

World first management manual for green infrastructure

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia, LGA South Australia and project partners are pleased to announce the launch of the **Green Infrastructure Management Manual**.

Traditional grey infrastructure accounts for approximately 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions and half of all resources used and waste created globally.

Nature-based, living green infrastructure includes street trees, green roofs and walls, parks and gardens, urban forests, community gardens, living shorelines, hybrid reefs, seagrass beds, saltmarshes, mangroves, and water-sensitive urban design elements such as constructed wetlands, bio-swales and rain gardens. Professor Chris Daniels, Green Adelaide Presiding Member said that *“the development of the manual is a significant step in having the value of nature in our cities understood and protected. Green Adelaide is proud to have contributed to the development of the world’s first Green Infrastructure Management Manual. Our vision is for a cooler, greener, wilder Adelaide – and critical to that is building real appreciation for green infrastructure and the value that it provides”*.

Green infrastructure assets provide essential, cost effective, sustainable, climate-resilient ecosystem services for the land, water and coast. These services include the stabilisation of slopes and coastal foreshore, air and water quality improvement, flood mitigation, water storage, urban shading and cooling, biodiversity, enhanced human wellbeing and many more.

However, green infrastructure has not traditionally been included in asset and financial management plans – an omission that has often led to its neglect and degradation, and subsequent waste of the initial investment. The Hon. Emily Bourke MP Minister for Infrastructure and Transport says that *“the launch of the Green Infrastructure Management Manual is a significant step forward for how we plan, protect and invest in our natural assets. Green infrastructure delivers essential, cost effective and climate resilient services and should be treated as core infrastructure alongside roads and pipes. This work complements the State Government’s Urban Greening Strategy released earlier this year which aims to expand tree canopy, cool the city, and enhance biodiversity to create a more liveable city. With South Australia’s population expected to grow by 670,000 people by 2050, it’s more important than ever that we invest in our green spaces and infrastructure.”*

The 270 page Green Infrastructure Management Manual provides comprehensive content on: definitions; green infrastructure services; the asset and financial management process for green infrastructure; and details for 24 green infrastructure assets including images, drawings and details on relative risks, costs, values, lifecycle activities, and demand management. The Manual is supported by a simple framework for including green infrastructure into asset management planning and plans, case studies, tools, summary tables and extensive links to additional sources of information.

The Manual aligns with all relevant ISO standards, is applicable globally, and will empower asset stewards to confidently integrate nature-based green infrastructure into their financial and asset management plans. By including green infrastructure into mainstream asset management planning and plans, asset stewards can enhance the services they can provide, ensure their care is effectively resourced and funded throughout their lifecycle, build climate resilience, and reduce environmental impacts. LGA South Australia President, Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross said that *“Local councils are leading climate action to adapt, innovate and build resilience in their communities”*, and that *“Nature-based infrastructure like street trees, community gardens and urban forests are critical for supporting biodiversity, reducing urban heat, cutting emissions and strengthening the liveability of our streets and neighbourhoods. This world-first management manual will help councils integrate living green infrastructure into their asset planning and deliver stronger local environmental outcomes”*.

The Manual was developed with substantial stakeholder input and peer review and is written in accessible language and designed to meet the needs of a range of asset stewards including elected officials, CEOs, asset and financial managers, engineers, landscape designers, consultants, arborists and ecologists.

The Green Infrastructure Management Manual is free and can be downloaded from the IPWEA website <https://www.ipwea.org/resourcesnew/bookshop/gimm> or the LGA South Australia website: <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/members/services/research-and-publications/library/2024/asset-management-for-green-infrastructure>.

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), Arboriculture Australia, 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.



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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