

# Monash Sustainability Institute Seminar Series 2010

## “Water sensitive cities: A road map for cities’ adaptation to climate and population pressures on urban water”

Professor Tony Wong, Monash University

**Date:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2010

**Time:** 1:00–2:00 pm

**Venue:** Monash Sustainability Institute, Building 74, Clayton

All welcome. No RSVPs necessary.

### Abstract

Urban communities face future uncertainties in water supplies. Protecting the water environment and managing its resources sustainably will help make our cities more resilient to climate change, while accommodating higher population densities. Key principles underpinning the design of a water sensitive city are minimising the import of potable water into, and the export of wastewater out of, the boundaries of the city; and optimizing the use of water resources within the city. Buffering the impacts of climate change on natural aquatic environments and preserving, and/or re-establishing, ecosystem services are also essential.

An initiative underway to realise future water sensitive cities is the Cities as Water Supply Catchments Research Program. The first of its kind, the program will develop a blueprint for water sensitive cities to support the wide-scale integration of new stormwater management practices into existing infrastructure and into the planning of new urban developments. Adoption of the basic principles set forth from this research will provide a way forward to an efficient, reliable and safe water supply for future generations.

### About the speaker

**Tony Wong** is Professor and founding co-director of Monash University’s Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. He has over 25 years experience and is internationally recognised for his research and practice in sustainable urban water management. He is also Director of Environmental and Ecological Planning in the Global Design Firm AECOM Design + Planning, Tony remains active in research throughout his consulting career. He was the Program Leader (1999-2003) of the highly successful Urban Stormwater Quality research program in the Cooperative Research Centre for Catchment Hydrology, and then served as the Chief Executive Officer (2005 to 2009) of the Facility for Advancing Water Biofiltration at Monash University.

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