

PICP & Biofilters

21-30 May 2019

Setting the scene

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SOUTH AFRICA



This seminar is sponsored by the Water Research Commission (WRC) of South Africa (Project No. K5/2413)



1. Welcome and introductions
2. Setting the scene – Neil Armitage
3. PICP in the USA – Ryan Winston
4. Discussion
5. Tea and coffee
6. Bioretention in the USA – Ryan Winston
7. Discussion
8. Closure

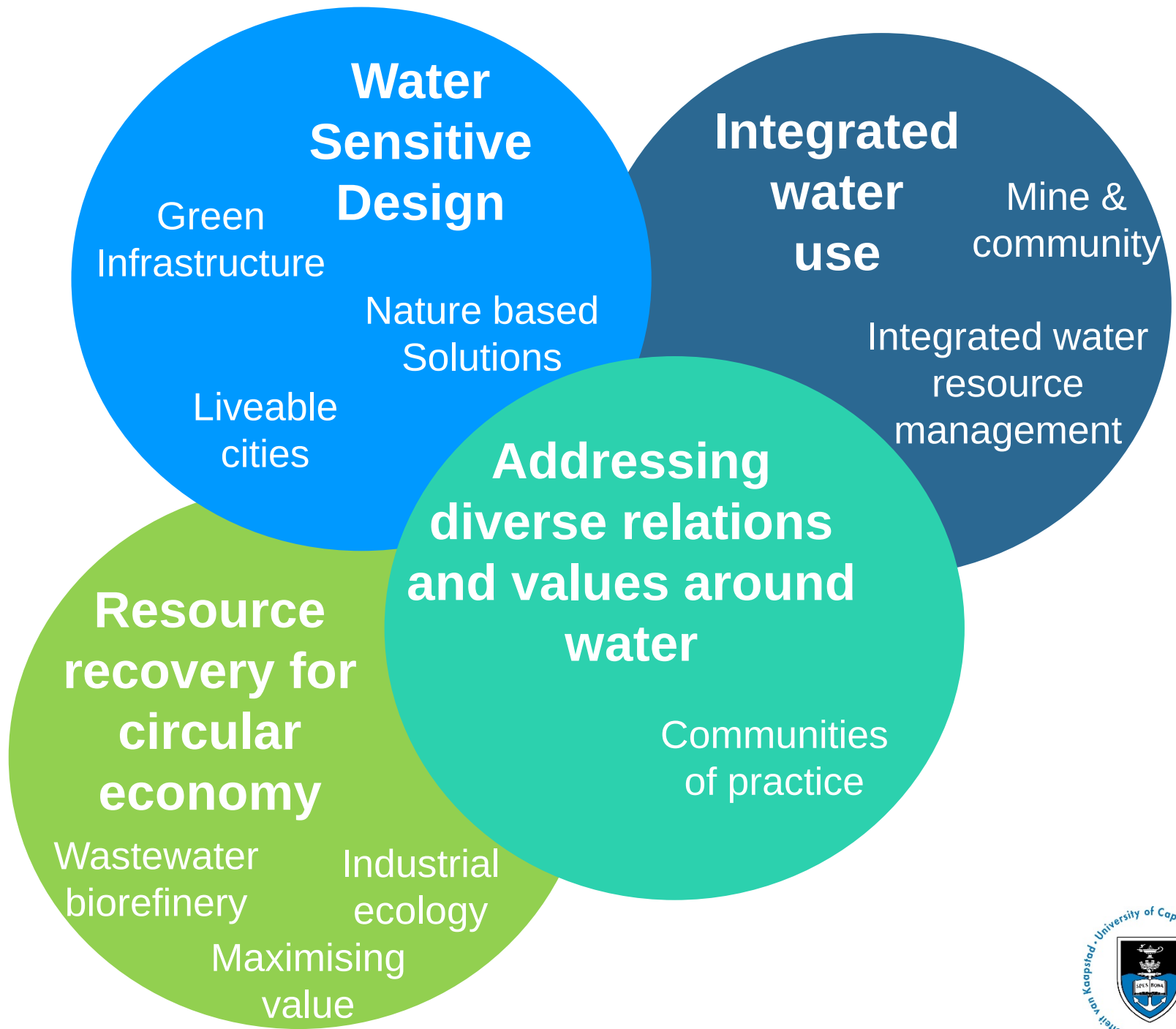
If you want CPD points for this seminar (dumb question?!) you need to:

1. Sign the attendance register
2. Send an email to Kim Liu,
LXXBOD001@myuct.ac.za
requesting a certificate
3. CPD Code = UCTPICP01

‘Exploring and enabling regenerative water futures which transform human settlements into liveable and sustainable ecologies’

Research into the improvement of water management to address issues of water scarcity in human settlements





South African population growth 5

The total population in South Africa was estimated at 57.7 million people in 2018, according to the latest census figures. Looking back, in the year of 1960, South Africa had a population of 17.5 million people.

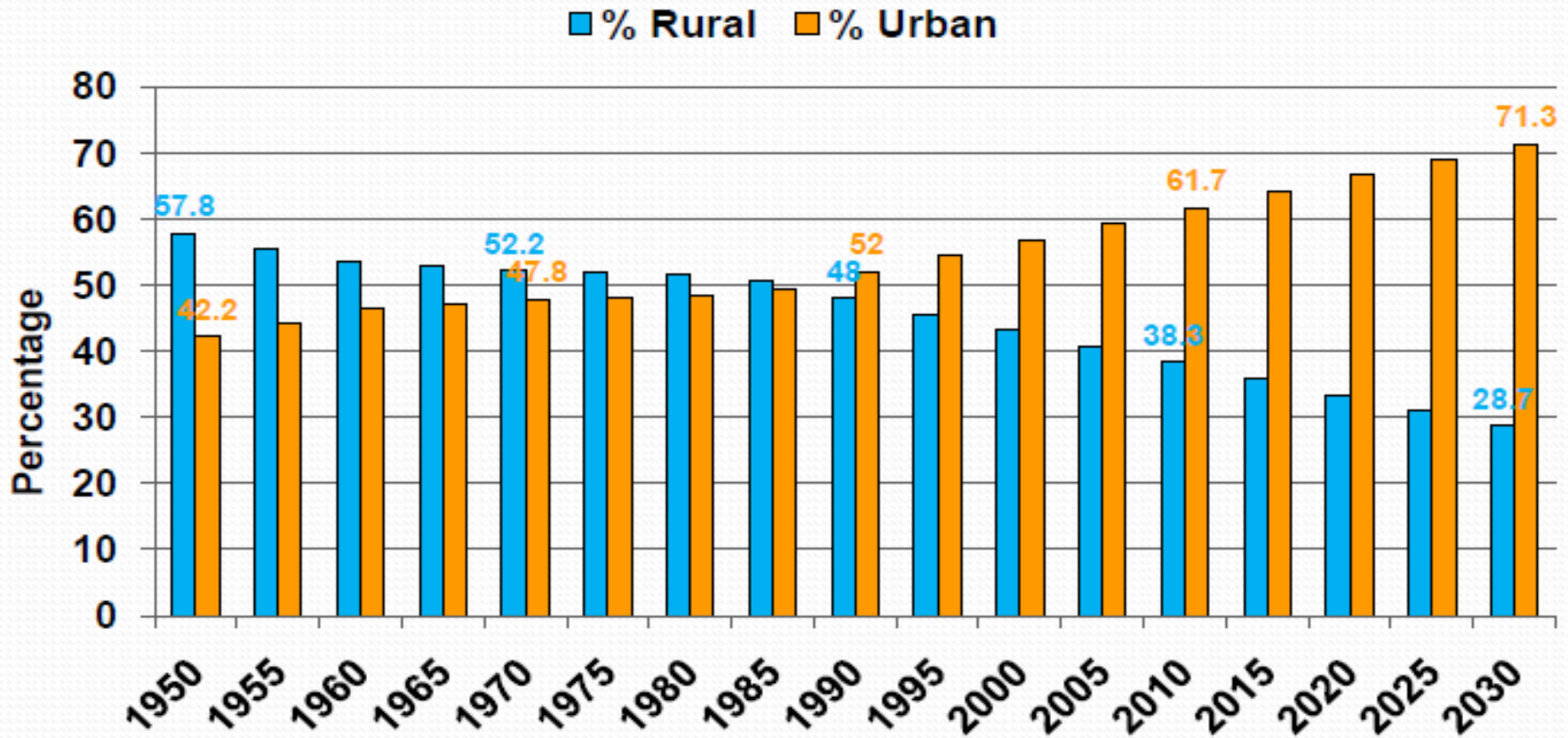
Historical Data API



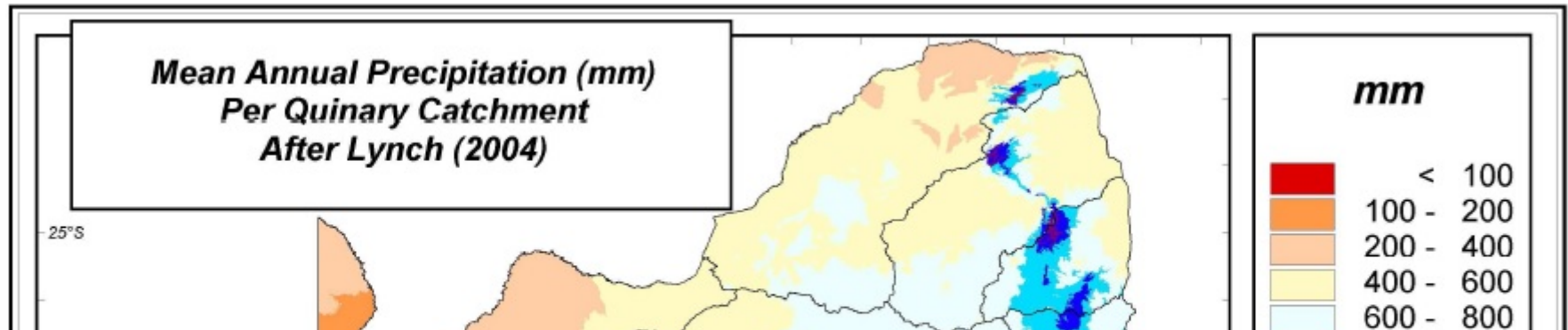
<https://tradingeconomics.com/south-africa/population>

The future is urban

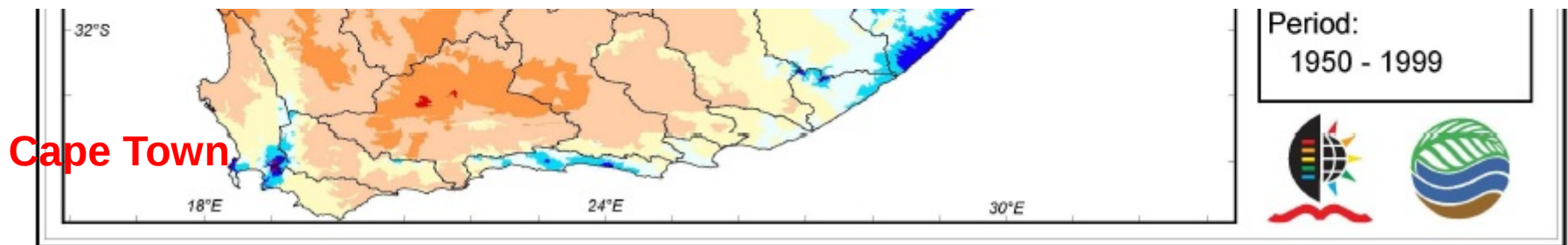
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Source: Haldenwang, 2010



Day Zero?



‘Future proofing’ cities (Wong, 2012) 8

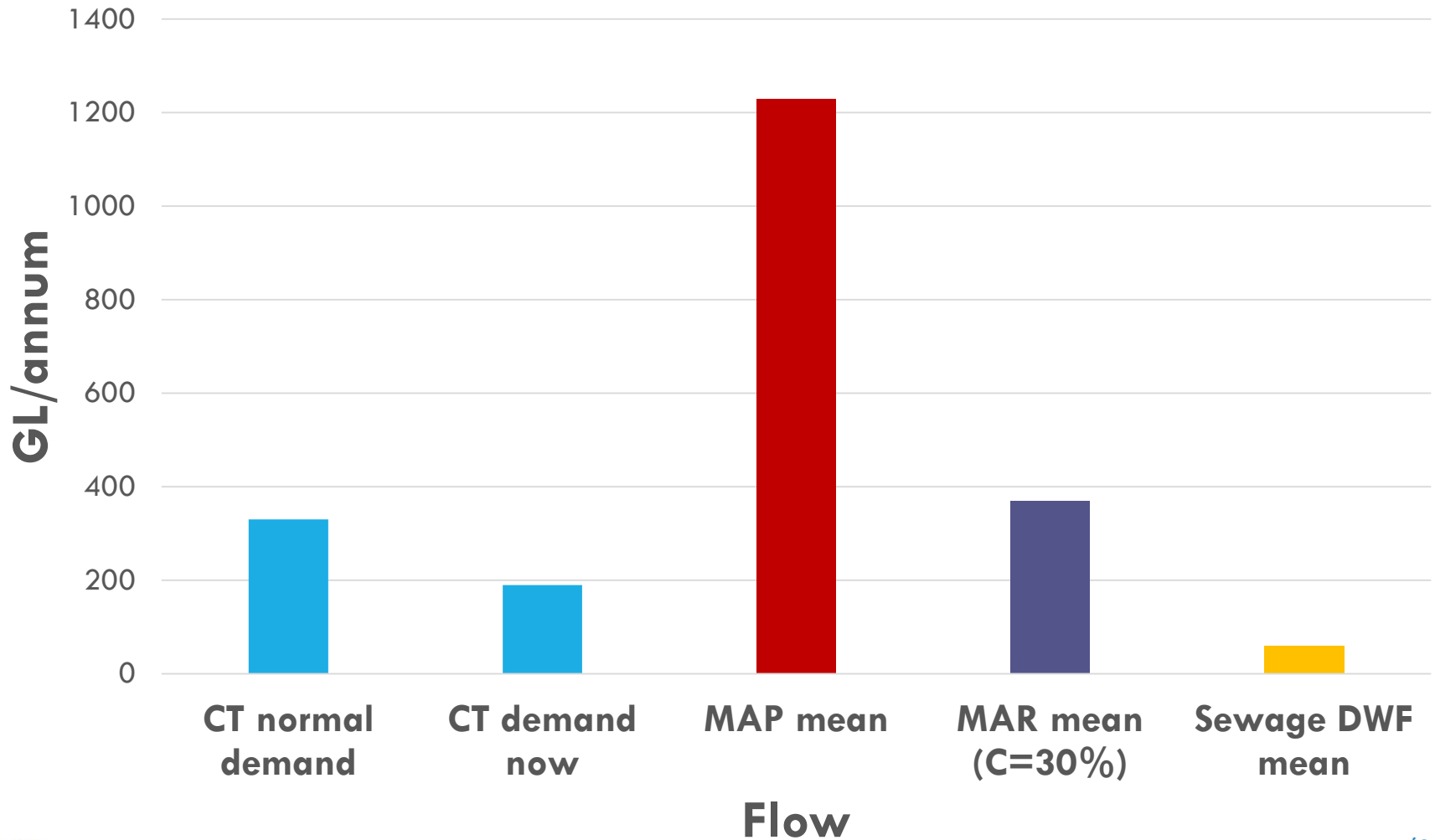
- **Resilient** (coping capacity)
- **Liveable** (comfort capacity)
- **Sustainable** (carrying capacity)
- **Blue-green corridors** as integral elements of city’s drainage infrastructure for flood conveyance and amenity
- **Stormwater as a resource**



Water Sensitive Cities (WSC)
keep water in the town / city

Typical annual flow volumes in CT

9



1 GL = 1000 ML = 1 million kL (cubic metres)

The stormwater problem

10



Picture: Hanno Langenhoven

<https://www.news24.com/Video/SouthAfrica/News/watch-durban-beach-buried-in-garbage-after-heavy-rains-20190311>

The stormwater problem

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24 April 2019: The torrential rain and flooded rivers in Durban washed tonnes of plastic and other rubbish into Durban Harbour.

<https://www.newframe.com/durban-floods-profiting-plastic/>

Highway pollution (RSA)

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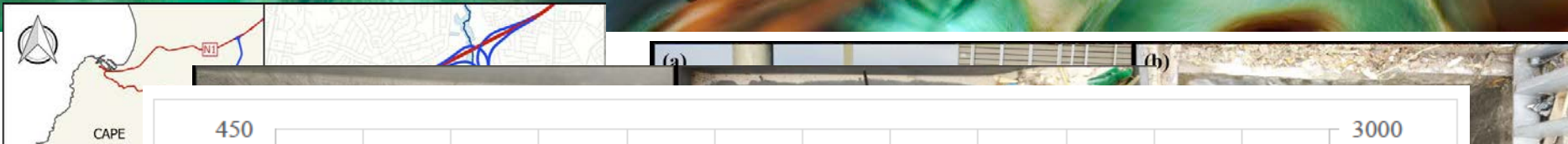
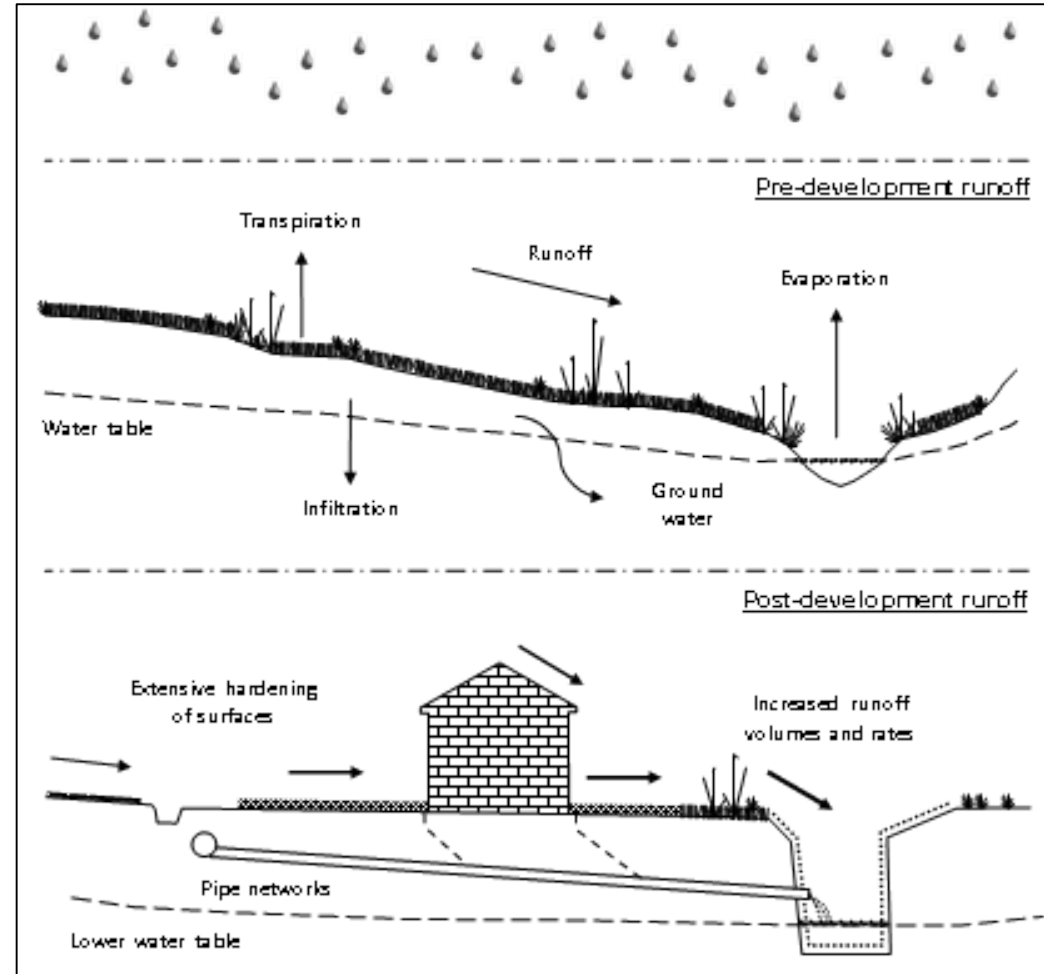


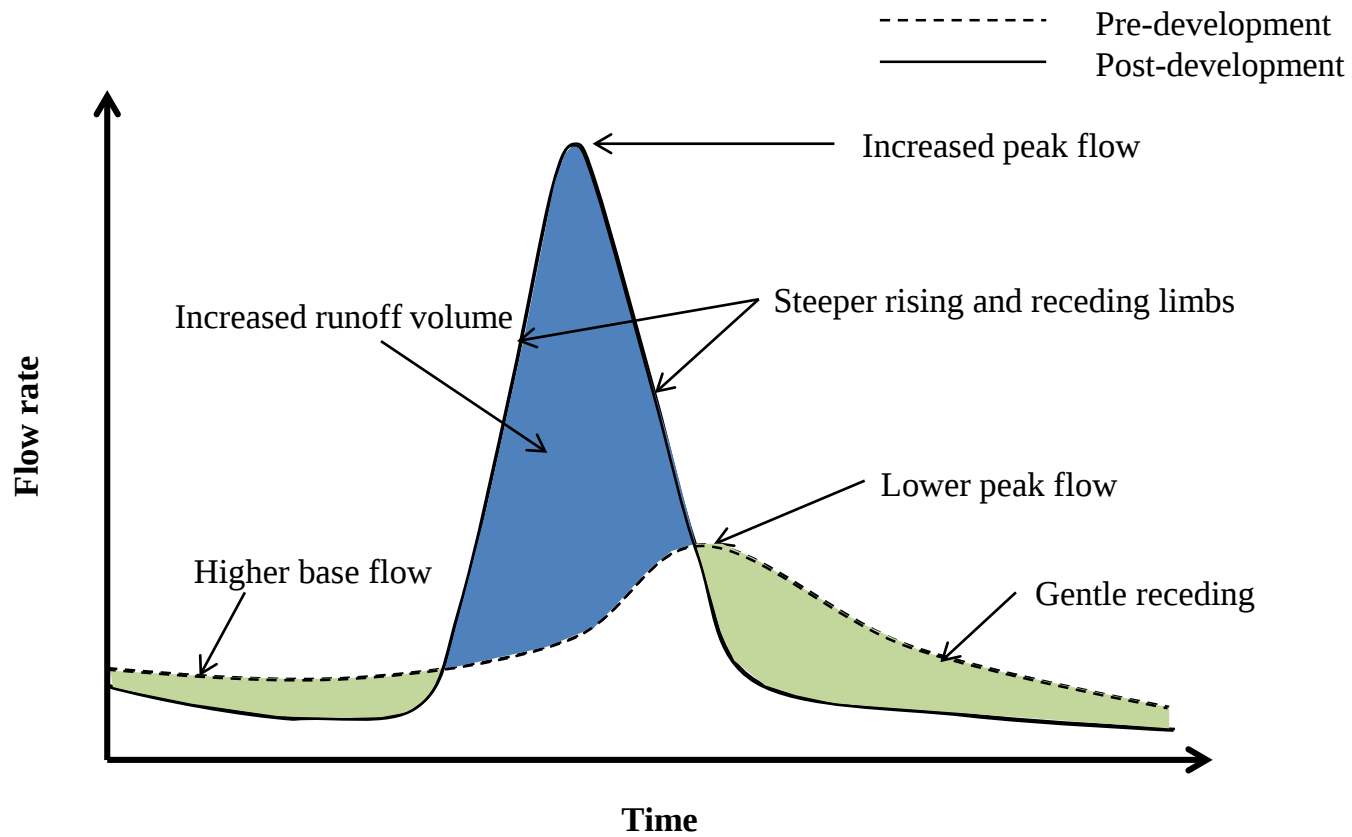
Table 4-10: Runoff contaminant concentrations compared to the DWS water quality guidelines

	Units	Runoff	Aquatic ecosystem water quality guidelines	
		Mean	Target Water Quality Range	Acute Effect Value
Total Aluminium	µg/l	9478.3	5	100
Total Arsenic	µg/l	5.8	10	130
Total Cadmium	µg/l	0.0	0.25	6
Total Chromium	µg/l	49.9	12	340
Total Copper	µg/l	143.1	0.8	4.6
Total Lead	µg/l	79.7	0.5	7
Total Manganese	µg/l	245.6	180	1300
Total Nitrogen	mg/l	19.2	0.5	10
Total Phosphorus	µg/l	2660.2	0.5	250
Total Zinc	µg/l	698.4	2	36
Total Suspended Solids	mg/l	145.7	100	-

Pre- and post development flows

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Conventional drainage systems are designed to **minimise inconvenience and reduce flood risk by removing rainwater to the nearest receiving water as rapidly and efficiently as possible** – often with the use of concrete pipes and channels. Unfortunately, they also:

- Raise flood peaks
- Increase flood volume
- Pollute receiving waters
- Destroy amenity and biodiversity

- **Sewerage** concept initially developed by Victorian engineers in the 19th Century (with great success – it doubled life expectancy in London!)
- ‘Improved’ through **separation** into ‘foul’ and ‘stormwater’ streams in the 20th Century under the mistaken impression that the latter is essentially clean water and doesn’t need to be treated (reduced flows to WWTW).
- Now, in the 21st Century, it is clear they have

Failed!!!

‘Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)’ (sometimes called ‘Low Impact Development’, LID) attempt to mimic the pre-development situation both with regard to runoff quality, runoff quantity, and amenity and biodiversity by, *inter alia*,

- treating the stormwater as close to its source as possible, and
- using a “treatment train” to successively treat potential increased post-development pollution and flow rates.”

‘Soft’ engineering – minimise concrete conduits

Impervious surfaces



Impervious 'hard' surfaces (roofs, roads, large areas of pavement, and asphalt parking lots) increase the volume and speed of stormwater runoff. This swift surge of water erodes streambeds, reduces groundwater infiltration, and delivers many pollutants and sediment to downstream waters.

Pervious surfaces



Pervious 'soft' surfaces (green roofs, rain gardens, grass paver parking lots, and infiltration trenches) decrease volume and speed of stormwater runoff. The slowed water seeps into the ground, recharges the water table, and filters out many pollutants and sediment before they arrive in downstream waters.

Conceptual diagram illustrating impervious and pervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces are hard and increase stormwater runoff, causing pollutant and sediment delivery in downstream waters. Pervious surfaces are soft and decrease stormwater runoff, which filters out pollutants and sediments before they arrive in downstream waters.

Diagram courtesy of the Integration and Application Network (ian.umces.edu), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Source: Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, 2013. Stormwater Management: Reducing Water Quantity and Improving Water Quality. IAN press, newsletter publication.



From this...

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To this!

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Wilson Center
CHINA ENVIRONMENT FORUM
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SPONGE CITIES

CHINA'S PUSH FOR **GREEN** (NOT GRAY) INFRASTRUCTURE

30 Chinese cities will each receive 400-600 million RMB to pilot **green roofs, constructed wetlands, increased tree cover, and permeable pavements** to capture, slow down and filter storm water.

Source: Lauren Sidner | Design: Carl Hooks

Acknowledgment: The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is the living, national memorial to President Wilson established by the United States Congress in 1968



Green Walls

Rainwater harvesting

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Raingarden between flats (AUS)

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Permeable pavements (RSA)

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Promoting infiltration in the CBD (USA) 29



Bioretention cells (USA)

30





Retention pond (AUS)

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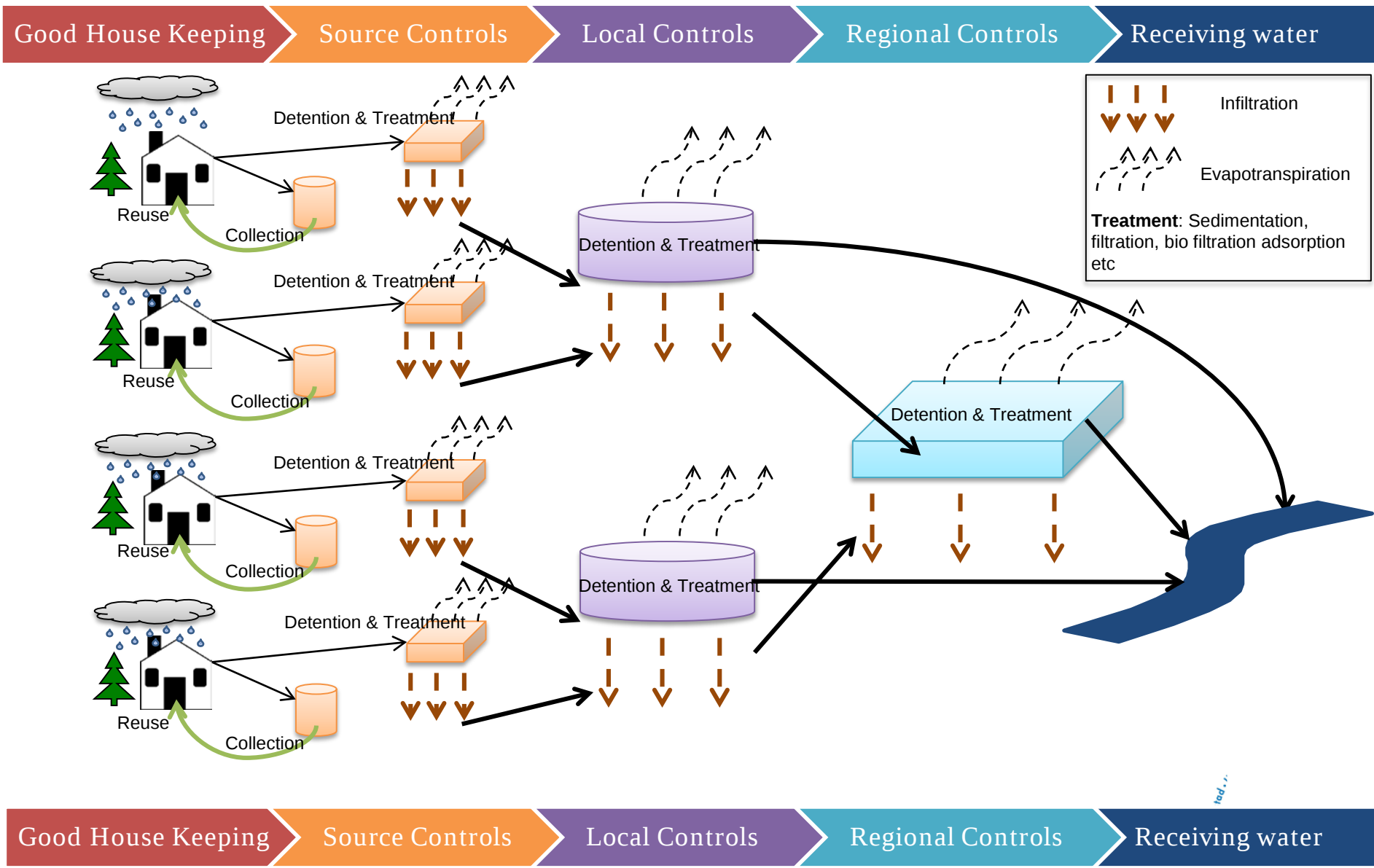




Wetlands in the City (AUS)

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The NEB Parking Area (2019)

37



Source: Kim Liu

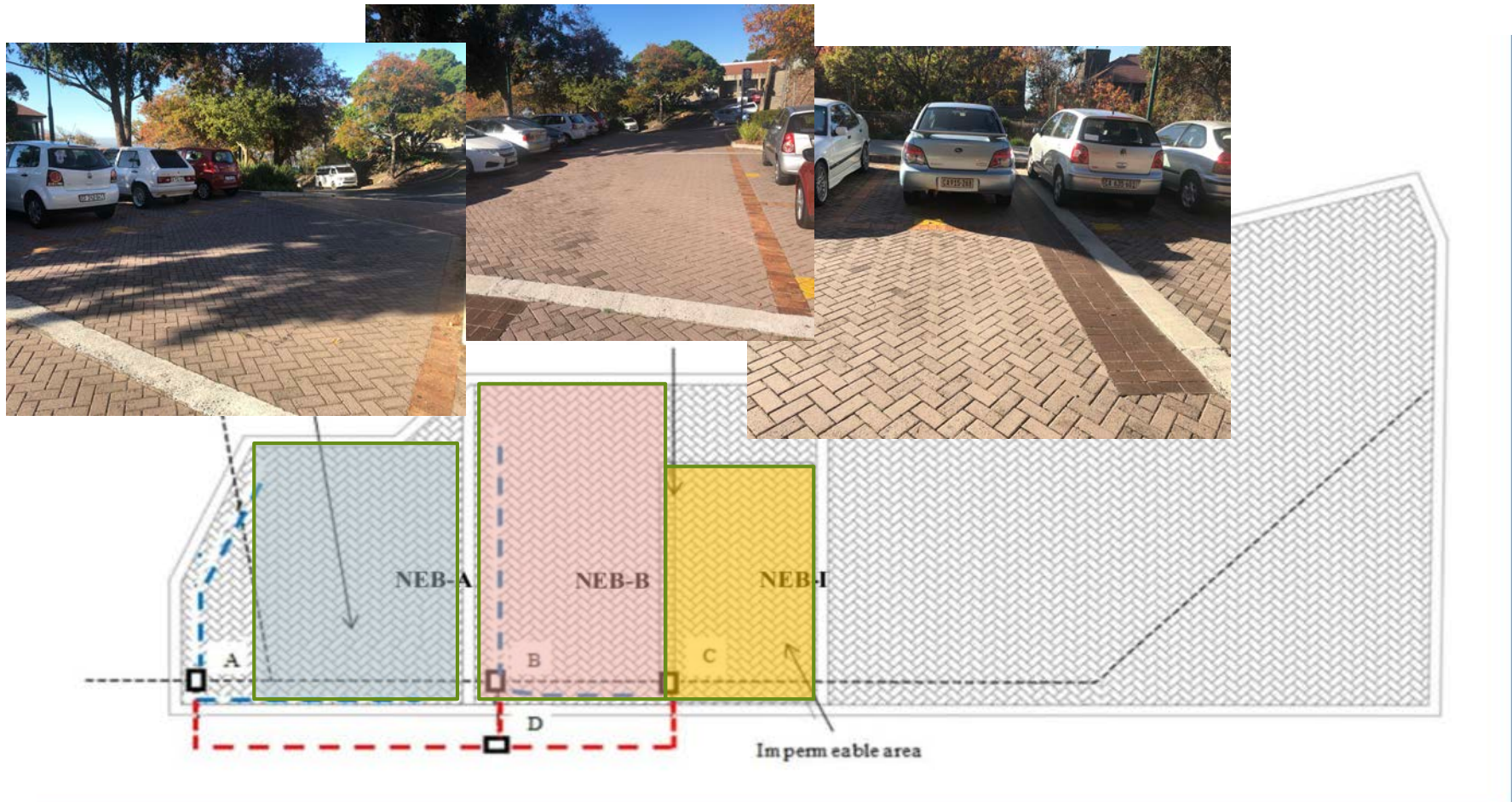
The NEB Parking Area (2013)

38



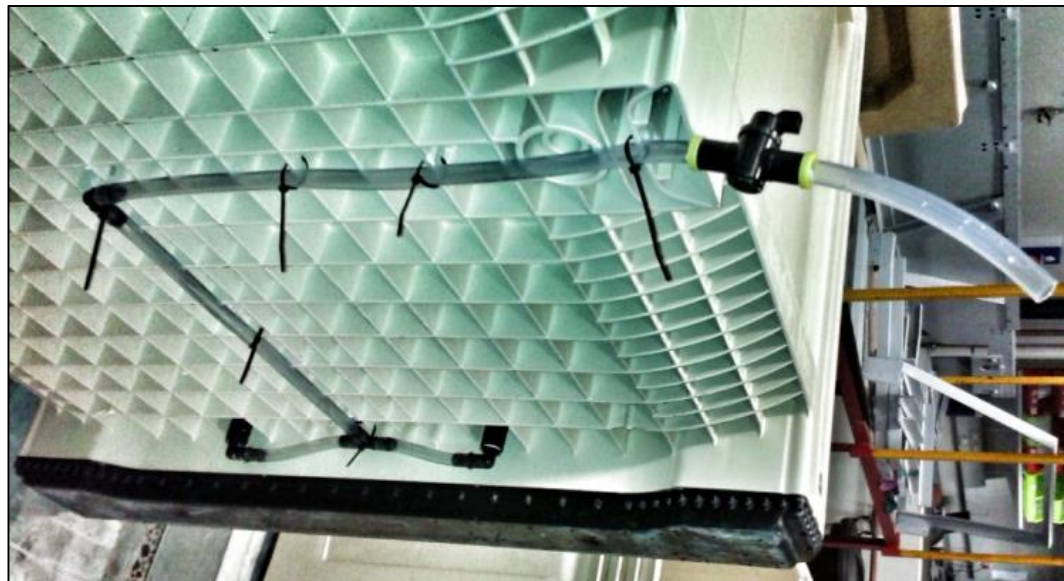
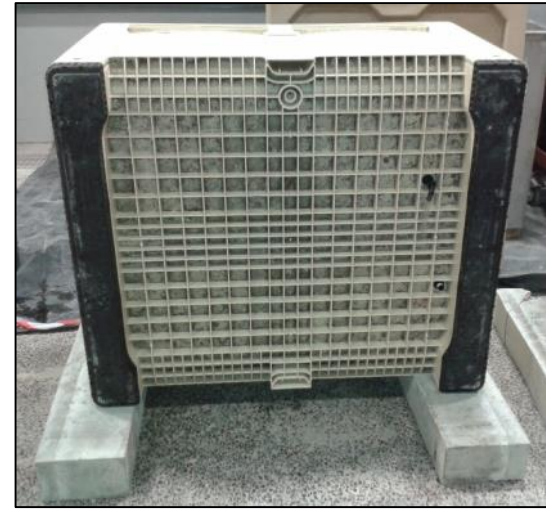
The NEB Parking Area (2019)

39



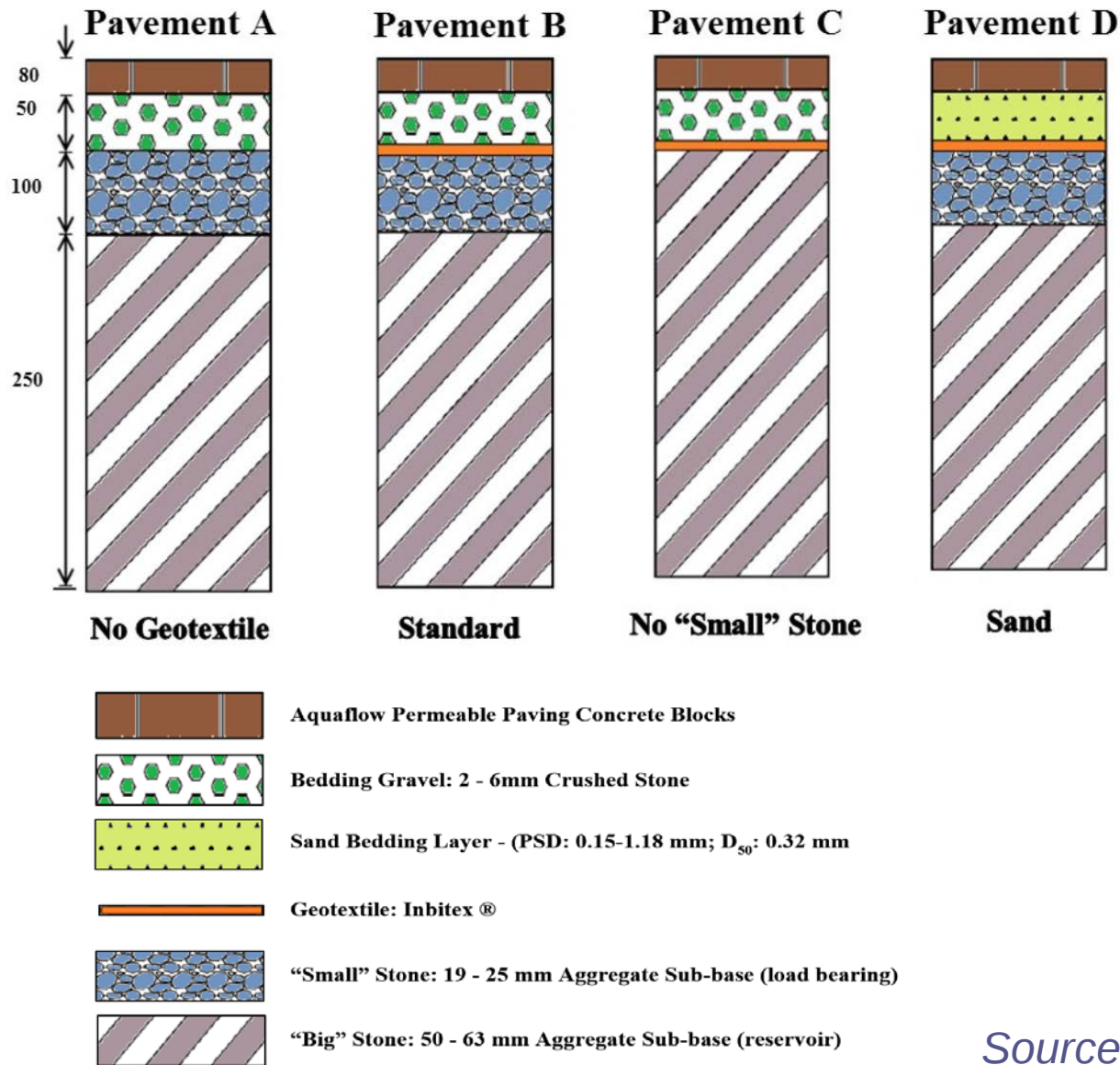
Source: Kim Liu

Lab tests on NEB-type paving (2015) 40



Source: Ben Biggs

Lab tests on NEB-type paving (2015) 41



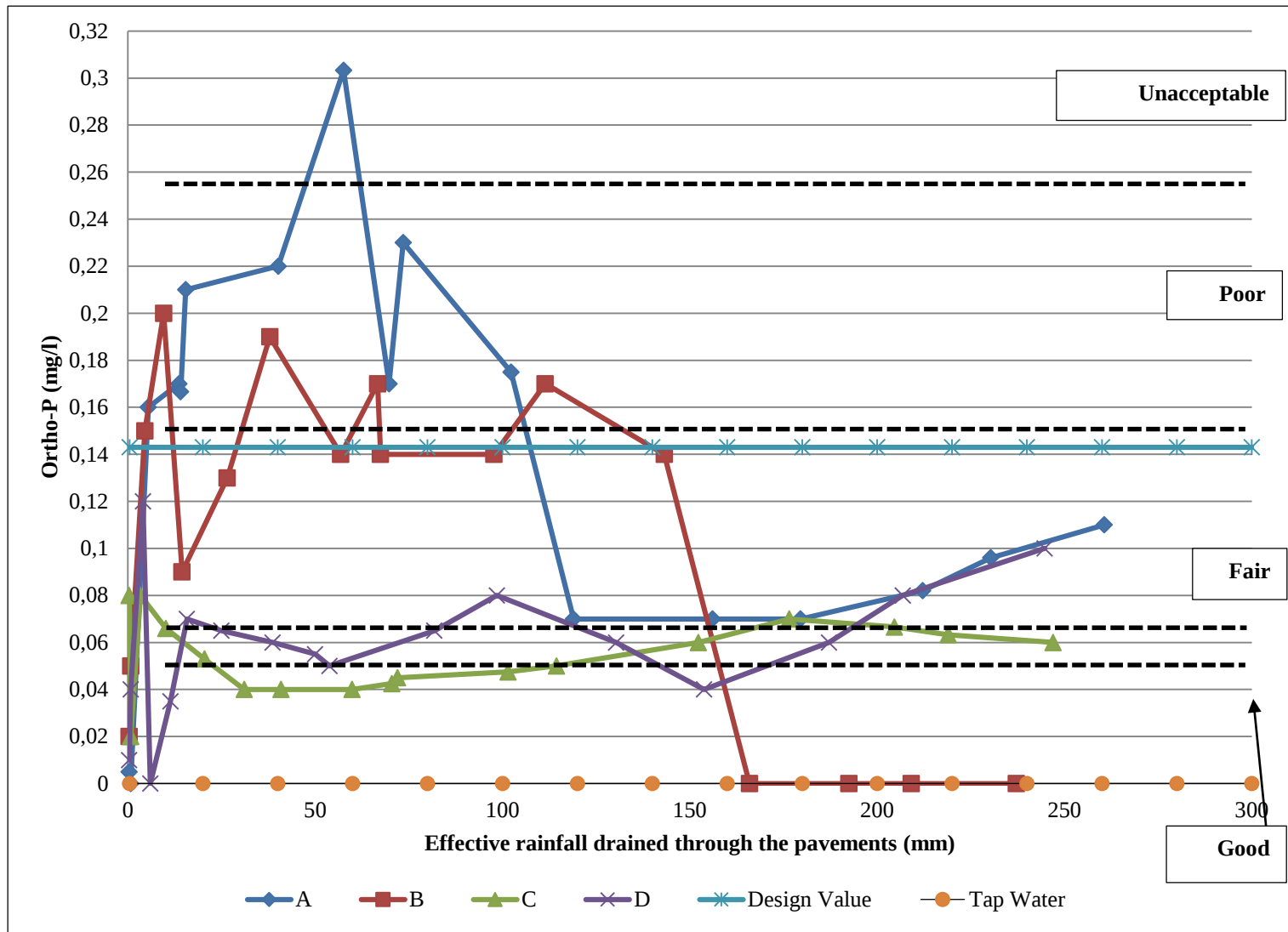
Source: Ben Biggs

Lab tests on NEB-type paving (2016) 42



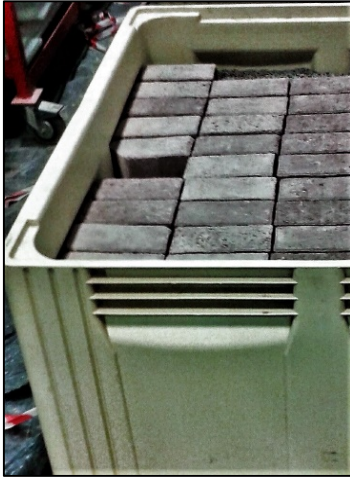
Source: Ben Biggs

Lab tests on NEB-type paving (2016) 43



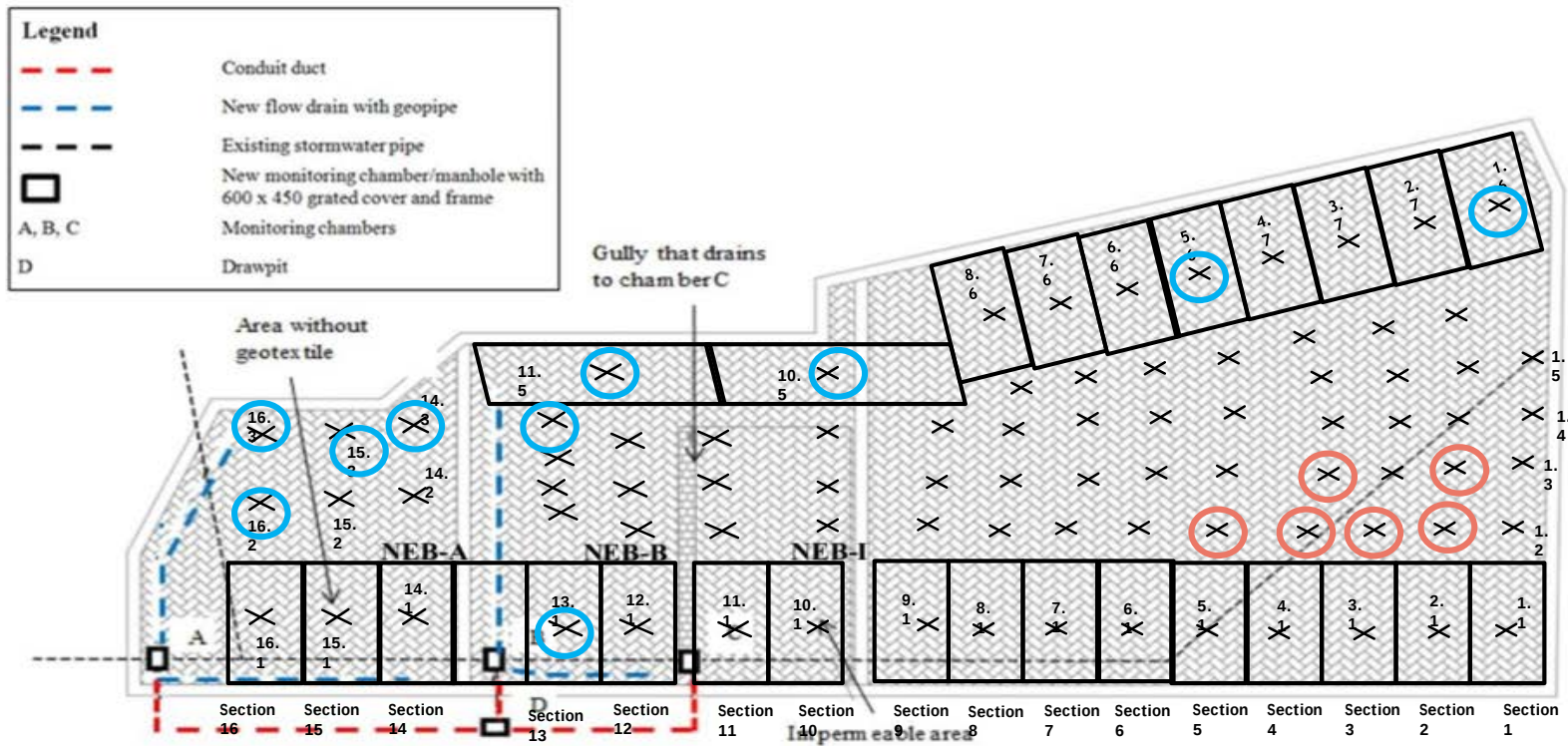
Source: Ben Biggs

Lab tests on NEB-type paving (2016) 44

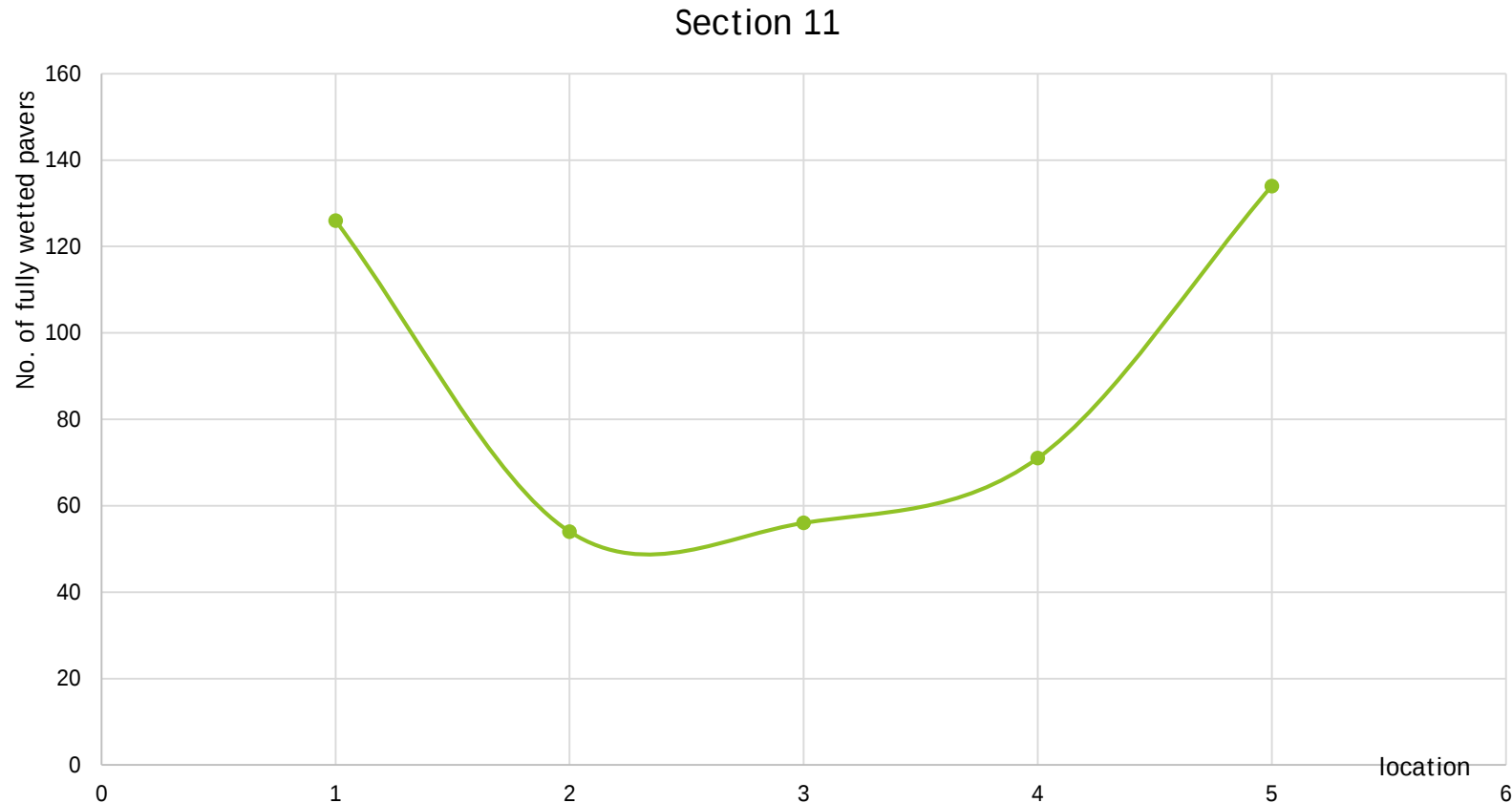


Source: Ben Biggs

Testing Locations



Source: Kim Liu



NB. High values indicate blockage i.e. blocked on the edges but relatively unblocked in the centre of this pavement

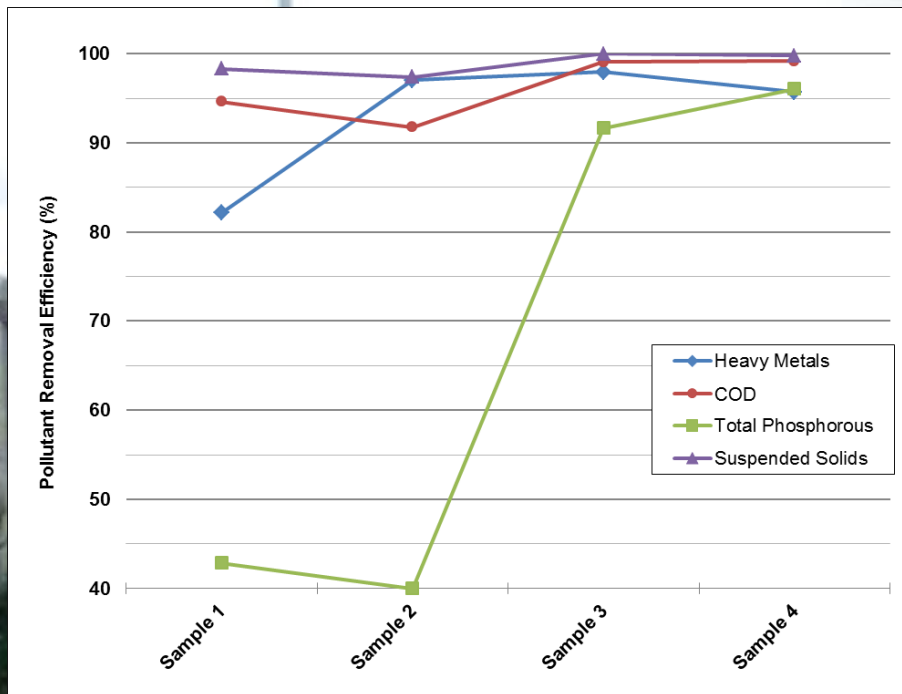
Source: Kim Liu

- Problems with the **materials** – particularly stone
- Problems with the **construction methods** – particularly environmental control
- Problems with **maintenance** – usually none / ineffective, leading to **blockage**
- Likely not meeting expected **water quality** objectives
- Perhaps some common **designs** not appropriate for South African conditions?

- PICP Working Group formed to assist with the drawing up of suitable SA guidelines / standards for the design, construction and maintenance of PICP
- If you would like to join please email me at: Neil.Armitage@uct.ac.za

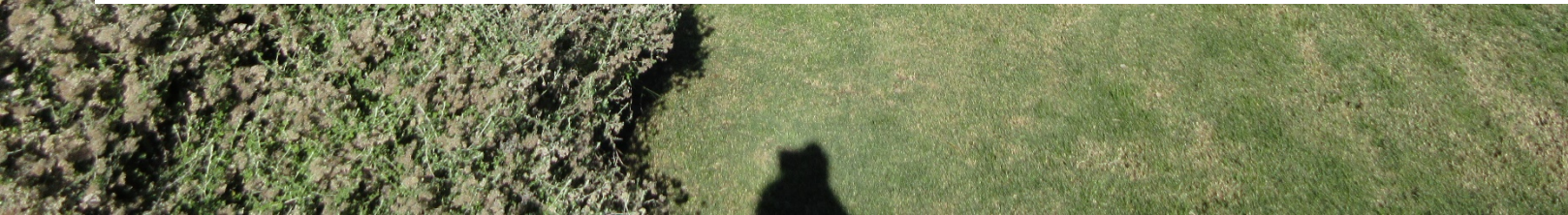
Bio-swale in Kraaifontein

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A better alternative?



Thank you

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<http://www.futurewater.uct.ac.za/>

Two interesting TEDx talks:

- Tony Wong on Envisaging a Water Sensitive Future for our Cities and Towns -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KFqEmcLXk8>
- Brad Lancaster on Planting the Rain to grow abundance -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2xDZIpInik>