

# RCA Forum meeting 15 August 2008

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## Update on activities of Stormwater Group

The Stormwater Group has gained momentum during this year and continued to build on its achievements over the last few years. The Frequently Asked Questions page on the website is now operating, with a general overview of the issue and its relevance to RCA managers uploaded, as well as sections on stormwater and road run-off quality, and dealing with stormwater quality. A useful glossary of terms associated with stormwater that might be less familiar to roading managers has also been uploaded, with an extensive list of local literature on stormwater and road run-off issues.

This project is continuing and Forum members can expect to see further sections added to the Frequently Asked Questions page, additional case studies being placed on the web-site and new links added to other useful sites over coming months.

The working group has also made progress recently in re-establishing a better relationship with the Ministry of Transport and Ministry for the Environment. Progress in getting representatives of these Ministries more aware of the RCA Forum and participating in the work of the Stormwater Group was set back at the start of the year by changes in personnel and responsibilities. At the time of the Group's April meeting, a final decision on whether a NPS on stormwater would be developed had still not been.

Although a decision was made by Cabinet in April not to proceed with a NPS, it was unclear what was intended by the two Ministries. This was revealed when a Ministry of Transport representative attended the July meeting of the working group and reported that the Ministry intended to reconvene the NPS reference group in order to survey regional councils and to develop guidelines for stormwater. The extent of the duplication of work already done or being done by the working group was very disappointing.

The good news is that the Ministry recognised the waste of resources involved in this duplication and the need for regular liaison with the RCA Forum and the Stormwater Group. Transport and the Ministry for the Environment will now focus their efforts on providing consistent guidelines aimed at regional councils and planners, leaving the development of best-practice guidance for practitioners to the Forum and working group.

There was also a suggestion that funds in the budget for developing national guidelines that will not now be used for that purpose could be available for the next series of workshops on stormwater and road run-off management.

So, all-in-all, the Stormwater Group is pleased to report some solid achievements over the last six months and a firm expectation of more to report from the coming months.

[Presented by Wayne Newman, Group Administrator, on behalf of the Convenor, Graeme Tong.]