



MUSIC Modelling Guidelines 2026 update

Water by Design has recently produced a draft update to our *MUSIC Modelling Guidelines* and are seeking feedback on it.

How to provide feedback

To provide feedback, please complete the template below and email a copy to jack.m@hlw.org.au by **Friday 8 May 2026**.

If you would like to know more or have any questions, please contact jack.m@hlw.org.au.



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Feedback form: *MUSIC Modelling Guidelines*

Section / Page number (if relevant)	Issue	Proposed change
General comment 1	<p>Stormwater Queensland (SQ) is pleased to see an update to the MUSIC Modelling Guidelines and advocates for this to be conducted on a more regular basis. SQ acknowledges the expense that this would require, and that dedicated funding would need to be provided to support this.</p>	
General comment 2	<p>The following comment is in reference to the “Four big topics” section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • Hydrologic losses from Bioretention • Rainfall-Runoff parameters • Pollution generation parameters <p>discussed in the stakeholder consultation webinar held for the <i>MUSIC Modelling Guidelines 2026</i> draft</p>	



on Tuesday 21 April 2026. SQ agrees that these are important topics fundamental to the understanding of stormwater in urban catchments.

HLW noted that as part of the work that went into the draft guidelines these topics were investigated and that the current state of knowledge on the four topics needed to be developed further before incorporation into the guidelines. HLW stated that a discussion paper with recommendations is being developed for DETSI regarding these four topics.

SQ strongly supports Water by Design and DETSI investigating these issues in a thorough and considered manner before releasing the discussion papers publicly.

SQ believes that dissemination of the findings of this work on the four topics, in a version suitable for public release by DETSI, and underlying data sets would be beneficial for stormwater management community when they are finalised.

A clear articulation of the gaps in the knowledge basis for these topics would facilitate further efforts to help



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	<p>address these gaps. Again, SQ acknowledges that targeted funding would be required to conduct any necessary primary and/or secondary research. Collaborative approaches between interested parties are encouraged for this. Building the knowledge base on these topics should be considered as a priority.</p> <p>Recent media releases in regards to these issues have undermined the confidence of industry in our work. This inevitably leads to reduced rigour in application of the SPP requirements, and we highlight the urgency with which these matters need to be addressed. Resolution of appropriate rainfall-runoff and pollution generation parameters should preferably be resolved prior to the review of the SPP to facilitate the adoption of reasonable, relevant and effective stormwater quality improvement targets.</p> <p>SQ will refrain from further comment on these topics on the understanding that they will be addressed in the near future.</p>	
<p>Section 2 page 10</p>	<p>Specific reference is made to the State Planning Policy (DILGP, 2017). Given this is a document which is</p>	<p>Reference 'state planning policy' published by the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and</p>



	regularly reviewed, the guideline will be diminished as soon as a new version of the SPP is published.	Planning, rather than referencing the actual publication. Using a generic term would allow for name changes to the policy should they occur again.
Section 2.1	The guidance on a total permissible loads approach to assist in meeting percentage reduction targets for low impact design approaches to developments is generally considered a welcome addition. However, there is a possibility that the Business as Usual (BAU) model used in this approach could be designed as a worst case to overestimate pollutant reductions. This could be mitigated by defining appropriate values, for example mandating the impervious fraction percentages to be used for source nodes to be used for the BAU model rather than allowing selection from the range.	Add set parameter values to be used for the BAU model.
Section 3.3.3	SQ recognises that while the values used in Tables 6, 8 and 9 are only recommend to be used for “Broadscale master planning and conceptual design” and “Existing Catchments” it would be valuable to assess the values to see if they still reflect the trend	Assess the values Tables 6, 8 and 9 to see if they still reflect typical current developments impervious fractions.



	towards increasing density of development and greater impervious areas.	
Section 4.8.2 and 4.12	SQ noted that for Lifecycle and maintenance costs are an area of review and Water wise street trees, HLW have ongoing data collection. In reference to the general comments 1 and 2 it is recommended that this review is publicly released and findings incorporated into the guidelines expediently.	
Appendix A	<p>Figure A1 is outdated in terms of local government boundaries.</p> <p>SQ is pleased to see the additional climatic data for major centres across the state in the updated guidelines.</p> <p>The climatic data is stated to have been "compiled from existing local government MUSIC modelling guidelines and assessment of additional rainfall data." However, the most recent data included in table 22 and 24 is 20 years old, whereas table 26 for the new major centres is all more recent, post 2000. It is acknowledged that while this may require a new</p>	<p>Update figure A1.</p> <p>Climatic data should be updated in tables 22 and 24 to incorporate more recent time periods where possible.</p> <p>Fix the link for climatic templates for each centre www.waterbydesign.com.au/music-climate-templates</p>



method so that long term rainfall trends are still captured but to account for changes in BOM rainfall stations and data.

The link provided at Climatic templates for each centre are available for download from www.waterbydesign.com.au/music-climate-templates results in a 404 not found error. They may still be in development, if so, the link should provide this information.

We understand that sometimes feedback doesn't fit neatly into feedback forms. Please feel free to add any additional feedback below.

- Feedback
- Feedback
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