

National Campaign Policy on Storm Water

The common approach to managing storm water involves simply mitigating flood risk by removing water from developed areas as quickly and efficiently as possible. As a result, natural waterways are converted to engineered channels that offer poor habitat value and pollutants are transported directly to surface waters (wetlands, lagoons and rivers) and ocean waters where they reduce water quality and aquatic ecosystem health.

Surfrider Foundation Australia advocates the adoption of Water Sensitive Urban Design principles, including:

- Protect natural systems (creeks, rivers and wetlands) within urban catchments.
- Protect water quality by improving the quality of storm water runoff draining from urban developments.
- Integrate storm water treatment into the landscape by using storm water treatment systems in the landscape that incorporate multiple uses providing a variety of benefits such as water quality treatment, wildlife habitat, public open space, recreational and visual amenity for the community.
- Reduce runoff peak flows from developments as near as possible to pre-development flows by on-site temporary storage measures (with potential for reuse) and minimise impervious areas.
- Add long-term value while minimising development costs.
- Reduce potable water demand by using storm water as a resource through capture and reuse for non-potable purposes.