



# Living Waterways.

water by design  
an initiative of





## Living Waterways.

Are healthy and attractive for people and their communities, and protect and enhance our environment.



## LIVING WATERWAYS IS A BEST PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO DELIVER ENDURING, ENGAGING AND AFFORDABLE PLACES.

### **How, why and where is this thinking and approach appropriate?**

The Living Waterways approach is site-driven and focuses on aligning the values that motivate traditional stormwater principles with place-making benefits. It encourages the recognition that all sites have the potential to contribute to a community's health and wellbeing. This is a workable framework that acknowledges:

- / A uniform approach will not be suitable for all sites;
- / The value of design outcomes that are responsive to environmental, social and economic factors;
- / The benefits of existing ecosystems by preserving natural systems and rehabilitating damaged ecological systems.

Living Waterways advocates the re-establishment of the essential relationship between our natural water processes and their environments, and human activities and experiences.

The Living Waterways scoring system is built around four themes:



LIVING WATER



LIVING ENVIRONMENT



LIVING COMMUNITIES



LIVING LOCAL ECONOMIES

A series of principles and values underpin each theme and are embedded in the scoring system. These are introduced on the following pages.

A close-up, high-angle photograph of water flowing from a faucet. The water is clear and bubbly, creating a dynamic, textured surface. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the water's movement. A white circular graphic is overlaid on the bottom left, containing text.

## **LIVING WATER**

Principle: PROTECT AND ENHANCE  
OUR WATER SYSTEMS AND THEIR  
ENVIRONMENTS.

Intent: To ensure development  
incorporates total water cycle  
practices that protect the  
environment.



### **Desired Outcomes**

- / Stormwater that is managed at source
- / Development that does not diminish waterways or critical catchment and ecological processes
- / Construction processes that prevent erosion and do not result in muddy waters leaving the site
- / Locally appropriate onsite stormwater strategies that maintain natural hydrology
- / Urban design solutions that limit the volume and rate of run-off from impervious surfaces
- / Beneficial reuse of non-potable water



## **LIVING ENVIRONMENT**

Principle: PROTECT AND ENHANCE  
NATURAL AREAS ADJACENT TO  
WATERWAYS.

Intent: To encourage community  
acceptance of good waterway  
management practices.



### **Desired Outcomes**

- / Protected riparian and aquatic habitats
- / Water systems which protect and enhance biodiversity values
- / Development that maximises opportunities for the rehabilitation of waterways and their riparian corridors
- / Landscape design solutions that promote resilience and capacity for adapting to change
- / Stormwater management systems which mitigate changes in temperature and climate



## LIVING COMMUNITIES

Principle: CREATE VERSATILE PLACES THAT ENABLE SAFE, HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES.

Intent: To encourage innovative, safe and versatile design that delivers enduring benefits for communities.



### **Desired Outcomes**

- / Sustainable and resilient communities
- / Water systems that are integrated into the site in an aesthetically pleasing way
- / Safe and welcoming places
- / Places that inspire, promote adventure and discovery and provide a range of experiences and interactions with water
- / Places that promote the education and awareness of the water cycle
- / Places where natural, historical and cultural identity is embodied and reflected
- / Opportunities for social interaction and quiet contemplation
- / Opportunities for healthy living through active and passive recreation



## **LIVING LOCAL ECONOMIES**

Principle: PROVIDE AFFORDABLE, ENDURING SOLUTIONS THAT ARE VIABLE TO BUILD, USE AND MAINTAIN.

Intent: To ensure the community receives maximum value from blue/green infrastructure.



### **Desired Outcomes**

- / Water systems that consider whole of life costs
- / Water systems that consider maintenance and access requirements
- / Water systems that minimise waste and support a circular economy

## The Scoring System

The Living Waterways scoring system incorporates a series of mandatory and non-mandatory objectives for each theme: Living Water, Living Environment, Living Communities and Living Local Economies. Points are gained for meeting the items outlined in the scoring system.

THE LIVING WATERWAYS SCORING SYSTEM  
ENCOURAGES INNOVATION AND BETTER  
DESIGN OUTCOMES.

It encourages a new way of thinking and remains flexible enough to cater for a variety of development types within our community. For more information about the Living Waterways project and to download the Living Waterways scoring system, please visit [www.waterbydesign.com.au](http://www.waterbydesign.com.au)



Healthy Land and Water is an independent organisation dedicated to improving and protecting South East Queensland's environment. As experts in research, monitoring, evaluation and project management, we deliver innovative and science-based solutions to challenges affecting our landscapes, waterways and biodiversity. We facilitate change and work for long-term solutions to sustain, protect, and improve our region's natural resources and environment, now and into the future.

For more information, please visit [www.hlw.org.au](http://www.hlw.org.au)

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**Queensland  
Government**



**Australian Government**

## **IMAGE CREDITS:**

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