

Strategic & Asset Management

10.45am - 11.15am

Are you providing your community with a good stormwater service? - Cushla Anich & Nina Sardareva

Abstract

Stormwater has historically been the forgotten water asset or has been commonly known as the poor cousin. It is now being recognised as a key asset in providing not just flood protection to the community through traditional pipelines but also by enhancing the environment with stream restorations. Communities now expect good value and service for this investment.

Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) has developed a framework to allow water businesses to assess their asset management performance in comparison with similar water utilities across Australia. The framework considers whole-of-business process capabilities as well as project execution which underpin asset management outcomes.

After completing the assessment for both their water supply and wastewater functions in 2008, NSCC is the first water utility in New Zealand to use the WSAA asset management benchmarking survey to assess stormwater practices. Using the WSAA framework allows NSCC to compare their stormwater business to others across Australia and also to their own water supply and wastewater businesses.

All NSCC's stormwater functions scored relatively high at over 70% (with the exception of Business Support Systems). This outcome reflects a mature asset management business that is continually looking for improvements. The results are very similar to the 2008 water supply and wastewater results and demonstrates NSCC's strength in asset management.

Cushla Anich BE (Civil), CPEng, MIPENZ. Cushla Anich is an Associate Director with AECOM in Auckland. She has significant experience in asset planning and asset management for all three waters and brings unique skills and knowledge of the water industry with her blend of industry and consultancy experience. Before joining AECOM in 2007, Cushla worked for Metrowater for five years in an Asset Planning leadership role and prior to that, she led the water supply team at North Shore City Council for eight years.

11.25am - 11.55am

The Choice to Use Decision Making as an Effective Instrument of Operational Success - Dwayne Pretli

Abstract

In the wake of a Global financial crisis, a constrained fiscal environment and an economic recovery that has not yet materialised, we are all confronted with challenges not seen in decades. The need for appropriate decision-making has become more palatable than ever before. It is the only means through which organisations can successfully navigate the current economic climate.

The importance of appropriate decision-making is a necessarily simple process that can realise complex and material benefits. In this paper, the author will first examine basic assumptions about the way we make decisions, arrive at priorities and understand how limitations shape our decisions. Secondly, he will look at how efficient decision-making will assist in achieving a necessary clarity regarding strategic benefits. Finally, he will discuss effective Business Processes that marry decision-making with core 'operational systems'.

The author will draw upon the experiences of GHD's Infrastructure Strategy Team to illustrate innovative examples of decision-making within Asset Management, Programme Management, Programme Planning, Capital Works Prioritisation and LTCCP planning. In all of this, decision-making will be presented as a deceptively simple process that, when used appropriately, can help us to achieve many things - including riding the storm by doing more with less.

Dwayne Pretli - Principal Management Consultant / Sustainability Consulting Manager (New Zealand). Dwayne is a management and sustainability practitioner, with 11-years experience as a professional consultant and 13-years experience as a working professional. He is the Sustainability Consulting Manager for GHD's New Zealand operations and is a Principal Management Consultant within GHD's Auckland office. Professionally Dwayne has obtained familiarity with programme and strategic process design, sustainable asset management, sustainable resource management, integrated design, renewable energy and climate change policies. In particular, Dwayne has specific skills in strategic research, policy analysis, corporate reporting and prioritisation processes.

The subject of decision-making is one that is very close to Dwayne's heart, and is a subject that he has worked professionally on in various capacities for the past four years. He has also had the opportunity to present the subject matter to numerous conferences across New Zealand and Australia (including the Ingenium conference last year). This is an exciting field of work that offers many benefits that Dwayne is looking forward to sharing.

12.05pm - 12.35pm

Resisting the pressure for quick fixes to create long term infrastructure value - Ross Waugh

A case study in innovative thinking, management and design leading to high quality, sustainable and cost effective infrastructure solutions.

The long term goal of effective asset management is achieving the most sustainable and economic delivery of service to the community possible. The acquisition of major civil infrastructure to deliver services is a large community investment, and given the long asset lifecycles and high purchase costs, requires careful and considered planning, design and construction. When problems present with major infrastructure, particularly involving environmental considerations, immense public and regulator pressure can be brought to bear to produce quick fixes that solve the perceived problem.

Within the last decade three Council's - North Shore City, Hastings District and Timaru District, have found themselves in this situation relating to wastewater systems. In each case considerable pressure for quick fixes was directed at the Council. In all three cases the Councils resisted the pressure to deliver an immediate short term result and took a longer term, more strategic asset management informed view of their problem which in turn created opportunity for innovative management, design and engineering solutions.

This Case Study of the three Councils actions examines the external pressure for quick fixes, the asset management analysis involved, and subsequent innovations that in each case delivered long term value and high quality service delivery outcomes.

Ross Waugh, Director, Waugh Infrastructure Management. Ross is the founder of Waugh Infrastructure Management and is an asset management and systems integration specialist with over 25 years experience in local government infrastructure asset management and engineering. Ross has been consulting in infrastructure management for 11 years, in the areas of transportation, utilities, community facilities and property. Ross has contributed to a number of New Zealand national data capture, advisory and infrastructure standard setting projects.

Ross is passionate about assisting people to practice infrastructure asset management holistically and comprehensively yet practically. His strategic analysis of client practices is balanced with a strong practical background that always ensures results not theory. Ross has experience of four cycles of integrating infrastructure asset management planning with long term financial planning within the New Zealand context.

Ross takes an active interest in on-going International infrastructure asset management trends. Ross has presented internationally on infrastructure asset management, most recently in October 2009 at the US Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, National Transportation Asset Management Conference. Ross has also provided input into International Asset Management Practice Reviews.