

Sustainable urban communities

FOUNDING MEMBERS



Sustainable urban communities

For the first time in history, most people in the world live in cities. Rates of urbanisation continue to increase, creating a central challenge for the 21st century – to create affordable, socially, economically and ecologically vibrant urban communities serviced by sustainable water, food and energy systems.

The International WaterCentre develops organisational and community capacities to change the way we manage water in urban landscapes, in particular:

- water, wastewater, food and energy services for urban communities
- the impact of urban development and land uses on aquatic ecologies
- relationships between water, urban form, green space and community.

About IWC

Founded by four leading universities, with over 170 international networks and associates, we provide a breadth of experience rarely found in a single organisation.

By bringing together the best academics and practitioners from a range of disciplines we can offer specialised project services and customised education and training programs.

Our key focus areas include:

- water, sanitation and hygiene
- healthy river basins
- sustainable urban communities.

Integrated approach

At IWC we consider the social, environmental and economic impacts of water-related decisions by integrating community, scientific, engineering, economic, legal, health and political perspectives.

We focus on three intricately related areas — education and training, applied research and knowledge sharing services — to develop best practice in integrated water management.



Our role in the sector

IWC works with clients to:

- **Build leadership** capacity, governance and institutional arrangements and stakeholder partnerships to integrate biophysical and human dimensions of the water cycle in urban environments
- **Underpin policy and planning frameworks** with rigorous science, a systems understanding and an appreciation of community values and social needs
- **Drive adoption of innovative processes, practices and technologies** across organisations and communities to create multi-value and multi-beneficial outcomes.

Our services

Education and training

IWC offers:

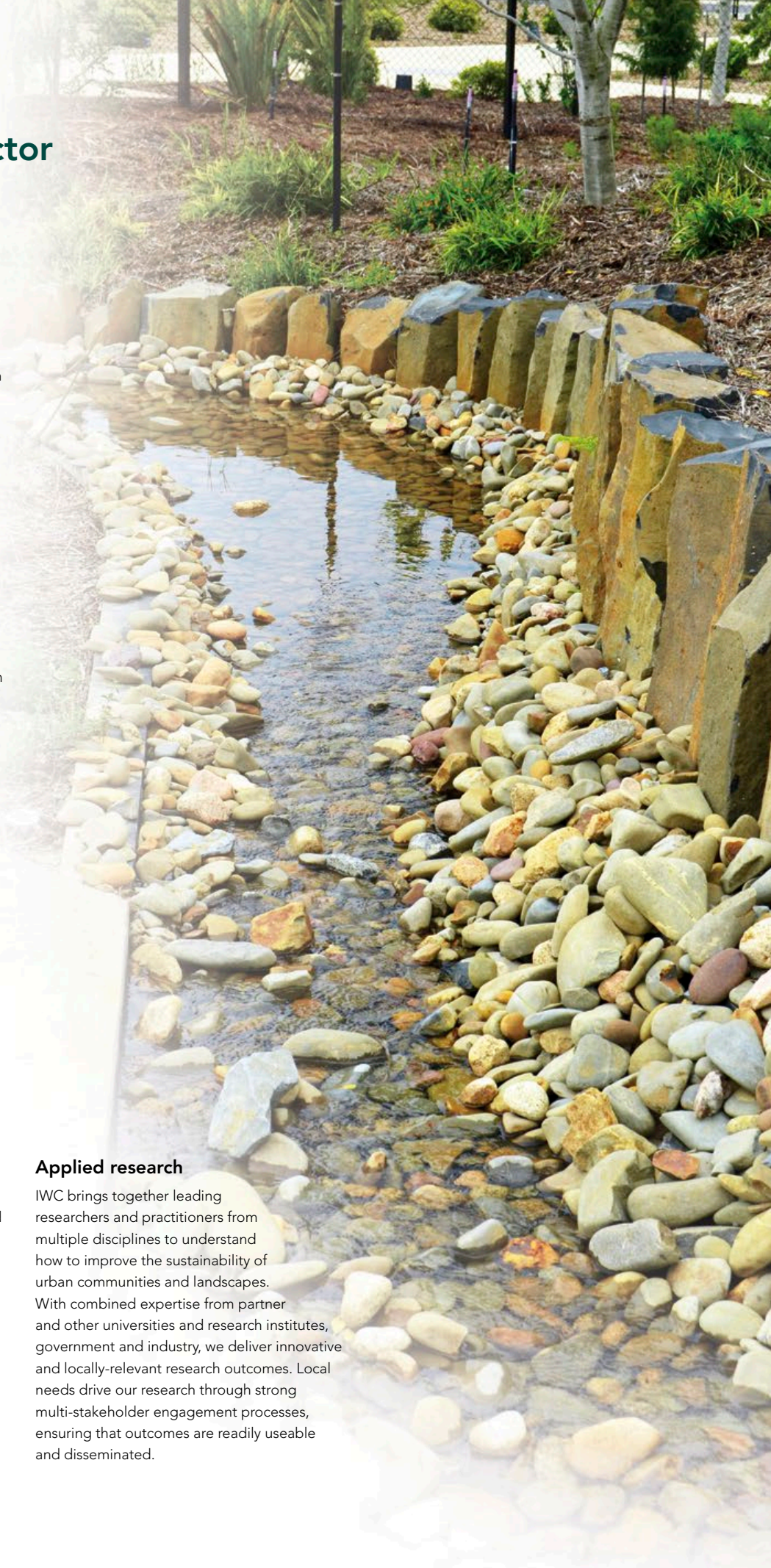
- **Integrated Water Management** – a number of Masters modules focus on urban water and wastewater management and its relationships to landscape architecture and urban design, ecology, climatology, food production, liveability and sustainability, taking a trans-disciplinary approach to improving urban water management.
- **Water Leadership** – IWC offers feedback-intensive, individual leadership development for emerging water leaders who want to improve their ability to drive change in the urban water sector. This is offered through the nine-month Water Leadership Program, and also through a series of short courses covering leadership topics for face-to-face and online delivery.
- **Tailor-made training programs** – our capacity development programs are aimed at current and future water leaders and leading organisations with a vision for sustainable and integrated urban water management.

Innovation and adoption services

IWC establishes and supports science-policy partnerships and communities of practice, and facilitates dialogue between local and state governments, utilities, developers and consultants to improve innovation process outcomes in urban water management. Partnerships are highly collaborative and provide practically-focused support for innovation processes surrounding new technologies or design and management practices.

Applied research

IWC brings together leading researchers and practitioners from multiple disciplines to understand how to improve the sustainability of urban communities and landscapes. With combined expertise from partner and other universities and research institutes, government and industry, we deliver innovative and locally-relevant research outcomes. Local needs drive our research through strong multi-stakeholder engagement processes, ensuring that outcomes are readily useable and disseminated.



Our portfolio and achievements

Master of Integrated Water Management

The *Urban futures: delivering water sensitive cities* module, developed and delivered in collaboration with the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities, involves field trips with local government and consultancy practitioners to study water sensitive urban design in practice in Brisbane and the SEQ Region.

The *Urban metabolism: resource and energy recovery systems* module involves field trips to study ways of managing urban resource efficiency, including large scale water recycling, household grey water re-use, urban agriculture and permaculture. It culminates in a significant brownfield urban development design project.

Every year a number of IWC students work on their final Masters projects with partners from government, utility and consultancies on topics related to sustainable urban communities.

Water Leadership Program

This award-winning nine-month leadership development program, designed for emerging water leaders at the project to middle management level, is customised for the water sector through sound research and collaboration with experienced industry practitioners. The program focuses on building leadership abilities (e.g. skills, knowledge and networks), managing complex challenges, and collaborating and exerting influence across organisational boundaries.

CRC for Water Sensitive Cities

The CRC for Water Sensitive Cities is a nine-year collaborative research initiative involving 75 partners and a budget in excess of \$100m. IWC coordinates the Adoption Pathways Program (Program D), particularly within the Brisbane Hub area, and co-leads the Strengthening Education to Foster Future Water Sensitive Cities Leaders project with UNESCO-IHE.

Urban Water Security Research Alliance 'Stormwater Eco-hydrology Project'

The award-winning \$2.8m five-year research project, which IWC led for the last two years, was focussed on understanding the relationships between urbanisation, changes in hydrology, water quality and habitat from stormwater runoff, and how best to manage those changes to maintain ecological health and function in urban waterways.

Creating Water Sensitive Cities in Australia workshops

IWC, in partnership with Monash University's National Urban Water Governance Program, delivered capacity building and leadership workshops in five Australian cities in 2009.

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