

Waterwise Council Program



Criteria expansion to link to
Water Sensitive Cities



Background



- The Waterwise Council Program was launched in May 2009. It is a joint program run by Water Corporation and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (then DoW).
- Its aim has always been to build a cooperative working relationship with local governments and foster demand management capability in an effort to improve water efficiency, climate resilience and liveability in their operations and their communities.
- Current Waterwise Council criteria have been mapped to the Water Sensitive Cities framework, aligning the program's direction to the joint commitment by the Water Corporation and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to creating water sensitive cities and communities.

What is a water sensitive city?



A **water sensitive city** is resilient, liveable, productive and sustainable.

Water is integral to almost every feature of an urban landscape. Our cities and towns are complex, ever evolving places, and the way we interact with other people constantly changes too. In a water sensitive city, we interact with the urban water (hydrological) cycle in ways that:

- Provide the water security essential for economic prosperity through efficient use of diverse available resources.
- Enhance and protect the health of waterways and wetlands, the river basins that surround them, the coast and bays.
- Mitigate flood risk and damage.
- Create public spaces that collect, clean, and recycle water.



The Water Sensitive Cities framework



- The Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC) was established in 2012 and developed an [index tool](#) to benchmark performance against **7 urban water goal areas** that characterise a water sensitive city:
 1. Ensure good water sensitive governance
 2. Increase community capital
 3. Improve productivity and resource efficiency
 4. Improve ecological health
 5. Ensure quality urban space
 6. Achieve equity of essential services
 7. Promote adaptive infrastructure



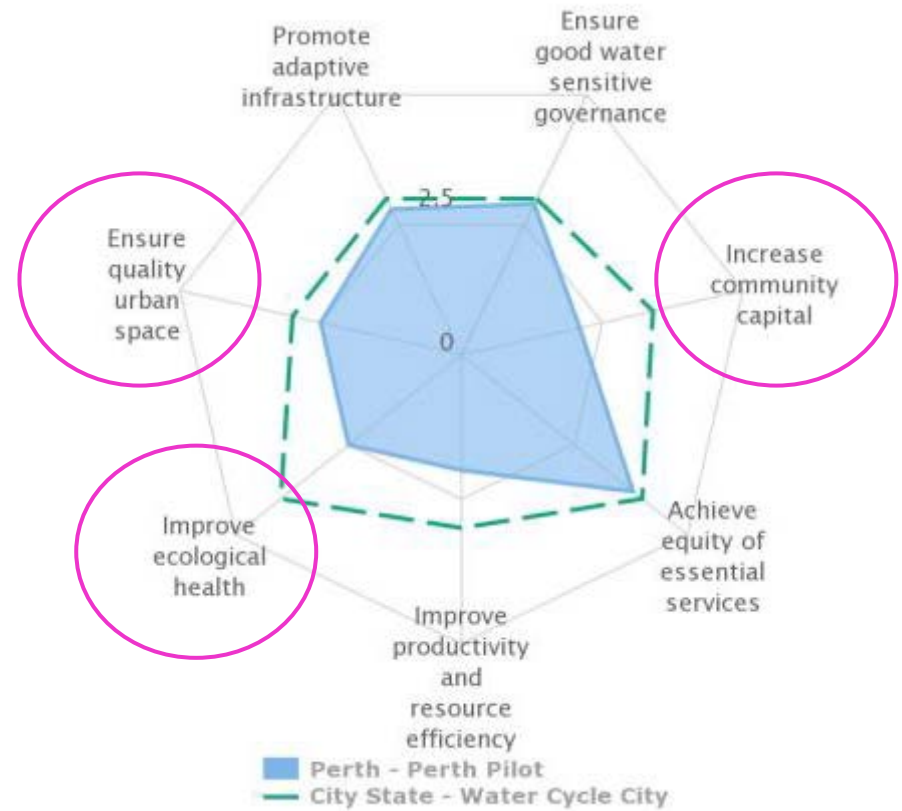
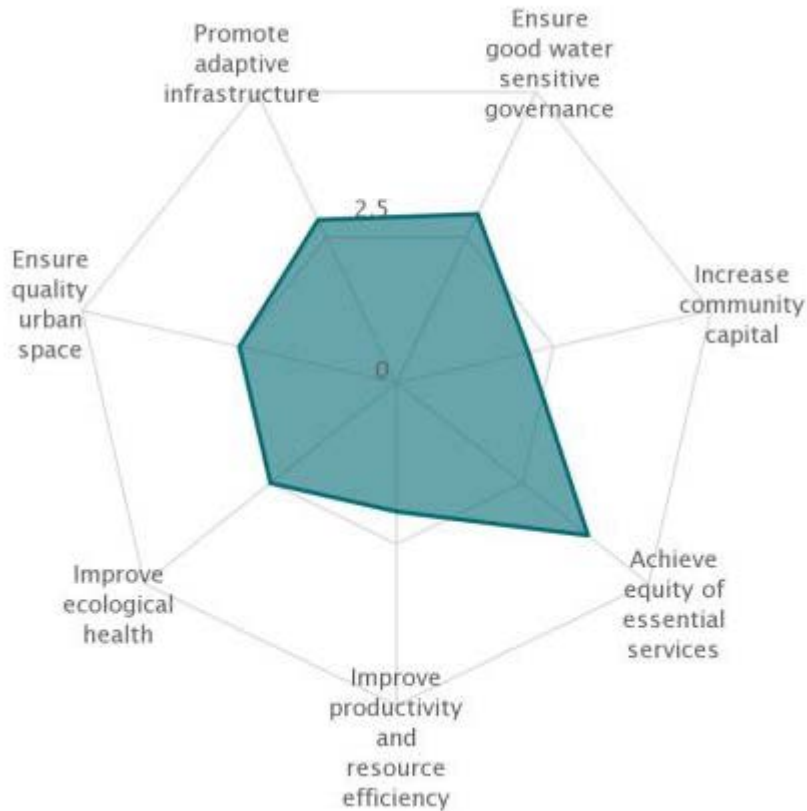
The Water Sensitive Cities framework



- The greatest value of the tool is the process, which requires structured and evidence-based, cross-organisational conversation from all parts of the water sector.
- So far Perth, Melbourne and Gold Coast cities have been benchmarked.
- Benchmarking for the Perth metropolitan area was undertaken in 2015.
- Since then, the following local governments have also completed the benchmarking:
 - City of Canning
 - City of Mandurah
 - City of Perth
 - City of Swan
 - City of Subiaco



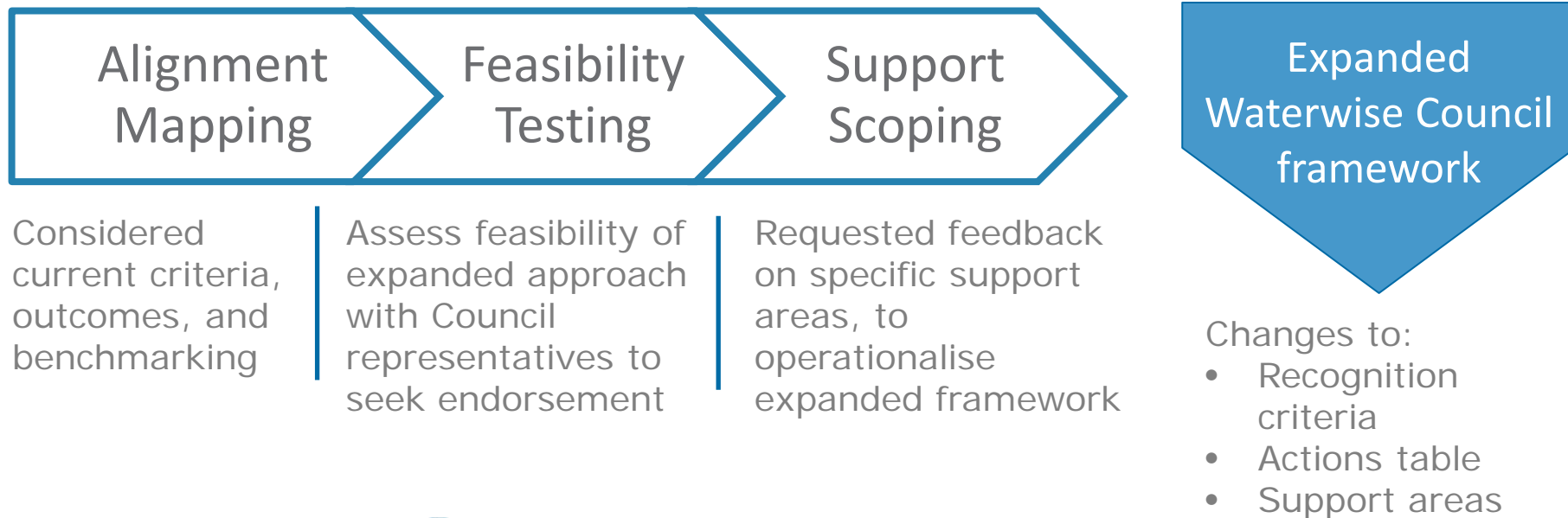
Perth metropolitan area benchmarking results



Workshop with Waterwise Council Program participants



Workshop with endorsed and participating councils to review existing recognition criteria (gold and platinum) and align with the Water Sensitive Cities framework.



Water Sensitive Cities goal areas and indicators

Water Sensitive Cities Goal Areas							
	Ensure good water sensitive governance	Increase community capital	Achieve equity of essential services	Improve productivity & resource efficiency	Promote adaptive infrastructure	Improve ecological health	Ensure quality urban space
Water Sensitive Cities Indicators	Knowledge, skills and organisational capacity	Water literacy	Equitable access to safe and secure water supply	Maximised resource recovery	Diverse self-sufficient fit-for-purpose water supply	Healthy and biodiverse habitat	Activating connected green - blue space
	Water is key element in city planning and design	Connection with water	Equitable access to safe and reliable sanitation	Low GHG emission in water sector	Multi-functional water infrastructure	Surface water quality and flows	Urban elements functioning to mitigate heat impacts
	Cross-sector institutional arrangements and processes	Shared ownership, management & responsibility	Equitable access to flood protection	Water-related business opportunities	Integration and intelligent control	Groundwater quality and replenishment	Vegetation coverage
	Public engagement, participation and transparency	Community preparedness and response to extreme events	Equitable and affordable access to amenity values of water-related assets	Low end-user potable water demand	Robust infrastructure	Protect existing areas of high ecological value	
	Leadership, long-term vision and commitment	Indigenous involvement in water planning		Benefits across other sectors	Infrastructure and ownership at multiple scales		
	Water resourcing and funding to deliver broad societal value				Adequate maintenance		
	Equitable representation of perspectives						

WSC goals/indicators mapped to (re)endorsement and last year's recognition criteria

(Re) endorsement criteria (no changes)

Last year's gold criteria

Water Corporation/DWER responsibility

Ensure good water sensitive governance	Increase community capital	Achieve equity of essential services	Improve productivity & resource efficiency	Promote adaptive infrastructure	Improve ecological health	Ensure quality urban space
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Water resourcing and funding to deliver broad societal value				Adequate maintenance		
Equitable representation of perspectives						



Waterwise Council Program recognition scheme changes

- **Waterwise Council Program Recognition Scheme has been expanded to align with the Water Sensitive Cities framework.**
- While reducing demand on scheme and groundwater sources will always be a key focus for the Waterwise Council Program, the updated scheme recognises councils' efforts across the seven urban water goal areas that characterise a water sensitive city.
- It enables councils to report on their efforts to drive liveability outcomes across the water cycle and contribution to creating water sensitive cities and communities.

WSC goals/indicators mapped to **this year's** (expanded) recognition criteria

2017 Gold Waterwise Council criteria

1. Complete the **5 mandatory actions**:

- Demonstrate progress towards council owned/operated aquatic centres being Waterwise Endorsed
- Demonstrate your council has commenced drafting a verge policy consistent with the [waterwise verge best practice guide](#)
- Demonstrate proactive engagement with local schools to encourage participation in the [Waterwise Schools Program](#)
- Demonstrate proactive engagement with local developers to encourage participation in the [Waterwise Development Program](#)
- Demonstrate progress towards establishing cross functional water management team

2. Demonstrate **10 actions/initiatives** across the 7 WSC goal areas, which must include at least 1 action in each of the following goal areas:

- Ensure quality urban space
- Improve ecological health
- Increase community capital

Actions must have either been completed in the **past 12 months** or be in progress.

2017 Platinum Waterwise Council criteria

Actions over and above the gold requirements across any of the 7 WSC goal areas.

AND

In 500 words or less, summarise how your actions are contributing to creating water sensitive cities and communities and why you should be the Council of the Year