
REPORT 1

WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN (WSUD) GUIDE

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to:

- Report back to Environment Committee on the key changes made to the Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) guide following consultation
- Agree to recommend to Council that the WSUD guide be approved.

2. Executive summary

WSUD guides water resource management in urban environments to address water quantity and water quality issues. The implementation of WSUD will deliver more natural drainage to minimise rainwater inundation of the drainage system and to reduce incidents of sewer flooding to the sea.

The draft *WSUD Stormwater Management in Wellington Guide* was presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee (SPC) in August 2013, which agreed to consult on the draft guide. Feedback from consultation resulted in a change of presentation of the guide; the split into two separate but related documents.

Officers recommend that the Council approves the Introduction to WSUD guide (attached to this document as Appendix 1). The guide will only be effective if it is implemented. As a committee you will need to consider how best to directly implement WSUD and where there may be opportunities through implementation of asset management and infrastructure plans and projects. At the same time officers will look to work with developers to see where they can include WSUD in their developments, particularly where they can both improve water quality and increase the amenity value and demand for the development.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Environment Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Note that following consultation, the draft Water Sensitive Urban Design guide has been separated into two related documents:*
 - a. *an Introduction Water Sensitive Urban Design Stormwater Management in Wellington guide; and*
 - b. *the more technical detail to form a Water Sensitive Urban Design chapter of the Code of Practice for Land Development, which has not been drafted yet.*

3. *Recommend to the Council that the Introduction Guide to Water Sensitive Urban Design in Wellington be formally approved.*
4. *Note that the Water Sensitive Urban Design chapter of the Code of Practice for Land Development will form part of the scheduled 2014 review of the Regional Water Standard and Code of Practice for Land Development.*

4. Discussion

4.1 WSUD in Wellington

The first step for implementing WSUD in Wellington was to develop the guide. WSUD represents a significant shift in how stormwater is currently managed in Wellington and the principles behind WSUD are alternatives to conventional drainage management. Implementation will result in more natural drainage to help the city's piped networks cope better with cross connections, under-capacity pipes, and reduce incidents of sewer flooding to the sea following heavy rain events.

A draft WSUD guide was produced with considerable discussion with stakeholders. The aim was to create a concise document that had credibility and buy in from the different areas of professional expertise and end users, including Council officers, developers and local practitioners (e.g. landscape architects, infrastructure service providers and engineering firms). The draft guide was taken to the SPC in August 2013 who agreed that comments and feedback be invited on the draft guide from practitioners and the community.

4.2 Consultation and Engagement

After the August 2013 SPC meeting, a two month period of consultation was undertaken. The guide was available on the consultation webpage inviting feedback and comment. Hardcopies of the guide were displayed in the Council's libraries and service centres. There was also Council initiated and independently instigated media;

- A Dominion Post article (25/08/2013) "Making our capital greener"
- WCC's Branch Out e-news article Spring 2013
- Trellisick Park Group newsletter.

30 submissions were received, which were considered prior to the document being revised. The most significant message from the submissions was that while the draft guide may encourage some to consider WSUD approaches, it lacked sufficient detail and clarity to facilitate implementation. This feedback resulted in a change in the presentation of the guide. It will now be split into two separate but related documents;

- A basic Introduction to WSUD in Wellington, and

- The more detailed technical content that will form a new chapter of the Code of Practice for Land Development (COPLD)¹

The WSUD chapter that will be inserted in the COPLD will be a technical design document developed to provide Wellington specific guidance for the on site assessment, design process, selection of appropriate devices and concepts and the corresponding design parameters. The COPLD is due for review in late 2014 and a WSUD chapter will be included. The consultation feedback also resulted in several relatively minor modifications aimed to make the document more readable and user-friendly.

4.3 Implementation

The WSUD guide is a practical document and needs to be implemented. The document will provide direction for both developers and Council officers so that they can include, design and implement WSUD principles primarily in (re)developments, public works and infrastructure renewal. There are projects where Council and developers can do this and implement WSUD across the city. Officers recommend that when making decisions about any council assets or projects, for example housing or park upgrades, there should be consideration of the opportunities to include WSUD. There may be opportunities to invest differently or incorporate different design to achieve WSUD objectives when discussing and agreeing the Long -Term Plan.

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¹ The COPLD is the document that outlines the minimum engineering standard for design of earthworks, roading, water, drainage and open space assets and is be a basis for assessment for land developments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

WSUD crosses the Transport, Urban Development and Environmental portfolios. WSUD will achieve the Towards Wellington 2040 Strategy goals through working smarter, protecting the natural environment through developing and maintaining ecological networks, and by managing resources prudently to ensure resilient and sustainable use.

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

All public WSUD assets will be included in the Councils asset management planning processes. WSUD will have lifecycle cost benefits well beyond the timeframe of the current LTP.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications however all District Plan work is required to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (refer to section 8 of the Resource Management Act 1991).

4) Decision-making

This is not a significant decision. WSUD supports existing Council decisions.

5) Consultation

a) General consultation

There has been considerable discussion with stakeholders both internally and externally

b) Consultation with Maori

Consultation is not required with Maori.

6) Legal implications

There are no legal implications

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with existing Wellington City Council policy.