustainability. Email: sustainability@ipwea.org

For additional information about IPWEA Australasia, please contact IPWEA CEO David Jenkins. Email: david.jenkins@ipwea.org or Sarah Di Mento. Email: sarah.dimento@ipwea.org

About IPWEA - The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia is the peak association for municipal and public works professionals. IPWEA is a global leader in the delivery of sustainable infrastructure asset management, financial planning and reporting.

About LGA South Australia – LGA South Australia helps local government build stronger communities. For over a century, our work has backed local decision-making and today supports councils across South Australia. LGA leads advocacy and discussions with state and federal government decision-makers and key stakeholders. We also provide training and networking opportunities, secure funds for local projects, and work hard to reduce risk and save councils money.

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