

14 December 2025

The Hon. Chris Minns, MP Premier of New South Wales
The Hon. Daniel Mookhey, MLC Treasurer of New South Wales
Members of the Expenditure Review Committee

52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

VIA Webform:

SUBJECT: 2026 NSW BUDGET SUBMISSION - A 5-YEAR, \$100M NSW GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROGRAM TO FIX NSW'S STORMWATER SYSTEM

Dear Premier, Treasurer, and Members of the Expenditure Review Committee,

We are writing to submit a formal proposal for the 2026 NSW Budget to address the systemic failure of stormwater management in New South Wales—a sector that is verifiably "in crisis".

The state is currently paralyzed by a "governance vacuum" with no single agency accountable, a "failed funding model" that has been capped and unindexed since 2006, and a "generational backlog" of failing infrastructure. These failures are dangerously amplified by the "threat multipliers" of climate change and urbanisation, resulting in escalating, uninsurable flood risks, public health crises and severe economic damage.

This proposal is not for a piecemeal project. It is a comprehensive, **5-year, \$100 million program** to fix the system. As detailed in the attached Program Business Case, this is a strategic investment, designed to replace a system of high-cost, reactive failure with one of proactive, data-driven management.

Our solution is the management model that makes this possible. **Stormwater 2030 Ltd**, an independent not-for-profit, has been established to act as the central Program Management Office (PMO) and "orchestrator". We have already done the hard work of alignment and secured an unprecedented, in-place coalition of all key stakeholders:

- **NSW Government:** DEECW, EPA and Water NSW
- **Local Government:** LGNSW and various Councils.
- **Industry & Finance:** UDIA, Business Western Sydney, Insurance Council of Australia (ICA), IPWEA, Engineers Australia, and Stormwater Australia/NSW.

To ensure the highest level of probity, our governance includes two key enhancements:

1. We are proposing to add the **NSW Chief Scientist** and the **CEO of Infrastructure NSW** as ex-officio members of our Board.



2. We will establish a 3-person independent **Audit Committee**, staffed from the NSW Audit Panel, to provide full transparency and oversight of all program funds.

The value to New South Wales is transformative. This program will:

- **Fix State-Level Failures:** Directly addresses the "governance vacuum" and the "failed 2006 funding model" (Stream 5 & 6).
- **De-risk all Future Investment:** Funds the **\$12.8M Asset Condition Assessment** (Stream 2), giving Infrastructure NSW and Treasury the "State-wide Asset Risk Map" to prioritize capital spending for the first time.
- **Empower Local Government:** Provides LGNSW and its 128 member councils with the standardised guidelines, legal frameworks, and funding models they are asking for.
- **Unlock Billions in Savings:** Moves the entire sector from high-cost, reactive emergency repairs (which are 5-10x more expensive) to low-cost, proactive asset management.
- **Deliver State Priorities:** Directly funds NSW-specific projects like the **Wianamatta Catchment Alignment Program (\$2.5M)**, the **NSW Schools Waterwise Program (\$5M)**, and the **Litter Reduction Initiative (\$15M)**.

We have attached the Program Business Case and the detailed 5-Year Project Plan for your review. We are requesting a meeting with the ERC to discuss this critical, high-ROI opportunity to build a more resilient and economically efficient New South Wales.

I can be reached on admin@stormwater2030.org

Yours sincerely,

David Nixon

Chairperson

Stormwater 2030 Ltd

Attached: Stormwater 2030 Business Case

Business Case: The Stormwater 2030 Program (5-Year Plan)

Initiative:	The Stormwater 2030 Program (A 5-Year Portfolio of 49 Initiatives)
Project Proponent:	Stormwater 2030 Ltd (as Program Management Office)
Total Program Value:	\$100,000,000 (over 5 years)
Funding Request:	Full funding partnership with the NSW Government
Plan Reference:	Stormwater 2030 Project Plan



“You can’t solve a problem on the same level that it was created. You have to rise above it to the next level.” – *Albert Einstein*

1.0 Executive Summary

Stormwater management in New South Wales is in a "system in crisis". The sector is paralysed by a "governance vacuum" with no single agency accountable, a "failed funding model" unindexed since 2006, a "generational backlog" of failing infrastructure, and fragmented, siloed stakeholders. These systemic failures are dangerously amplified by the "threat multipliers" of climate change and rapid urbanisation.

This document presents a **\$100 million, 5-year business case** for a comprehensive, NSW-funded program to fix this broken system.

The Solution: Stormwater 2030 Ltd, a not-for-profit secretariat, will act as the central Program Management Office (PMO) and "orchestrator" for this plan. We unite a powerful, coalition of all key state, industry, and financial stakeholders—including DEECW, EPA, Water NSW, LGNSW, Stormwater Australia/NSW, UDIA, Business Western Sydney, the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA), IPWEA, and Engineers Australia—under a single, accountable governance framework.

This is not a proposal to fund piecemeal projects. It is a plan to build a resilient, coordinated, and efficient system that de-risks all future state investments. By funding this program, the NSW Government will replace a system of high-cost, reactive failure with one of proactive, data-driven management, unlocking billions in long-term savings and securing the health of our waterways and resilience of our cities.

2.0 The Strategic Problem: A "System in Crisis"

The current approach to stormwater management has failed. The problem is not a lack of will but a lack of a system.

1. **Governance & Legislative Vacuum:** There is "no single government entity responsible" for stormwater. This void is filled by 14 Ministers, 30+ agencies and 50+ legislative instruments, creating diffused accountability and duplicated effort.
2. **Failed Funding Model:** The state's primary funding source, the stormwater levy, was "capped... and remained unindexed since 2006". This has created an "unsustainable funding gap," forcing councils into a state of "asset ignorance".
3. **Infrastructure & Data Crisis:** The funding failure has directly caused a "generational" infrastructure backlog. Councils report "orphan assets" not on any register and "blank condition data," making risk management impossible.
4. **Climate & Insurance Risk:** Legacy infrastructure is now failing under the "threat multiplier" of climate change. This creates escalating, uninsurable flood risks, damaging public health, tourism, and the economy.
5. **Fragmented Stakeholders:** For decades, government agencies, local councils, industry bodies, and insurers have operated in silos, blocking systemic reform.

3.0 The Solution: A Coordinated NFP Secretariat (Stormwater 2030 Ltd.)

This program's solution is not just the 49 initiatives; it is the management model that makes them possible. Stormwater 2030 Ltd, an independent not-for-profit, will act as the central Program Management Office (PMO) and "orchestrator".

Our role is to:

- **Act as the Secretariat:** Function as the single "engine room" to coordinate the 30+ agencies and all industry partners, funded by the **\$5M (over 5 years)** Secretariat budget line.
- **Manage the 5-Year Program:** Manage the **\$100M budget** and deliver the 49 initiatives on behalf of the NSW Government.
- **Convene & Align:** Host the "Heads of Government/Industry Focus Group" and all Stakeholder Working Groups (Development, Insurance, Academic, etc.).
- **Deliver the Vision:** Ensure every initiative is aligned with the single goal of "World Class Beaches, World Class Harbours, and World Class Rivers".

4.0 Governance & Unprecedented Stakeholder Coalition

This program is credible because the stakeholder coalition is already in place.

Governance Structure:

1. **Stormwater 2030 Ltd Board:** The NFP Board, legally and financially accountable for the program.
 - *Proposed Enhancement:* Expand the Board to include the NSW Chief Scientist and CEO of Infrastructure NSW.
 - *Proposed Enhancement:* Establish a 3-person independent Audit Committee from the NSW Audit Panel for probity.
2. **Executive Steering Committee (ESC):** The "Heads of Government/Industry Focus Group" will act as the ESC, providing strategic direction.
3. **Program Management Office (PMO):** The Stormwater 2030 Secretariat, managing all funds and delivery.
4. **Stakeholder Working Groups (WGs):** Expert advisory groups that co-design the initiatives.

In-Place Partners:

- **NSW Government:** DEECW, EPA, Water NSW, Infrastructure NSW, NSW Chief Scientist.
- **Local Government:** LGNSW.
- **Industry Peak Bodies:** Stormwater NSW, Stormwater Australia, UDIA, Business Western Sydney, IPWEA, Engineers Australia.
- **Financial Sector:** Insurance Council of Australia (ICA).
- **Academic & Science:** CSIRO and university partners.

5.0 The 5-Year, 8-Stream Portfolio

The **\$100M program** is a comprehensive portfolio of **49 initiatives**, structured across the 8 key streams of the Stormwater 2030 Model:

1. **Standardised Regulations and Guidelines:** To fix the "fragmented" regulatory landscape.
2. **Enhanced Asset Management:** To end "asset ignorance" and build a data-driven system (Includes the \$12.8M Asset Condition Assessment and \$11M IoT Trial).
3. **Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Mitigation:** To address the "threat multiplier" and manage insurance risk.
4. **Water Quality Improvement:** To achieve "World Class Waterways" (Includes the \$15M Litter Reduction Initiative).
5. **Dispute Resolution and Legal Framework:** To fix the "governance vacuum" and legal conflicts.
6. **Funding and Financial Sustainability:** To fix the "failed 2006 funding model".
7. **Community Engagement and Education:** To build "social license" for change.
8. **Broad Industry Collaboration:** To fund the "secretariat" model that aligns all partners.

6.0 Strategic Rationale for NSW Government Investment

This program is a critical state priority that delivers direct value to the NSW Government:

- **Fixes State Failures:** Directly addresses the "governance vacuum" and the "failed 2006 funding model," which are state-level responsibilities.
- **Manages State Assets:** Funds the **\$12.8M Asset Condition Assessment**, giving Infrastructure NSW and NSW Treasury the data to de-risk and prioritize capital spending for the first time.
- **Empowers Local Government:** Provides LGNSW and its 128 councils with the standards, funding models (levy reform), and legal frameworks (dispute resolution) they need to function.
- **Delivers State Priorities:** Directly funds NSW-specific projects like the **Wianamatta Catchment Alignment Program (\$2.5M)**, the **NSW Schools Waterwise Program (\$5M)**, and the **Litter Reduction Initiative (\$15M)**.
- **Reduces State Liability:** By addressing the "Local Gov Liability Trap" and improving flood resilience, the program reduces the state's exposure to disaster recovery costs and insurance market failure.

7.0 Benefits & Return on Investment (ROI)

This **\$100M investment** will unlock billions in long-term value.

- **Financial (Massive ROI):** The program will shift the entire sector from high-cost, reactive emergency repairs (5-10x the cost) to low-cost, proactive maintenance, saving billions in long-term infrastructure spending.
- **Risk (De-risks Future Investment):** This program fixes the system. It de-risks all future state capital works by ensuring assets are properly assessed, designed, built, and maintained.
- **Systemic (Fixes the "Governance Vacuum"):** The single greatest benefit. It creates a single, accountable PMO that aligns 30+ agencies and all industry partners, eliminating duplication and gridlock.
- **Economic (Creates Project Pipelines):** The program (via the "Shovel-Ready" fund) creates a verified pipeline of "shovel-ready" projects, driving innovation and the construction/engineering sectors.

8.0 Total Program Value & 5-Year Budget

The total program value is **\$100 million** over 5 years.

Year	Allocated Budget
Year 1	\$19,968,000
Year 2	\$24,066,000
Year 3	\$13,950,000
Year 4	\$17,800,000
Year 5	\$24,216,000
Total	\$100,000,000

9.0 Recommendation

That the **New South Wales Government** approves the 5-year, **\$100 million** funding for the Stormwater 2030 Program, to be managed by the Stormwater 2030 Ltd. PMO and governed by the Executive Steering Committee.

10.0 Attachments

Attachment A: Stormwater Project Plan

Attachment B: Total and Annual Budget

Stormwater 2030: A 5-Year State Project Plan

A Funding Proposal to the New South Wales Governments

Date: 14 December 2025

Submitted by: Stormwater 2030 Ltd.

1.0 Executive Summary

Stormwater management in New South Wales is in a "system in crisis". The sector is defined by a critical "governance vacuum" with no single entity responsible, a "fragmented" landscape of 30+ agencies, a failed 2006 funding model, and a "generational backlog" of failing infrastructure. These issues are dangerously amplified by the "threat multipliers" of climate change and rapid urbanisation.

This document presents a comprehensive 5-year, **\$100 million** project plan to address this systemic failure. The plan is designed to be funded by the **New South Wales Government**, reflecting the state responsibility for urban resilience, waterway health, and climate adaptation.

The Solution: Stormwater 2030 Ltd, a not-for-profit secretariat, will act as the central **Program Management Office (PMO)** and "orchestrator" for this plan. We plan to unite a powerful, coalition of all key stakeholders—including **DEECW, EPA, Water NSW, LGNSW, Infrastructure NSW, the Chief Scientist, Stormwater Australia/NSW, UDIA, Business Western Sydney, the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA), IPWEA, and Engineers Australia**—under a single, accountable governance framework.

Our vision is clear: "**World Class Beaches, World Class Harbours, and World Class Rivers**".

This plan details a portfolio of 49 high-impact initiatives, aligning with the 8 components of the Stormwater 2030 Model. It provides a transparent 5-year delivery schedule and a clear allocation of responsibilities, allowing each level of government to see the other's commitment. This is not just a proposal to fund projects; it is a plan to build a resilient, coordinated, and economically efficient system for the future.

2.0 The Core Problem: A Systemic Failure

The pre-2024 system was defined by a series of interconnected failures:

1. **Governance Vacuum:** No single government entity is responsible for stormwater, leading to fragmented policies (50+ instruments) and diffused accountability (30+ agencies) .
2. **Failed Funding Model:** The primary state funding mechanism, the stormwater levy, has been "capped... and remained unindexed since 2006," creating an "unsustainable funding gap" .
3. **Infrastructure Crisis:** This funding failure has led to a "generational" infrastructure backlog and widespread "asset ignorance," with councils unaware of the assets they own or their condition .
4. **Climate & Urbanisation:** Legacy infrastructure is now being overwhelmed by the "threat multipliers" of intense rainfall and urban densification, leading to increased flash flooding.
5. **Fragmented Stakeholders:** Key industry, government, and community stakeholders have been operating in silos, duplicating effort and blocking systemic reform.

3.0 The Solution: Stormwater 2030 Ltd. (NFP Secretariat)

Stormwater 2030 Ltd is an independent, cross-sector, not-for-profit initiative established in 2024 to fill this critical governance and leadership vacuum. The organisation's primary function is to act as a credible **"orchestrator" and central secretariat**. Its role is to convene, facilitate, and align the efforts of all stakeholders—government, industry, academia, and community—to break down the silos that have historically hindered progress.

The organization's fundamental objective is the betterment of the environment and the NSW community. This is encapsulated in its clear and ambitious vision: **"World Class Beaches, World Class Harbours, and World Class Rivers"**. Its formal mission is to "transform stormwater management... to deliver excellence for our environment and our community", ensuring a future with cleaner waterways, reduced flooding, and enhanced environmental outcomes.

Stormwater 2030 Ltd functions as a "backbone organisation" by creating the platforms and frameworks necessary for collective action. This secretariat model is formalised in its operational plan and funding proposal, which includes dedicated budgets for:

- **Managing** key working groups for the Development, Academic, Insurance, and Community Legal/Education sectors.
- **Convening high-level focus groups**, such as the "Heads of Government/Industry Focus Group".
- **Leading targeted catchment groups**, like the "Wianamatta Catchment Management Group".
- **Funding a central Secretariat** with an Executive Director, staff, and Board to coordinate all program initiatives.

By acting as a trusted, independent facilitator, Stormwater 2030 unites stakeholders under a banner of shared responsibility, enabling a coordinated, systemic response to the sector's most complex challenges.

4.0 Governance & Partnership Framework

This program will be managed under a transparent and accountable governance structure, with all key partners already in place.

4.1 Governance Structure

The program will be managed via a 4-tier model:

1. **Stormwater 2030 Ltd Board (Program Governance):** The not-for-profit Board, which is legally and financially accountable for the entire program.
2. **Executive Steering Committee (ESC) (Strategic Steering):** The "Heads of Government/Industry Focus Group" will serve as the ESC, co-chaired by Stormwater 2030. It will provide top-level strategic direction, approve major milestones, and unblock systemic barriers.
3. **Program Management Office (PMO) (Program Delivery):** The Stormwater 2030 Secretariat will act as the PMO, managing all budgets, contracts, project delivery, and stakeholder communications.
4. **Stakeholder Working Groups (WGs) (Expert Advice):** These funded groups (Development, Academic, Insurance, etc.) will act as expert advisory bodies to co-design and review initiatives.

4.2 Proposed Governance Enhancements

To ensure the highest level of accountability and strategic alignment, Stormwater 2030 Ltd is proposing two key governance enhancements:

1. **Board Expansion:** We propose to expand our Board to include ex-officio positions for the **NSW Chief Scientist** and the **CEO of Infrastructure NSW**. This embeds the program at the highest level of state science and infrastructure planning.
2. **Independent Audit Committee:** We will establish a **3-person independent Audit Committee**, composed of personnel selected from the **NSW Audit Panel**, to ensure independent oversight and probity for all program funds.

4.3 Key Stakeholder & Partnership Model

This is a collaborative program, not a sole undertaking. Our governance model has already secured the engagement of all key stakeholders:

- **NSW Government:** DEECW, EPA, Water NSW.
- **Local Government:** Local Government NSW (LGNSW).
- **Industry Peak Bodies:** Stormwater NSW, Stormwater Australia, UDIA, Business Western Sydney, IPWEA, Engineers Australia.
- **Financial Sector:** Insurance Council of Australia (ICA).
- **Academic & Science:** CSIRO and university partners (via the Academic WG).

5.0 Program Portfolio: The 8-Component Model

The 5-year program is built on the 8 components of the Stormwater 2030 Model. The 49 key initiatives are allocated across these 8 streams, as detailed in Section 7.0.

- 1. Standardised Regulations and Guidelines**
- 2. Enhanced Asset Management**
- 3. Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Mitigation**
- 4. Water Quality Improvement**
- 5. Dispute Resolution and Legal Framework**
- 6. Funding and Financial Sustainability**
- 7. Community Engagement and Education**
- 8. Broad Industry Collaboration**

6.0 5-Year Project Plan & Budget

6.1 5-Year Phased Plan

The 45 initiatives are sequenced logically over a 5-year period:

- **Year 1: Foundation, Scoping & White Papers:** Focuses on establishing governance (WGs, Secretariat), diagnosing problems (Reviews, White Papers, Mapping), and scoping major 5-year projects (Standards, Asset Assessment).
- **Year 2: Standards Development & Pilot Programs:** Completes major white papers and launches key pilot programs (IoT, "Giant Bladder," Dispute Resolution) while beginning the development of new national standards.
- **Year 3: Pilot Implementation & Accreditation:** Focuses on implementing and assessing pilots, completing major DCP/Standards projects, and developing formal accreditation programs.
- **Year 4: Standards Rollout & Program Scaling:** Moves from policy to implementation by rolling out new standards, scaling successful pilots (like Catchment Alliances), and creating new investment tools.
- **Year 5: Evaluation, Mainstreaming & Long-Term Strategy:** Completes major projects, focuses on final evaluation, and establishes long-term financial frameworks (like the Asset Fund) for the future.

6.2 Budget Summary

The total portfolio value is **\$100 million** over 5 years.

Year	Target Budget	Draft Projects
Year 1	\$20,000,000	\$19,968,000
Year 2	\$20,000,000	\$24,066,000
Year 3	\$20,000,000	\$24,216,000
Year 4	\$20,000,000	\$17,800,000
Year 5	\$20,000,000	\$13,950,000
Total	\$100,000,000	\$100,000,000

7.0 Detailed Initiative Breakdown & Funding Allocation

This section details the 49 initiatives, their purpose, total value, and the proposed primary funding source. This demonstrates the co-investment model, with clear responsibilities for both NSW and Federal Governments.

Stream 1: Standardised Regulations and Guidelines

- **Initiative: Standard Stormwater Guidelines and DCP Review**
 - Objective: To eliminate regulatory fragmentation and reduce compliance costs for developers and councils by harmonising stormwater rules across the state.
 - Deliverable: A comprehensive audit and review of all existing council stormwater guidelines and Development Control Plans (DCPs) to identify inconsistencies, creating a baseline for standardisation.
 - Value: \$400,000
- **Initiative: Review of Legislation & Regulations**
 - Objective: To identify legislative barriers preventing effective stormwater management and prepare the groundwork for national harmonization.
 - Deliverable: A national-level review examining state-by-state legislation to identify gaps and conflicts, informing the development of harmonised national standards.
 - Value: \$100,000
- **Initiative: Stormwater Performance Standards**
 - Objective: To ensure all stormwater systems meet a consistent, high-quality benchmark for pollution reduction and flow management.
 - Deliverable: A review and update of performance standards for water quality and quantity across Australia (and Globally) to ensure they are measurable and enforceable.
 - Value: \$1,000,000
- **Initiative: National Stormwater Manual**
 - Objective: To provide industry professionals with a single, authoritative reference for best-practice stormwater management.
 - Deliverable: The development and publication of a "National Stormwater Manual" covering comprehensive guidelines for Design, Construction, and Maintenance.
 - Value: \$5,000,000
- **Initiative: Blue/Green Infrastructure Standards**
 - Objective: To maximise the environmental and cooling benefits of green assets by ensuring they are designed to rigorous technical standards.
 - Deliverable: A set of specific design standards for blue/green infrastructure (e.g., rain gardens, bioswales) to ensure they are biologically and hydraulically effective.

- Value: \$1,000,000
- **Initiative: SQID Approval and Management Program**
 - Objective: To streamline the approval market for proprietary devices, reducing red tape and ensuring only verified technologies are installed.
 - Deliverable: A reformed and automated approval process for Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices (SQIDs) to align NSW with national protocols.
 - Value: \$1,000,000

Stream 2: Enhanced Asset Management

- **Initiative: Asset Condition Assessment**
 - Objective: To mitigate the risk of catastrophic infrastructure failure by establishing a clear picture of the state's stormwater asset health.
 - Deliverable: A foundational state-wide assessment to evaluate the current condition of all stormwater assets, identify "orphan" assets, and prioritize critical maintenance.
 - Value: \$12,800,000
- **Initiative: SQID whole of life frameworks**
 - Objective: To ensure stormwater assets perform strictly to their design intent over their entire operational lifespan.
 - Deliverable: A formal accreditation scheme for maintenance and installation providers, coupled with "whole-of-life" assessment frameworks for SQIDs.
 - Value: \$750,000
- **Initiative: Develop Innovative Technologies**
 - Objective: To drive efficiency in asset management by adopting cutting-edge technologies that reduce manual labor and improve data accuracy.
 - Deliverable: A dedicated R&D program to support the development and implementation of sensors, data analytics, and predictive modeling tools (\$500k/yr for 5 years).
 - Value: \$2,500,000
- **Initiative: Stormwater IoT Program Trial**
 - Objective: To transition the sector from reactive to predictive maintenance, significantly reducing operational costs and flood risks.
 - Deliverable: A large-scale pilot program installing 10,000 IoT sensors on high-risk assets to create a real-time data platform for predictive maintenance.
 - Value: \$11,000,000

Stream 3: Climate Change & Flood

- **Initiative: White Paper: Stormwater, Flooding & Insurance**
 - Objective: To de-risk the insurance market and improve affordability by clearly articulating the relationship between stormwater management and flood risk.
 - Deliverable: A comprehensive White Paper and policy series analyzing the complex links between stormwater infrastructure, flooding events, and insurance premiums.
 - Value: \$5,000,000
- **Initiative: White Paper: Future of Insurance (NSW)**
 - Objective: To protect NSW property owners from uninsurability by identifying specific state-level interventions for flood risk.
 - Deliverable: A focused analysis on the impact of flood risks due to stormwater and climate change specifically on NSW insurance policies.
 - Value: \$1,000,000
- **Initiative: Insurance Industry Working Group**
 - Objective: To foster direct collaboration between government and insurers to co-design risk reduction strategies.
 - Deliverable: The establishment and funding of a collaborative working group with insurers, government and councils to address risks and develop management strategies (\$200k/yr for 3 years).
 - Value: \$600,000
- **Initiative: Model Development & Implementation**
 - Objective: To future-proof stormwater planning by moving beyond simple drainage to a holistic resilience and adaptation model.
 - Deliverable: The design and implementation of the integrated "Stormwater 2030 Model" for resilience and adaptation (\$200K/yr).
 - Value: \$1,000,000
- **Initiative: NSW Permeable Pavement Strategy**
 - Objective: To reduce urban runoff and heat islands by incentivising permeable surfaces in public and private developments.
 - Deliverable: A strategy document including technical standards and incentive mechanisms to increase the uptake of permeable pavements across the state.
 - Value: \$1,200,000
- **Initiative: Residential Adaptation Strategy**
 - Objective: To protect homes from climate-driven flash flooding by upgrading undersized legacy residential drainage systems.
 - Deliverable: A strategy to address undersized residential systems via hydraulic modeling and proposing necessary Building Code reforms.
 - Value: \$2,400,000

Stream 4: Water Quality Improvement

- **Initiative: Wianamatta Catchment Alignment Program**
 - Objective: To restore the health of the Wianamatta catchment through a coordinated, data-driven water quality program.
 - Deliverable: A long-term water quality monitoring and target alignment program focused specifically on the Wianamatta Catchment (\$500k/yr for 5 years).
 - Value: \$2,500,000
- **Initiative: White Paper: Stormwater & Development**
 - Objective: To ensure new urban growth does not degrade waterways by mandating effective pollution control at the source.
 - Deliverable: A national white paper promoting "at-source" pollution control practices in all new developments.
 - Value: \$2,000,000
- **Initiative: Research on Emerging Pollutants**
 - Objective: To proactively address health and environmental risks from unregulated pollutants like microplastics and tyre dust.
 - Deliverable: A research study conducted by the Academic WG focusing on "invisible pollutants" (microplastics, heavy metals) and their impacts.
 - Value: \$500,000
- **Initiative: "State of the Waterways" Report Card**
 - Objective: To build public awareness and political accountability for waterway health through transparent reporting.
 - Deliverable: An annual, media-friendly report card grading the health of NSW's waterways (\$1M per year).
 - Value: \$5,000,000
- **Initiative: Litter Reduction Initiative**
 - Objective: To drastically reduce the volume of plastic and debris entering waterways by deploying physical capture devices.
 - Deliverable: A 5-year litter reduction program involving the rollout of 30,000 drain pit baskets.
 - Value: \$15,000,000
- **Initiative: Oyster Treatment Site Identification**
 - Objective: To leverage natural bio-filtration for water quality improvement by identifying suitable sites for oyster reefs.
 - Deliverable: A program to identify sites in NSW where water quality targets can be achieved using oyster reefs.
 - Value: \$650,000

Stream 5: Dispute Resolution & Legal Framework

- **Initiative: Community Legal & Education WG**
 - Objective: To empower communities to resolve stormwater issues by providing accessible legal guidance and support.
 - Deliverable: A working group dedicated to providing public legal support and education on stormwater issues (\$200k/yr for 3 years).
 - Value: \$600,000
- **Initiative: Inter-Property Dispute Resolution**
 - Objective: To reduce the burden on the legal system by resolving neighbourly drainage disputes through mediation.
 - Deliverable: A pilot program to identify common neighbour drainage dispute issues and establish a non-court mediation service.
 - Value: \$800,000
- **Initiative: "Lead Agency" Scoping Study**
 - Objective: To solve the governance crisis by designing a single, accountable agency model for stormwater management.
 - Deliverable: A formal study to map the current agency landscape and propose a single accountable "Lead Agency" model.
 - Value: \$200,000
- **Initiative: Local Gov "Liability Trap" Review**
 - Objective: To protect local councils from escalating legal risks associated with flood liability and asset failure.
 - Deliverable: A legal and financial review of litigation risks faced by councils to inform protective policy.
 - Value: \$200,000
- **Initiative: New Legislation**
 - Objective: To modernize the legal framework governing stormwater to reflect current climate and urbanization challenges.
 - Deliverable: The drafting and development of new legislation to address identified legislative shortfalls.
 - Value: \$1,000,000

Stream 6: Funding & Sustainability

- **Initiative: Secretariat (Exec, Staff, Board)**
 - Objective: To ensure professional, accountable delivery of the entire \$100M program through a dedicated management team.
 - Deliverable: Core operational funding for the Stormwater 2030 leadership team (Executive Director, staff, Board) (\$1M/yr).
 - Value: \$5,000,000
- **Initiative: Funding Model**
 - Objective: To secure a sustainable, long-term revenue stream for stormwater management beyond the current grant cycle.
 - Deliverable: The development of a new, sustainable NSW Stormwater Funding Model.
 - Value: \$1,200,000
- **Initiative: "Green Bonds" Prospectus**
 - Objective: To unlock private sector capital for large-scale green infrastructure projects.
 - Deliverable: The development of an investment-grade prospectus to attract private capital via "Green Bonds".
 - Value: \$200,000
- **Initiative: "Stormwater Levy" Reform**
 - Objective: To correct the structural funding deficit by modernising the state stormwater levy.
 - Deliverable: A review of options to fix the funding gap caused by the capped and unindexed stormwater levy.
 - Value: \$300,000
- **Initiative: National Asset Renewal Fund**
 - Objective: To secure federal support for clearing the multi-billion dollar backlog of failing stormwater infrastructure.
 - Deliverable: The development of a business case for a national fund dedicated to clearing infrastructure backlogs.
 - Value: \$200,000
- **Initiative: "Shovel-Ready" Project Fund**
 - Objective: To accelerate infrastructure delivery by helping councils prepare projects for immediate investment.
 - Deliverable: A fund to help councils scope and design "shovel-ready" projects for state and federal funding applications.
 - Value: \$800,000

Stream 7: Community Engagement and Education

- **Initiative: Community Education Campaign**
 - Objective: To foster a culture of shared responsibility for water management across all sectors of society.
 - Deliverable: The development of a comprehensive community education program targeting diverse segments, including community groups and MPs.
 - Value: \$800,000
- **Initiative: Community Stormwater Promotion**
 - Objective: To drive behavioral change in the general public regarding pollution and water usage.
 - Deliverable: A 5-year campaign to promote sustainable stormwater behaviors (\$200k/yr).
 - Value: \$1,000,000
- **Initiative: NSW Schools Waterwise Program**
 - Objective: To educate the next generation on the value of water and waterway health.
 - Deliverable: A 5-year campaign to promote "Waterwise" education in schools (\$1M/yr).
 - Value: \$5,000,000
- **Initiative: Conferences and Seminars**
 - Objective: To facilitate knowledge transfer and best-practice sharing among industry professionals.
 - Deliverable: An annual conference and seminar series for industry knowledge sharing (\$200k/yr).
 - Value: \$1,000,000
- **Initiative: WSUD Communications Package**
 - Objective: To ensure Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) assets are correctly maintained by property owners.
 - Deliverable: The development of a WSUD Maintenance and Compliance Education Program.
 - Value: \$600,000
- **Initiative: Community Science Monitoring**
 - Objective: To engage the community in waterway protection while gathering valuable water quality data.
 - Deliverable: A program to train community groups to conduct reliable water quality testing.
 - Value: \$400,000

Stream 8: Broad Industry Collaboration

- **Initiative: Promotion of Green Infrastructure**
 - Objective: To mainstream the adoption of nature-based solutions for urban cooling and flood mitigation.
 - Deliverable: Strategic promotion of nature-based solutions to mitigate urban heat and runoff.
 - Value: \$1,000,000
- **Initiative: Stakeholder Mapping**
 - Objective: To ensure no critical voice is left unheard in the development of new stormwater policies.
 - Deliverable: A project to map key stakeholders to ensure inclusive engagement across the sector.
 - Value: \$100,000
- **Initiative: Development Industry WG**
 - Objective: To ensure practical, commercially viable solutions are co-designed with the property development sector.
 - Deliverable: A working group with developers (e.g., UDIA) to co-design solutions (\$200k/yr for 3 years).
 - Value: \$600,000
- **Initiative: Academic Industry WG**
 - Objective: To bridge the gap between academic research and practical industry application.
 - Deliverable: A working group connecting researchers with industry to foster innovation (\$100k/yr for 3 years).
 - Value: \$300,000
- **Initiative: "Community and Industry Alliance" Model Fund**
 - Objective: To incentivize private sector investment in community-led catchment management.
 - Deliverable: Investment methods to increase private funding of catchment management groups.
 - Value: \$250,000
- **Initiative: Stormwater 2030 University Partnership**
 - Objective: To create a dedicated center for stormwater research excellence and talent development.
 - Deliverable: A "Centre of Excellence" or research hub with PhD scholarships.
 - Value: \$400,000
- **Initiative: Heads of Govt/Industry Focus Group**
 - Objective: To drive high-level strategic alignment and decision-making among agency heads and industry leaders.
 - Deliverable: Secretariat services for a high-level quarterly focus group (\$150k/yr).
 - Value: \$750,000

- **Initiative: Wianamatta Catchment Group**
 - Objective: To implement a model of collaborative governance in a high-priority catchment area.
 - Deliverable: Coordination of a government-industry group for the Wianamatta catchment (\$200k/yr).
 - Value: \$1,000,000
- **Initiative: Unallocated**
 - Objective: To provide financial flexibility for emerging priorities and program contingencies.
 - Deliverable: Funding for programs that get developed within the program oversight process.
 - Value: \$2,900,000

Stormwater 2030 Program Budget

Stream	Initiative	Explanation	Source	Value
1. Standardised Regulations	Standard Stormwater Guidelines & DCP Review	Review of all council stormwater guidelines/DCPs to identify inconsistencies.	NSW Gov	\$400,000
	Review of Legislation & Regulations	National review to examine state legislation and inform harmonized national standards.	NSW Gov	\$100,000
	Stormwater Performance Standards	Review performance standards for water quality and quantity across Australia	NSW Gov	\$1,000,000
	National Stormwater Manual	Develop a National Stormwater Manual for Design, Construction and Maintenance	NSW Gov	\$5,000,000
	Blue/Green Infrastructure Standards	Design standards for blue / green infrastructure (e.g., rain gardens) to ensure effectiveness.	NSW Gov	\$2,000,000
	SQID Approval and Management Program	Reform and Automate approval process for Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices (SQIDs).	NSW Gov	\$1,000,000
2. Enhanced Asset Management	Asset Condition Assessment	Statewide assessment to evaluate asset conditions, identify "orphan" assets, and prioritize maintenance.	NSW Gov	\$12,800,000
	SQID whole of life frameworks	Accreditation Scheme for maintenance/installation and "whole-of-life" assessment frameworks.	NSW Gov	\$750,000
	Develop Innovative Technologies	R&D for sensors, analytics, and predictive modeling (\$500k/yr for 5 years).	NSW Gov	\$2,500,000
	Stormwater IoT Program Trial	Pilot program installing 10,000 IoT sensors for data-driven predictive maintenance.	NSW Gov	\$11,000,000
3. Climate Change & Flood	White Paper: Stormwater, Flooding & Insurance	White Paper and Policy series on stormwater, flooding, and insurance	NSW Gov	\$5,000,000
	White Paper: Future of Insurance (NSW)	Focused analysis on the impact of flood risks due to stormwater and climate change on NSW insurance policies.	NSW Gov	\$1,000,000
	Insurance Industry Working Group	Collaboration with insurers to address risks and develop management strategies (\$200k/yr for 3 years).	NSW Gov	\$600,000
	Model Development & Implementation	Design and implement the "Stormwater 2030 Model" for resilience and adaptation (\$200k/yr).	NSW Gov	\$1,000,000
	State Permeable Pavement Strategy	Development of State Permeable Pavements Strategy including Standards and incentives to increase permeable pavement.	NSW Gov	\$1,200,000
	Residential Adaptation Strategy	Develop a strategy to address undersized residential systems via modeling and Building Code reforms.	NSW Gov	\$2,400,000
4. Water Quality Improvement	Wianamatta Catchment Alignment Program	Long Term Water Quality Monitoring and Target Alignment program in the Wianamatta Catchment (\$500k/yr for 5 years)	NSW Gov	\$2,500,000
	White Paper: Stormwater & Development	National paper promoting "at-source" pollution control in new developments.	NSW Gov	\$2,000,000
	Research on Emerging Pollutants	Study of "invisible pollutants" (microplastics, heavy metals) by Academic WG.	NSW Gov	\$500,000
	"State of the Waterways" Report Card	Annual media-friendly report card on waterway health. (\$1M per year)	NSW Gov	\$5,000,000
	Liter Reduction Initiative	5 yr Litter reduction Program Pit Basket rolls out (30,000 Baskets)	NSW Gov	\$15,000,000
	Oyster Treatment Site Identification	Indication program of sites in NSW where Water Quality can be achieved with Oysters	NSW Gov	\$650,000
5. Dispute Resolution & Legal	Community Legal & Education WG	Working group to provide public legal support on stormwater issues (\$200k/yr for 3 years).	NSW Gov	\$600,000
	Inter-Property Dispute Resolution	Identification of neighbour drainage disputes issues resulting in disputes and system shortfalls	NSW Gov	\$800,000
	"Lead Agency" Scoping Study	Study to map agencies and propose a single accountable "Lead Agency" model.	NSW Gov	\$200,000
	Local Gov "Liability Trap" Review	Review of litigation risks faced by councils to inform protective policy.	NSW Gov	\$200,000
	New Legislation	Development of New Legislation to address legislative shortfalls	NSW Gov	\$1,000,000
6. Funding & Sustainability	Secretariat (Exec, Staff, Board)	Core operational funding for Stormwater 2030 leadership (\$1M/yr).	NSW Gov	\$5,000,000
	Funding Model	Develop a NSW Stormwater Funding Model	NSW Gov	\$1,200,000
	"Green Bonds" Prospectus	Develop investment-grade prospectus to attract private capital.	NSW Gov	\$200,000
	"Stormwater Levy" Reform	Review options to fix the funding gap caused by the capped stormwater levy.	NSW Gov	\$300,000
	National Asset Renewal Fund	Business case development for a fund to clear infrastructure backlogs.	NSW Gov	\$200,000
	"Shovel-Ready" Project Fund	Fund to help councils scope and design projects for state/federal funding.	NSW Gov	\$800,000
7. Community Engagement	Community Education Campaign	Development of Community Education program to all segments (Community groups, Members of Parliament etc)	NSW Gov	\$800,000
	Community Stormwater Promotion	5-year campaign to promote sustainable behaviors (\$200k/yr).	NSW Gov	\$1,000,000
	NSW Schools Waterwise Program	5-year campaign to promote waterwise in schools (\$1M/yr).	NSW Gov	\$5,000,000
	Conferences and Seminars	Annual conference and seminar series for knowledge sharing (\$200k/yr).	NSW Gov	\$1,000,000
	WSUD Communications Package	Development of WSUD Maintenance and Compliance Education Program	NSW Gov	\$600,000
	Community Science Monitoring	Training community groups to conduct water quality testing.	NSW Gov	\$400,000
	Promotion of Green Infrastructure	Strategic promotion of nature-based solutions to mitigate urban heat and runoff.	NSW Gov	\$1,000,000
8. Industry Collaboration	Stakeholder Mapping	Map key stakeholders to ensure inclusive engagement.	NSW Gov	\$100,000
	Development Industry WG	Working group with developers (e.g., UDIA) to co-design solutions (\$200k/yr for 3 years).	NSW Gov	\$600,000
	Academic Industry WG	Connect researchers with industry to foster innovation (\$100k/yr for 3 years).	NSW Gov	\$300,000

Stormwater 2030 Program Budget

Stream	Initiative	Explanation	Source	Value
	"Community and Industry Alliance" Model Fund	Investment methods to increase private funding of catchment management groups	NSW Gov	\$250,000
	Stormwater 2030 University Partnership	Centre of Excellence/Research hub with PhD scholarships.	NSW Gov	\$400,000
	Heads of Govt/Industry Focus Group	Secretariat for high-level quarterly focus group (\$150k/yr).	NSW Gov	\$750,000
	Wianamatta Catchment Group	Coordinate government-industry group for Wianamatta catchment (\$200k/yr).	NSW Gov	\$1,000,000
	Unallocated	Programs that get developed with the program oversight process	NSW Gov	\$2,900,000
				\$100,000,000

Stormwater 2030 Program Budget

Stream	Initiative	Value	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1. Standardised Regulations	Standard Stormwater Guidelines & DCP Review	\$400,000	\$250,000	\$150,000			
	Review of Legislation & Regulations	\$100,000	\$100,000				
	Stormwater Performance Standards	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	
	National Stormwater Manual	\$5,000,000		\$250,000	\$750,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
	Blue/Green Infrastructure Standards	\$2,000,000			\$250,000	\$750,000	\$1,000,000
	SQID Approval and Management Program	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$500,000			
2. Enhanced Asset Management	Asset Condition Assessment	\$12,800,000	\$4,268,000	\$4,266,000	\$4,266,000		
	SQID whole of life frameworks	\$750,000		\$250,000	\$500,000		
	Develop Innovative Technologies	\$2,500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
	Stormwater IoT Program Trial	\$11,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000		
3. Climate Change & Flood	White Paper: Stormwater, Flooding & Insurance	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
	White Paper: Future of Insurance (NSW)	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	
	Insurance Industry Working Group	\$600,000		\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	
	Model Development & Implementation	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
	State Permeable Pavement Strategy	\$1,200,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000		
	Residential Adaptation Strategy	\$2,400,000		\$800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000	
4. Water Quality Improvement	Wianamatta Catchment Alignment Program	\$2,500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
	White Paper: Stormwater & Development	\$2,000,000				\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
	Research on Emerging Pollutants	\$500,000				\$250,000	\$250,000
	"State of the Waterways" Report Card	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
	Liter Reduction Initiative	\$15,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$3,000,000	
	Oyster Treatment Site Identification	\$650,000	\$650,000				
5. Dispute Resolution & Legal	Community Legal & Education WG	\$600,000			\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
	Inter-Property Dispute Resolution	\$800,000	\$800,000				
	"Lead Agency" Scoping Study	\$200,000	\$200,000				
	Local Gov "Liability Trap" Review	\$200,000	\$200,000				
	New Legislation	\$1,000,000				\$500,000	\$500,000
6. Funding & Sustainability	Secretariat (Exec, Staff, Board)	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
	Funding Model	\$1,200,000	\$800,000	\$400,000			
	"Green Bonds" Prospectus	\$200,000	\$200,000				
	"Stormwater Levy" Reform	\$300,000	\$300,000				
	National Asset Renewal Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000				
	"Shovel-Ready" Project Fund	\$800,000	\$200,000			\$300,000	\$300,000
7. Community Engagement	Community Education Campaign	\$800,000	\$400,000			\$200,000	\$200,000

Stormwater 2030 Program Budget

Stream	Initiative	Value	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
	Community Stormwater Promotion	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
	NSW Schools Waterwise Program	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
	Conferences and Seminars	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
	WSUD Communications Package	\$600,000	\$200,000			\$200,000	\$200,000
	Community Science Monitoring	\$400,000				\$200,000	\$200,000
	Promotion of Green Infrastructure	\$1,000,000				\$500,000	\$500,000
8. Industry Collaboration	Stakeholder Mapping	\$100,000	\$100,000				
	Development Industry WG	\$600,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000		
	Academic Industry WG	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000		
	"Community and Industry Alliance" Model Fund	\$250,000				\$150,000	\$100,000
	Stormwater 2030 University Partnership	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	
	Heads of Govt/Industry Focus Group	\$750,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
	Wianamatta Catchment Group	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
	Unallocated	\$2,900,000	\$350,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,550,000
		\$100,000,000	\$19,968,000	\$24,066,000	\$24,216,000	\$17,800,000	\$13,950,000