Stormwater Queensland
Stormwater Quality Asset Management Position Statement

Stormwater Queensland is committed to providing industry leadership on best practice stormwater management. This Position Statement sets out Stormwater Queensland's stance on the operation and maintenance of stormwater quality assets, including vegetated stormwater assets (e.g. bioretention, wetlands) and non-vegetated structural assets (e.g. gross pollutant traps).

This Position Statement has been developed and endorsed by the management committee of Stormwater Queensland. It will be used to represent Stormwater Queensland members and the broader industry, to promote effective asset management with state and local governments and other industry stakeholders, and to augment the cost-effective operation and maintenance of stormwater quality assets.

1. Stormwater quality assets are implemented to protect the health of Queensland's waterways and their associated economic, aesthetic, ecological, and cultural values.
2. The function (and associated stormwater management benefits) of stormwater quality assets is highly dependent on these assets being appropriately managed.
3. In the absence of appropriate inspection and maintenance activities, the stormwater management benefits of stormwater quality assets (e.g. decreased pollutant loads to downstream waterways) are significantly reduced. Where this occurs, the assets are unlikely to be providing the benefits which justified their implementation, resulting in a lost return on investment and increase in their lifecycle costs. This may also be contrary to certain approvals and legislation.
4. The owners of stormwater quality assets are responsible for:
    a. Ensuring that the details of asset(s) (e.g. location, type, specifications) are known, with this information readily available to asset managers and regulatory authorities.
    b. Ensuring appropriate resources (e.g. equipment, funding) are available to satisfy the inspection and maintenance requirements of assets.
    c. Ensuring that personnel undertaking inspection and maintenance activities are suitably qualified and (if possible) have current certified training.
    d. Ensuring that assets are inspected at appropriate frequencies to evaluate their condition, function, and risk of failure using the approach for performance evaluation and asset management as outlined in the Practice Note 5 published by Institute for Public Works Australasia (or equivalent).
    e. Ensuring assets are appropriately maintained in accordance with industry-accredited guidelines/requirements and/ or asset operation and maintenance procedures/specifications.
    f. Ensuring that records of inspection and maintenance activities are appropriately collated for the purposes of analysing and using data to answer important operation and maintenance questions (e.g. what is the optimal frequency of inspections and cleaning activities?).

5. For privately owned assets, authorities should specify requirements for asset inspection and maintenance within development approval conditions and/or other suitable policy instruments.
6. Government (or other regulatory agencies) should ensure that privately owned stormwater quality assets are appropriately inspected and maintained, in accordance with development approval conditions (or other specified policy requirements, as appropriate). An audit should be undertaken by regulatory agencies on a regular basis (at least annually) with follow up inspections for non-compliant assets.
7. Appropriate maintenance frequencies for stormwater quality assets is highly variable, and is dependent on a range of site-specific conditions, such as climate and catchment characteristics. It is not appropriate to apply 'typical' catchment pollutant load generation rates (or rates predicted in the absence of site-specific data) to determine the maintenance requirements for stormwater quality assets, particularly for determining appropriate frequencies for removal of accumulated material (e.g. sediment, gross pollutants), although this may provide an indicative starting point.
8. Where possible, appropriate monitoring, in the form of regular site inspections and review of maintenance data (e.g. load of gross pollutants removed from a GPT), should be undertaken on existing assets to more reliably understand their individual operation and maintenance requirements.
9. Where possible, this data should be collected in such a way that: 1) minimises costs (e.g. collected by regular maintenance crews); 2) allows for appropriate analysis to answer important questions (e.g. what is the optimal frequency of inspection and cleaning activities for this asset?); and 3) to understand the types and volumes of pollutants being captured to inform other catchment and community initiatives which aim to minimise pollutant loads.