

Sustainable Design Assessment for Planners Course Guide and Workbook

Version 1.0

Welcome to

Sustainable Design Assessment for Planners

The following Course, Sustainable Design Assessment for Planners, is an introduction to the sustainable design assessment process with respect to planning permit applications submitted to Councils.

In this Course we look at the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) program used by most Melbourne metropolitan councils, as well as, how the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) and other ancillary tools, such as the Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) Green Star rating tool, can be used to efficiently generate and assess the sustainable design criteria of developments with respect to planning permit applications.

Throughout the Course, we look at local Council Municipal Strategic Statements (MSS), local activity centre, Victorian Planning Provisions (VPP) and Local Planning Policies (LPP) that support and require that sustainability assessments be undertaken for applications.

The Course also covers the most efficient way to assess smaller applications (developments) and discusses strategies and methods to refer more complex applications for assessment.

The Course will provide a technically accurate, comprehensive training package delivered in a professional and engaging manner throughout each Module and Lesson; enabling and supporting Planners to use SDAPP and the BESS Tool.

The Course is based on live SDAPP training given to the City of Monash, located in Melbourne; Australia. The content remains broadly applicable across most Victorian Councils.

The Course is delivered as a series of video training Lessons; captured in the form of live courses and as narrated PowerPoint slides.

The duration of the Course is approximately half a day (3.5 hours) whereby the 3x Modules may be broken into shorter 20-minute segments to allow desk-based, user paced learning, over the course of a week.

Several short quizzes, following the conclusion of each Lesson, are required to be completed in order to proceed. Upon the conclusion of the final Lesson, Lesson 7, completion of Module 3 is required which comprises a *Final Quiz*, summarising the Course learnings. Satisfactory completion of the *Final Quiz* will grant Course completion and certification.

Having downloaded the [Sustainable Design Assessment for Planners - Course Materials](#), the following *Course Guide and Workbook* has been written to coincide and reinforce the learnings detailed throughout the Course and embedded within the Course videos. Additionally, the *Course Guide and Workbook* should be used to support the quizzes developed for each Lesson, as well as, the *Final Quiz* at the conclusion of the Course.

The *Materials* will also assist with future engagements when undertaking and/or reviewing SDAPP applications including familiarisation with BESS in regards to planning permit applications.

If you require technical support or have any queries, please contact:
iadams@organicaeng.com.au

We hope that you learn, grow and most of all, have fun, undertaking this Course.

Thank you and enjoy the journey.

Course Content

The Course consists of 3x Modules and 7x Lessons (+ Bonus Content), detailed as follows:

Module 1 -

Introduction to Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP)

- Lesson 1 - Introduction to Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) in Planning
- Lesson 2 - What is SDAPP?
- Lesson 3 - Sustainability in the Planning Code
- Lesson 4 - Planning Clauses for Sustainability

Module 2 -

Assessing Sustainable Design

- Lesson 5 - The Sustainable Design Assessment Process
- Lesson 6 - ESD Categories
- Lesson 7 - Assessing SDAPP Applications

Module 3 -

Final Quiz and Certification

Acknowledgements & About CASBE

About the Course Facilitator

Ian Adams, from Organica Engineering, has been involved with setting up and undertaking Sustainability Assessments for over 10 years; demonstrating an in-depth knowledge implementing sustainable design in buildings and guiding the implementation of Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) into over 1,000 housing, industrial, commercial and apartment buildings.

Ian works with a variety of Councils within Greater Melbourne, implementing Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Permit (SDAPP) framework and assisting with their Capital Works programs. Ian is also a certified assessor and trainer for the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) and has extensive experience implementing Green Star for many projects, training and facilitating workshops for the GBCA. He has been instrumental helping develop industry toolkits such as the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS), Green Star, STEPS, and the SDS planning assessment tool.

Ian also regularly lectures at the esteemed Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University and the University of Melbourne on sustainable design and city infrastructure.

Module 1 – Lesson 1

Introduction to Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) in Planning

Sustainability isn't a single black box or one-stop-shop that we can add to, to make a building or dwelling sustainable.

Sustainability involves a plethora of initiatives and design functions that all add up to address the comfort of the occupants and users of such buildings and dwellings, as well as, minimise the building's or dwelling's environmental footprint.

The main tool that is looked at throughout this Course is the Built Environmental Sustainability Scorecard (BESS). Tools such as the Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) Green Star rating tool, as well as, First Rate 5, shall also be discussed; detailing how they may be integrated to support the sustainable design assessment of buildings and dwellings.

The training agenda may be summarised as follows:

- The Local Planning Policy – Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy and the Planners role;
- Key resources and messages for applicants to submit a satisfactory Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) Report along with ancillary documentation;
- Key assessment categories and criteria under the ESD policy such as Energy Efficiency, Indoor Environment Quality, Water Resources, Stormwater Management, Urban Ecology, Transport, Waste Management and Innovation; and
- Assessing and processing Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) Reports and checking for best outcomes.

What are 3 Goals you are seeking to achieve from the Course today?

Module 1 – Lesson 2

What is SDAPP?

SDAPP stands for Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process, requiring assessment of the ESD features of a development and reviewing applications to ensure that they meet Council planning permit requirements.

The SDAPP Program is ideally designed for an assessment to be undertaken for the sustainability of a building during the town planning stage. Notwithstanding, town planning takes into account later phases of the project, including the operation, health and wellbeing of the development.

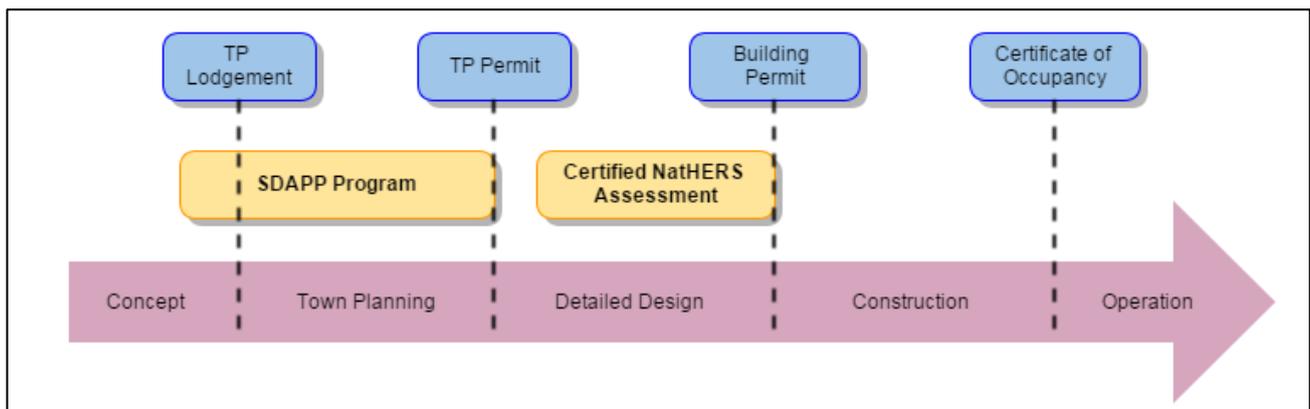


Figure 1: The SDAPP Program with respect to the design and development process

The SDAPP Framework was designed by Victorian local governments for roll-out state-wide with the tool developed to demonstrate compliance with local planning scheme ESD policies.

It was noted that addressing sustainability at the early design phase demonstrated tangible environmental and social benefits with long term financial savings. Such benefits included providing critical shading for the façade, building orientation and windows, factoring energy and water savings and optimising waste and resource recovery.

Most Councils will have an environmental policy disclosed within, and respective control over their, Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS). This has allowed many Councils to adopt community views such as the requirement and implementation of sustainable buildings.

A Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) Report, which is a fundamental output required a part of the SDAPP Program is accompanied and supported by assessments produced from common toolkits; with reporting outputs from the toolkits treated as annexures to the SDA Report. Common toolkits used to assess the sustainable performance of buildings for SDAPP purposes include the online Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) and Green Star as general and multi-purpose parameter toolkits, Accurate, First Rate and BERS for Energy and Greenhouse Gas, and InSite Water, STORM and MUSIC for water and stormwater.

Tools	Use / Application	Energy (Greenhouse Gas)	Water	Indoor environment quality	Materials	Waste	Stormwater	Transport	Urban Ecology	Innovation	Management
Accurate / Firstrate / BERS	Used to determine compliance with thermal energy efficiency provisions of the building regulations										
Greenstar	Used by developers / permit applicants to certify compliance with established industry benchmarks										
NABERS	Used by building owners / occupiers post occupancy, however can be used as a predictive tool during the design stage of a project										
SDS	Online tool used by Victorian Local Government and developers / applicants at the planning permit stage for residential development										
STEPS	Excel based tool used by Victorian Local Government and developers / applicants at the planning permit stage for residential development										
BESS	Online tool used by Victorian Local Government and developers / applicants at the planning permit stage for all types of development										
InSite Water / MUSIC / STORM	Used by Victorian Local Government and developers / applicants at the planning permit stage and applicable to all types of development										

Figure 2: Common toolkits used to support the SDAPP Program and Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) Report Submissions

The Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) regularly contribute and are instrumental to the ongoing development of the SDAPP planning process. CASBE has recently grown to 18 financial members, however the CASBE network includes approximately 35 metro, peri-urban, regional and rural Councils.

For most Councils, the principle of the SDAPP planning process is to keep the assessment process proportional to the size and complexity of the application. This is undertaken by categorising developments as either Residential / Mixed Used or Non-Residential and further breaking down such development types as either Small, Medium or Large. Medium and Large scale developments respectively require a Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) or Sustainable Management Plan (SMP) Reports to be submitted as a part of the planning permit application process.

What constitutes a Small, Medium and Large development is generally defined under SDAPP however may vary from Council to Council and should be confirmed by referring to each Council's Local Planning Policy. For example, the general SDAPP categories for residential/mixed use and non-residential developments are detailed in Figure 3.

The BESS Tool assists in determining if the development meets Council standards and is strongly encouraged to be utilised to support a SDA application.

Planners and/or Sustainability Officers, assessing ESD applications, may seek an SDA or SMP from an applicant, and/or address any further information/inconsistencies/shortfalls (i.e. a BESS Report output), if it hasn't already been provided, via a Request for Information (RFI) letter.

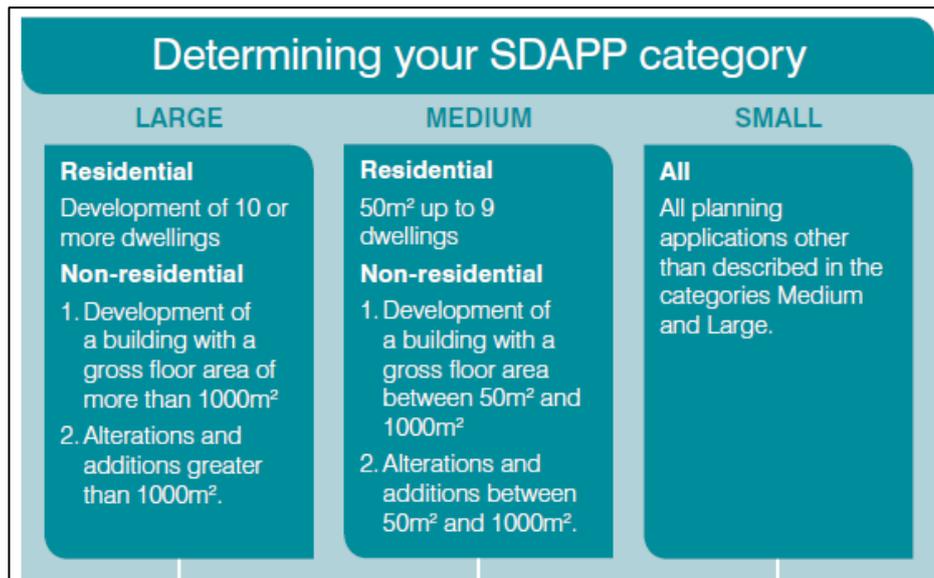


Figure 3: General SDAPP Categories for Residential/Mixed Use and Non Residential Developments
Note: Strongly encourage to refer to Council's specific Planning Policy to ensure that there isn't a deviation from the standard thresholds

Notes

Module 1 – Lesson 3

Sustainability in the Planning Code

The following section is specific to the City of Monash and the Council's Environmentally Sustainable Development policy.

Monash City Council is committed to make Monash a more sustainable place to live, work and play.

Critical to achieving the City of Monash's Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy, a development must meet appropriate environmental design standards, as specified under the clause.

The City of Monash's Local Planning Policy (LPP) Environmentally Sustainable Development clause is clause 22.13 which aims to integrate environmental sustainability into land use planning, new developments and redevelopment of existing infrastructure.

Assessing sustainability earlier in the process allows for:

- Easier compliance with building requirements through passive design;
- Reduction of costs over the life of the building;
- Improved affordability over the longer term through reduced running costs;
- Improved amenity and liveability;
- More environmental sustainable urban form; and
- Integrated water management.

Notes

Module 1 – Lesson 4 Planning Clauses for Sustainability

The following section provides an overview of where to find sustainability clauses within respective Planning Schemes for Councils.

Once you have watched the video, please visit the Department of Environmental, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) website to obtain the relevant planning scheme you required (<http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/schemes>).

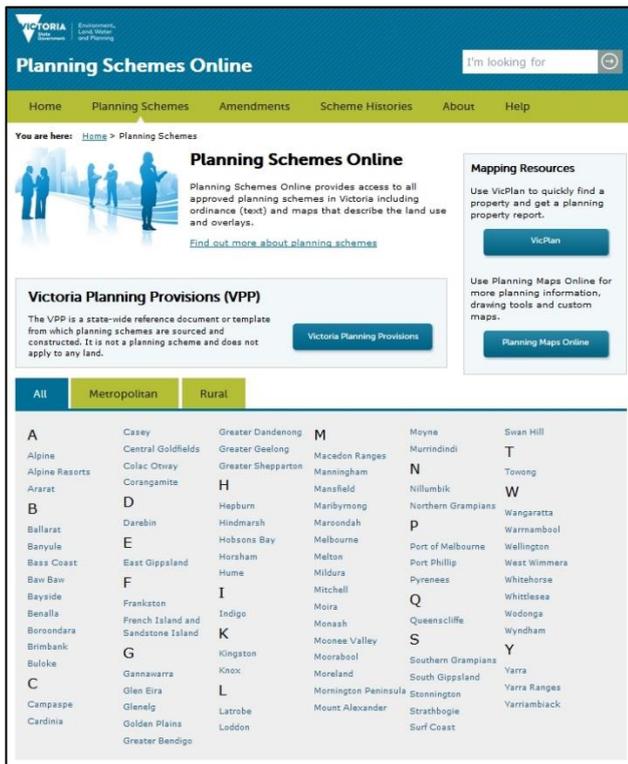


Figure 4: Accessing Planning Schemes for each Council via the Department of Environmental, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

Have a read of the relevant clauses for sustainability in each relevant Council. These have been provided as a part of the [Sustainable Design Assessment for Planners - Course Materials](#) in light of the City of Monash.

With respect to the **City of Monash** relevant clauses pertaining to sustainability include:

- **Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS):**
Clause 21.13 – Sustainability and Environment.
- **Local Planning Policy (LPP):**
Clause 22.04 – Stormwater Management Policy; and
Clause 22.13 – Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy.
- **Victorian Planning Provision (VPP):**
Clause 55.07 – Apartment Developments (or Better Apartment Design Standard).

The City of Monash’s Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy objectives include:

- Energy Efficiency;
- Indoor Environment Quality;
- Water Resources;
- Stormwater Management;
- Transport;
- Waste Management; and
- Urban Ecology.

Notes

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Module 2 – Lesson 5

The Sustainable Design Assessment Process

The following section provides an overview of the Sustainable Development Process with respect to the City of Monash’s Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy’s criteria and objectives.

As per clause 22.13-3 of the City of Monash’s Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy, it is policy that applications for the types of development listed in Table 1 (Figure 5) be accompanied by information which demonstrates how relevant policy objectives will be achieved.

Figure 5 depicts the trigger criteria for Accommodation/Mixed Use with Residential Component and Non-Residential types of developments, requiring applicants to submit an assessment. Furthermore, Figure 5 provides an indication of the tools which may be used to support an assessment.

Table 1 – ESD Information Required		
Type of Development	Application Requirements	Example Tools
Accommodation/Mixed Use with residential component of:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3- 9 dwellings; or Development of a building for accommodation other than dwellings with a gross floor area between 500m² and 1000m². 	Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA)	BESS STORM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of 10 or more dwellings. Development of a building for accommodation other than dwellings with a gross floor area of more than 1000m². 	Sustainability Management Plan (SMP)	BESS Green Star MUSIC STORM
Non-residential		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a non-residential building with a gross floor area between and including 500m² and 1000m². 	Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA)	BESS MUSIC STORM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a non-residential building with a gross floor area of more than 1000m². 	Sustainability Management Plan (SMP)	Green Star BESS MUSIC STORM

Figure 5: Excerpt from the City of Monash’s Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy Clause 22.13-4

Pursuant to clause 22.13-4 of the City of Monash’s Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy, a Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) Report should provide a simple assessment of the development and identify environmentally sustainable development measures proposed in response to policy objectives, having regard to the site’s opportunities and constraints.

The fundamental tool, the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS), may be used to support Residential and Non-Residential developments with their respective SDA and SMP Report applications. Tools such as the Green Building Council of Australia’s (GBCA) Green Star rating tool is ideally suited for larger, more complex, developments.

The objectives of the BESS Tool include:

- A tool to demonstrate compliance with local planning scheme Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) policies;
- Addressing sustainability at the early design phase demonstrating tangible environmental and social benefits with long term financial savings; and
- Supporting Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) framework, designed by Victorian local governments for roll-out state-wide.

Sustainability is considered cheaper earlier in the planning and design process and thus, for the purposes of the SDAPP, the main materials required to assess the sustainable development of a project during such phases include:

- A Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) or Sustainable Management Plan (SMP) Report;
- Town planning drawings; and
- BESS Reports/Outputs, as well as, other supplementary materials including Energy Reports and STORM / InSite Water Reports.

Notes

Module 2 – Lesson 6

ESD Categories

The following section provides an overview of the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) categories.

In order to better understand BESS and the BESS Tool, it is encouraged to visit the BESS website and register a free account (<http://www.bess.net.au/>). Once registered and signed in, create a mock project, under 'Projects' so that access is enabled to view each of the BESS category criteria.

Furthermore, a *BESS Tool User Guide* has been provided as a part of the [Sustainable Design Assessment for Planners - Course Materials](#) for reference.

When reviewing a BESS Report, a development must achieve an overall score of 50, as well as, achieve the minimum scores of 50 for each the Water, Energy, Stormwater and Indoor Environment Quality categories.

A complete list of the BESS categories are detailed as follows:

1. **Management;**
2. **Water;**
3. **Energy;**
4. **Stormwater;**
5. **Indoor Environment Quality;**
6. **Transport;**
7. **Waste;**
8. **Urban Ecology; and**
9. **Innovation**



Important Notes:

1. For the purpose of the Course, some categories have been combined to form one video.
2. The quiz for this Lesson relates to a combination of each of the individual videos. Therefore, please ensure that all videos are watched before undertaking the quiz for this Lesson.

Management



The purpose of the BESS Category 'Management' is to ensure sustainability is a core design principle and that information is available to building users so that they can use the building in the most efficient way.

The overarching objective is that development should achieve best practice in environmentally sustainable development from the design stage through to construction and operation and in determining an application, the responsible authority will consider as appropriate the extent to which the development meets the objectives and requirements of the Council's Policy from the design stage through to construction and operation.

The concept of Best Practice:

- Is defined as commercially proven techniques, methodologies and systems, appropriate to the scale of development and site specific opportunities and constraints;
- In the built environment, encompasses the full life of the build; and
- Is a policy to encourage innovative technology, design and processes in all development, which positively influence the sustainability of buildings.

Strategies for best outcomes include:

- Engage an ESD professional as early as possible in the development process;
- Organise pre-application meetings with the ESD officer;
- Undertake preliminary thermal performance modelling for a representative sample of dwellings;
- Ensure that all dwellings / tenancies are separately metered; and
- Commit to the creation of a Building Users Guide / Resident Guide.

Water



The purpose of the BESS Category 'Water' is to ensure the efficient use of water, to reduce total operating potable water use, and to encourage the appropriate use of alternative water sources.

The following objectives should be satisfied where applicable:

- To improve water efficiency;
- To reduce total operating potable water use;
- To encourage the collection and reuse of stormwater; and
- To encourage the appropriate use of alternative water sources (e.g. greywater).

Strategies for best outcomes include:

- Specify high efficiency fittings and appliances – often there is no price premium;

- Connect rainwater to as many end uses as practical – including toilet connections which are considered a key factor of the BESS Tool;
- Ensure fire test system water reuse; and
- Specify water efficient plantings.

Energy



The purpose of the BESS Category 'Energy' is to design buildings that use energy efficiently and to encourage on-site renewable energy generation.

The following objectives should be satisfied where applicable:

- To improve the efficient use of energy, by ensuring development demonstrates design potential for ESD initiatives at the planning stage;
- To reduce total operating greenhouse gas emissions; and
- To reduce energy peak demand through particular design measures (e.g. appropriate building orientation, shading to glazed surfaces, optimise glazing to exposed surfaces, space allocation for solar panels and external heating and cooling systems).

With respect to the Better Apartment Design Standard, apartment developments should be oriented to make appropriate use of solar energy, sites designed to ensure energy efficiency of existing dwellings on adjoining lots is not unreasonably reduced, and living areas and private open spaces be located on the north side of the development, if practicable, as well as, the incorporation of solar access to north-facing windows.

Reciprocally, thermal envelope should also be considered to maximise energy efficiency. This includes considering development features such as walls, ceilings and floors, insulations, draughts and gaps, windows, vents, skylights and exhaust fans.

Additionally, with respect to the geographic location of the City of Monash, apartment developments within the NatHERS Climate Zone of Moorabbin (Climate Zone 62) are stipulated by a maximum cooling load per annum of 21 MJ/M².

Energy efficiency is usually certified with respect to NatHERS energy ratings and are generally undertaken utilising the First Rate software for residential developments. Council's Best Practice Standards for energy ratings are usually to achieve an exceedance of 6.5 stars.

Furthermore, when incorporating renewable energy, such as solar power, the standard orientation and inclination for solar panels should be north orientation with 30 degrees inclination.

Strategies for best outcomes include:

- Exceed thermal performance minimum standards;
- Highly efficient heating and cooling systems;
- Highly efficient hot water heating systems with solar contribution;
- Generous renewable energy contribution;

- External clothes drying facilities – with the tool rewarding the installation of clothes lines;
- Naturally ventilated or carbon monoxide monitored and variable speed fans in car parking areas; and
- Exceed minimum standards of lighting density.

Stormwater



The purpose of the BESS Category 'Stormwater' is to reduce stormwater pollution by capturing and reusing it on site and/or treating it before it is discharged to the stormwater system.

The following objectives should be satisfied where applicable:

- To reduce the impact of stormwater run-off;
- To improve the water quality of stormwater run-off;
- To achieve best practice stormwater quality outcomes; and
- To incorporate the use of water sensitive urban design, including stormwater re-use.

Strategies for best outcomes include:

- Minimise impervious surfaces (e.g. through permeable landscaping);
- Maximise rainwater collection catchment (as a percentage of roof);
- Connect rainwater to as many end uses as practical; and
- Specify raingardens and other water sensitive urban design (WSUD) features to further improve stormwater outcomes.

Several pieces of information are required to support completing the BESS 'Stormwater' Category. These include:

- STORM, InSite Water or MUSIC reports;
- Civil engineering drawings (if available);
- Water tanks, sized correctly with roof space plumbed to toilets and garden;
- WSUD strategies for stormwater management;
- Landscape drawings indicating appropriate planting within and adjacent to treatment systems; and
- Drought tolerant landscaping.

Details pertaining to stormwater tools InSite Water and STORM; whereby results and reports from the tools may be submitted to support Council applications, are provided as follows:



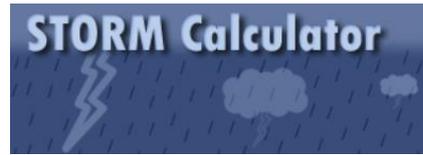
InSite Water Tool

<https://insitewater.com.au/>

InSite Water is an integrated water management and stormwater tool for use on sites in Australia that require swift and accurate design answers.

The InSite Water tool recognises water savings through efficiency, considers water tank size, water retention and infiltration, detention tank size, as well as, water treatment methods such as raingardens.

The comprehensive tool provides robust stormwater design and engineering solutions. The algorithms used within the tool are based on Melbourne Water's Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Engineering Procedures (CSIRO Publishing, 2005) and Australian stormwater industry best practices.



STORM Calculator

<https://storm.melbournewater.com.au/Intro.aspx>

The STORM Calculator is designed as a user friendly stormwater assessment tool; assessing whether best practice water quality objectives have been met for a site within Victoria.

Typical users include consultants, developers, architects, builders and local government staff.

Indoor Environment Quality



The purpose of the BESS Category 'Indoor Environment Quality' is to achieve a healthy indoor environment quality for the wellbeing of building occupants.

The following objectives should be satisfied where applicable:

- To achieve a healthy indoor environment quality for the wellbeing of building occupants, including the provision of fresh air intake, cross ventilation, and natural daylight;
- To achieve thermal comfort levels with minimised need for mechanical heating, ventilation and cooling;
- To reduce indoor air pollutants by encouraging use of materials with low toxic chemicals;
- To reduce reliance on mechanical heating, ventilation, cooling and lighting systems; and
- To minimise noise levels and noise transfer within and between buildings and associated external areas.

In order to maximise lighting and ensure thermal comfort for best outcomes, developments should provide external shading to east, north and west windows, maximise north facing living areas and double glaze windows.

Strategies for best outcomes include:

- Ensure generous light courts if used;
- Maximise the number of dual aspect apartments to improve cross flow ventilation;
- Minimise the depth of living areas to increase ventilation and daylight access;
- Provide external shading to east, north and west windows to maximise thermal comfort;
- Double glaze windows; and
- Maximise north facing living areas.

Transport



The purpose of the BESS Category 'Transport' is to minimise car dependency and to ensure that the built environment is designed to promote the use of public transport, walking and cycling.

The following objectives should be satisfied where applicable, that is, to ensure that the built environment is designed to promote the use of walking, cycling and public transport, in that order, to minimise car dependency and to promote the use of low emissions vehicle technologies and supporting infrastructure.

Strategies for best outcomes include:

- Ensure a ratio of at least one-to-one for bike parks to dwellings;
- Cater for end of trip facilities in non-residential buildings; and
- Future proof the development against changes in transport technology, modal share and ownership patterns.

Developments should also consider the relationship of transport to ESD, bicycle parking and electric vehicle infrastructure which are all rewarded under the BESS Tool.

Waste



The purpose of the BESS Category 'Waste' is to design buildings that facilitate waste avoidance, reuse and recycling, both during construction and once they are occupied.

The following objectives should be satisfied where applicable, that is, to promote waste avoidance, reuse and recycling during the design, construction and operation stages of development, ensure durability and long term reusability of building materials, and to ensure sufficient space is allocated for future change in waste management needs, including (where possible) composting and green waste facilities.

Strategies for best outcomes include:

- Consider opportunities for adaptive reuse;
- Set a robust construction waste recycling target;

- Identify opportunities for food and garden waste streams; and
- Ensure treatment of waste streams throughout building design and management.

Urban Ecology



The purpose of the BESS Category 'Urban Ecology' is to create more green spaces for a range of health, social, environmental, biodiversity and economic benefits.

The following objectives should be satisfied including to protect and enhance biodiversity within the municipality, to provide environmentally sustainable landscapes and natural habitats, minimise the urban heat island effect, to encourage the retention of significant trees, to encourage the planting of indigenous vegetation, and to encourage the provision of space for productive gardens; particularly in larger residential developments.

Strategies for best outcomes include:

- Consider opportunities for green walls, roofs and facades – including the incorporation of tap and floor waste on every balcony / every courtyard;
- Identify and implement opportunities for food growing within the development (e.g. in courtyards, balconies or on rooftops); and
- Maximise the extent of vegetation areas on site.

Innovation

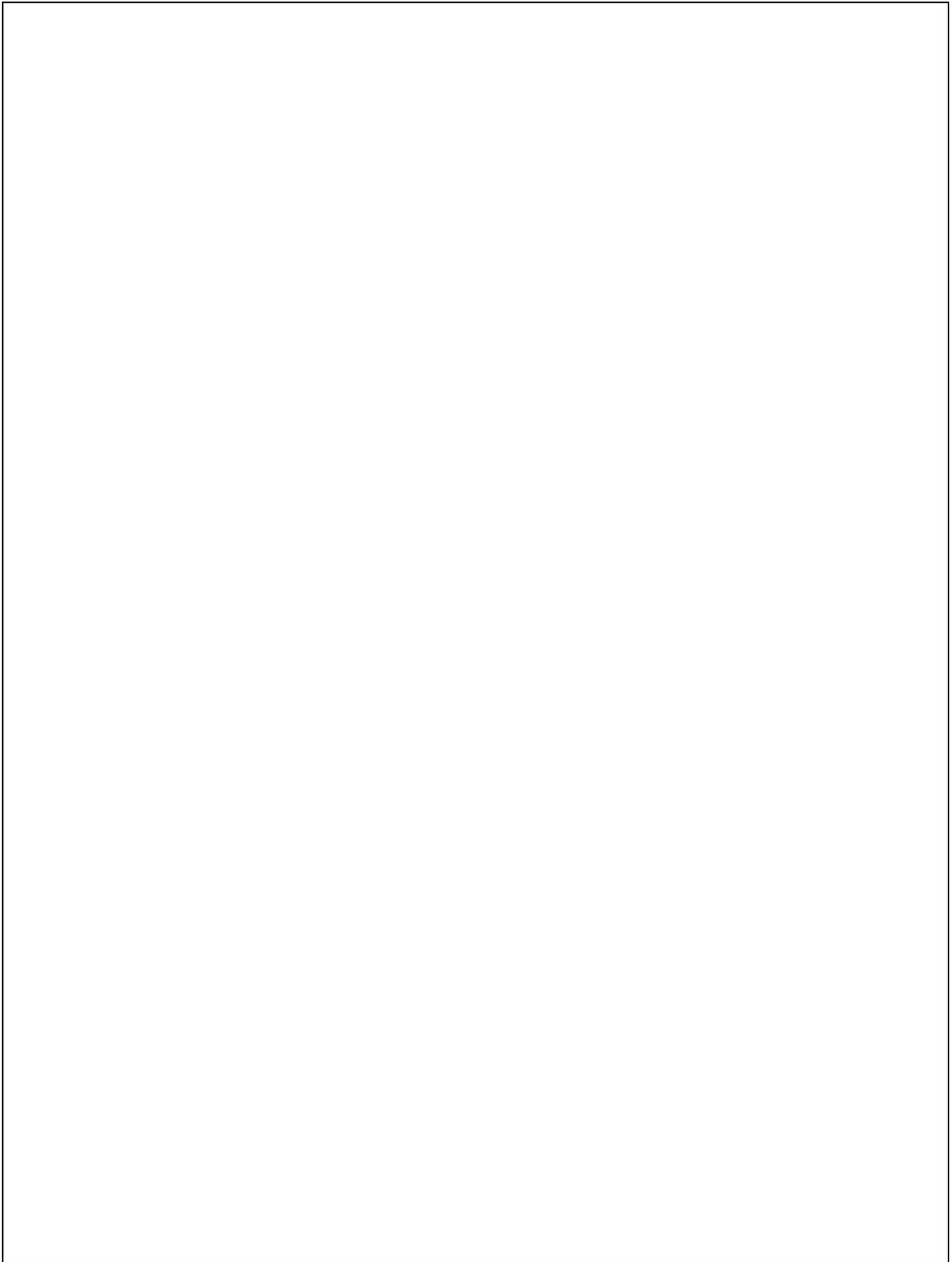


The purpose of the BESS Category 'Innovation' is to encourage innovation technology, design and processes in all development, so as to positively influence the sustainability of buildings.

The category is useful for applicants if they wish to be rewarded for the sustainable use of materials.

Innovation points are self-nominated points which are awarded at the discretion of the Council officer.

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Module 2 – Lesson 7

Assessing SDAPP Applications

In determining an application, the Responsible Authority (Environmental Sustainable Design or Sustainability Officer) will consider as appropriate:

- The extent to which the development meets the objectives and requirements of the Council's Policy from the design stage through to construction and operation;
- Whether the proposed environmentally sustainable development performance standards are functional and effective to minimise environmental impact;
- Whether the proposed environmentally sustainable development initiatives are reasonable having regard to the type and scale of the development and any site constraints;
- Whether an appropriate assessment method has been used – SDA or SMP; and
- Whether an ESD plan or framework has previously been approved by the responsible authority (whether under a planning control or otherwise).

In summary, SDAPP may be described as addressing the need to act in sustainability through Council Policy, where sustainability is assessed in planning, reflecting community expectations and creating value for the project.

The below external resources have been provided to support the review of SDAPP applications. These have been provided as a part of the [Sustainable Design Assessment for Planners - Course Materials](#) in light of the City of Monash.

[IMAP Fact Sheets](#)

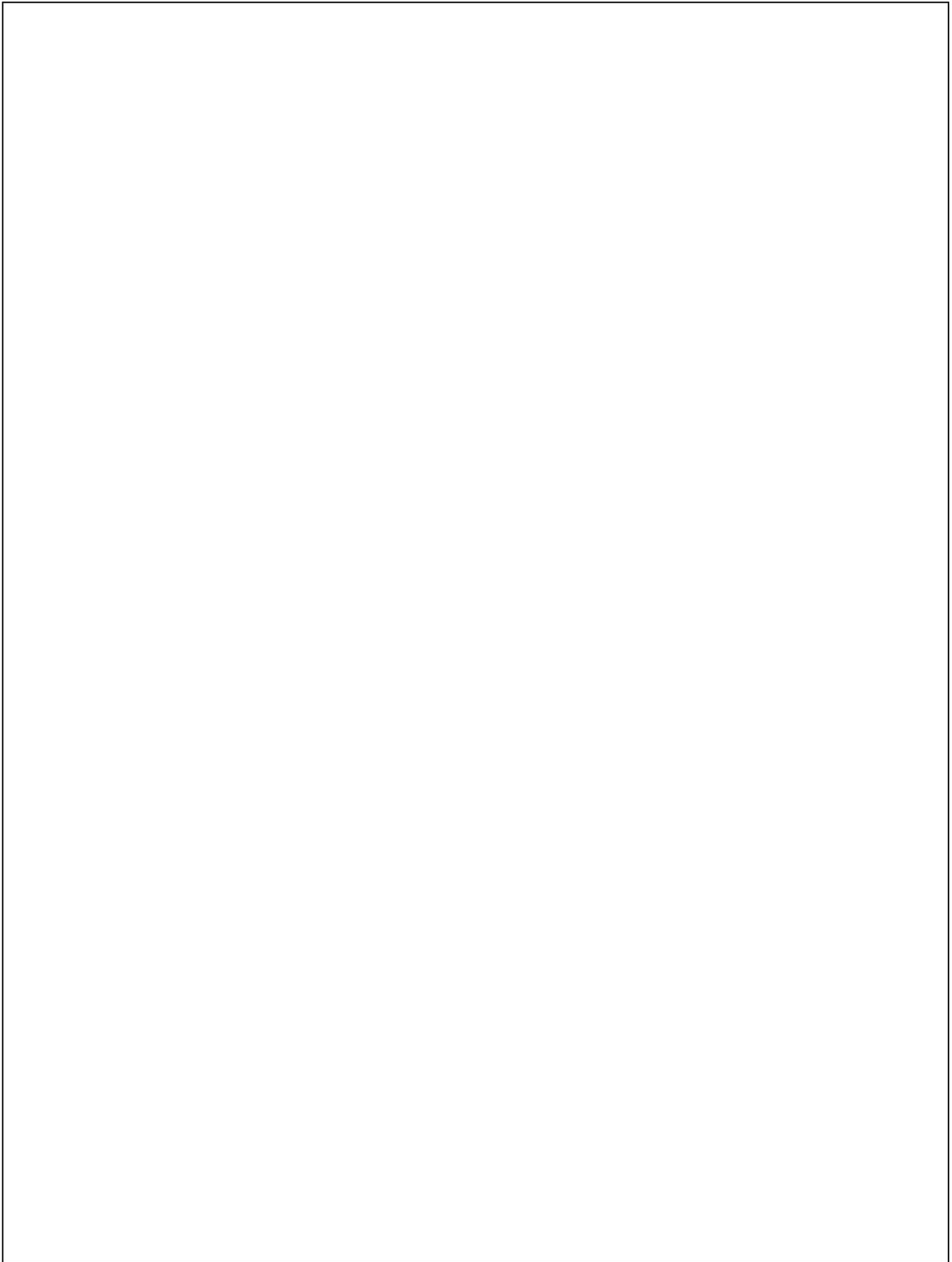
The Inner Melbourne Action Plan (IMAP) Factsheets are a great resource for explaining SDAPP to applicants.

They are a referenced document for the SDAPP program and for most Council ESD policies. The Factsheets can be customised for Councils and uploaded to Council websites. Contact IMAP or CASBE for more information.

[Council Planning Schemes](#)

Council Planning Schemes may be found in such location. Please familiarise with the ESD provisions in the MSS and LPPs, as well as, VPPs.

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Module 3 – Final Quiz and Certification

A *Final Quiz*, encapsulating the learnings throughout the Course, is required to be completed in order to be awarded certification.

The *Final Quiz* consists of a series of 20 multiple choice questions.

A pass rate of 70% is required to achieve certification.

Multiple attempts are allowed.

We strongly encourage that you have completed all Lessons and watched all videos before undertaking the *Final Quiz*.

We also recommend that the [Sustainable Design Assessment for Planners - Course Materials](#) are accessible, including this *Course Guide and Workbook*, when undertaking the *Final Quiz*, in order to assist with answering the relevant questions.

Best of luck and thank you for partaking in this program.

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Acknowledgements

Organica Engineering acknowledges and thanks the combined works undertaken by the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and the team supporting the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) assessment tool.

We recognise the tremendous efforts and work produced by the personnel at the relevant organisations whereby such information has been used and disseminated to aid and facilitate this program.

About CASBE

For our participants, it is strongly encouraged to reach out to the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) for any additional support or queries, as well as, be a part of the extensive 'Sustainability in Planning' and ESD network – a valued community that have a combined agenda towards implementing and exceeding best practice sustainability and ESD principles.

CASBE aims to actively lead Victoria towards a sustainable built environment through effective planning and demonstration, supported by a self-sustaining alliance of committed local governments.

CASBE provides a forum:

- For the exchange of information, innovation and best practice in Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) to effectively represent and advocate the collective views of the member councils;
- For strengthening partnerships between member Councils, relevant agencies and industry; and
- To provide leadership in ESD policy and practice.

CASBE's focus is on applying ESD principles to the built environment through the statutory planning system. The coordinated program of formal and consistent measures is called the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) framework. CASBE operates under the auspices of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).

While CASBE's role is primarily related to the SDAPP framework, the alliance also assists councils incorporate ecologically sustainable development into council-managed buildings and capital works projects.

CASBE member councils include: Banyule City Council, Bass Coast Shire Council, Brimbank City Council, Darebin City Council, Greater Bendigo City Council, Greater Dandenong City Council, Hobsons Bay City Council, Hume City Council, Kingston City Council, Knox City Council, Manningham City Council, Maribyrnong City Council, Maroondah City Council, Monash City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, Moreland City Council, Port Phillip City Council, Stonnington City Council, Strathbogie Shire Council, Whitehorse City Council, Whittlesea City Council, Wyndham City Council, Yarra City Council.

Please contact CASBE to be a part of the network.

Email: casbe@mav.asn.au

Website: <http://www.mav.asn.au/policy-services/planning-building/casbe/Pages/default.aspx>



Council Alliance for a
Sustainable Built Environment

