

Profile

Professor Tony H F Wong



Tony Wong is Professor, co-founder and Chief Executive of the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, a \$120 million Australian Government initiative established in July 2012. Prior to his current appointment, Tony was a founding co-director of Monash University's Centre for Water Sensitive Cities and served as Chief Executive from its establishment until July 2012.

A Civil Engineer with a PhD in Water Resources Engineering and over 30 years professional experience, Professor Wong is internationally recognised for his research and practice in sustainable urban water management, particularly water sensitive urban design. His expertise has been gained through national and international consulting, research, and academia. He has led a large number of award-winning urban design projects in Australia and overseas and has been commended for having defined "*a new paradigm for design of urban environments that blends creativity with technical and scientific rigour*".

Professor Wong has pioneered a programme of work, referred herein as the Water Sensitive Cities approach, which takes a unique socio-technical approach for concurrently addressing the social, environmental and economic challenges of traditional urban water management. The development of this approach has encompassed a sequence of his significant achievements in research and development, technology, urban design and policy. His early work on Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) has diffused globally, and his subsequent transformation of WSUD into the more holistic Water Sensitive Cities approach has been mainstreamed across Australia, and increasingly amongst developing nations. Through this 20 plus year journey, Professor Wong has advanced new understandings of the relationship between the societal and biophysical dimensions of water security and city waterscapes – enabling solutions to be underpinned by creative design, and technical and scientific rigour for delivering sustainable urban water outcomes.

In research, Professor Wong's work in the field of WSUD has included gross pollutant traps, and constructed wetland technologies and bioretention systems for improving urban stormwater quality that form the basis of contemporary industry standards. He has over 200 publications, notably *Australian Runoff Quality: A Guide to Water Sensitive Urban Design* and a pivotal invited contribution to the prestigious journal, *Nature* and has presented over 80 keynote and invited lectures.

Across research, synthesis and application of knowledge, and in models of collaboration and partnership, the key underlying theme of Professor Wong's work remains one of altruistic collaborative partnership for fostering socio-technical science and its translation. He has, through his visionary leadership and exemplary contributions, empowered a collective, enduring movement for transitioning cities both small and large, and in developing and developed contexts. His impact in research, policy, and on-ground practice now directly affecting human health –sparking the kinds of big changes that mirror his vision for water as a champion for true change.

In 2010, Professor Wong was awarded the prestigious Sir John Holland Award by the Institution of Engineers, Australia, which described him as "*a visionary, who throughout his career, has been an effective thought leader who continues to encourage his colleagues and clients through his passion and dedication to building sustainable environments*". In 2017, Professor Wong delivered the Victorian Government Alfred Deakin Oration, in honour of Australia's 2nd Prime Minister.

Professor Wong provides strategic advice on sustainable urban water management to the land development industry and to state and local governments, and has led the development of numerous state and corporate policies on water sensitive urban design. He has been a member of the Urban Water Advisory Panel of the National Water Commission of Australia since its inception and served on the Prime Minister's Science Engineering and Innovation Council's working group on Water for Cities in 2006 and 2007. From 2006 to 2013, he advised the Public Utilities Board of Singapore on institutionalising water sensitive urban design in transforming Singapore into a water sensitive city. His accelerating role as advisor and thought leader is now influencing new regions, including creating a new market for water sensitive innovation in China; and in a groundbreaking project on water sensitive management for transforming the world's urban slums.