



QuickLinks

Location

Responsible Authority

WSUD Tools

Aim

Project Description

Photos

Plans

Maintenance Requirements

Community Education

Costs

MUSIC Modelling Results

Contact



Year 2003/04

Location

Cremorne Street, Richmond.

(Melway 44 D12)

Responsible Authority

Yarra City Council

Water Sensitive Urban Design Tool

Bio-retention basins

Aim

To trap sediment, litter, nutrients and other pollutants from road run off near their source and prevent them being washed into conventional drainage system and eventually into the Yarra River.

Project Description

This project has been included as a case study because it is important being the first example of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) in such a built up area.

The difference in height between the pavement and bio-retention bed is due to the blue stone pavers used and a conservative design to prevent flooding.

It is envisaged that the drop would be significantly smaller in future designs.

The challenge of this project was to incorporate WSUD into an extremely confined inner urban area that is predominantly commercial industry with heavy vehicle traffic. A series of bio-retention basins have been built along the street in traffic outstands (landscaped sections). Stormwater flows from the kerb into the bio-retention basins, filters through a porus medium and enters the conventional underground concrete pipe system.









QuickLinks

Location
Responsible Authority
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Photos

Plans

Maintenance Requirements

Community Education

Costs

MUSIC Modelling Results

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Project Description (cont.)

Details of the works are:

- The outstands are constructed of an imported filtration medium with a specified permeability to ensure adequate infiltration of frequently occurring runoff events.
- The outstands are designed so that the stormwater flows along the kerb and channel and into the vegetated outstand area through gaps in the kerb.
- Rocks are placed at the kerb entry points to distribute flows evenly across the bio-retention basin and prevent erosion.
- The water slowly permeates through the filtration medium to a series of slotted pvc pipes located at the base of the basin. The slotted pvc pipes discharge the filtered water to the existing drain under the kerb and channel.
- A high flow bypass drainage pit (raised ~50mm to 100mm above the base of the basin) is located in every system to divert floodwaters directly into the existing main drain. The inlet point to the Drainage Pit is lower than the kerb entry point

Photos

Note: Click thumbnail to view full plan.



Cremorne St interpretive signage



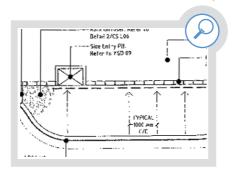
Established vegetation at Cremorne St



Bioretention cells can be used to define parking bays

Plans

Note: Click thumbnail to view full plan.



Cremorne Street cross sections





QuickLinks

Maintenance Requirements

Location

Responsible Authority

WSUD Tools

Aim

Project Description

Photos

Plans

Maintenance Requirements

Community Education

Costs

MUSIC Modelling Results

Contact

The bio-retention basins also act as litter traps and maintenance crews will remove this litter as part of regular street cleaning. The works were handed over to council in June 2004 so information about the required maintenance is not currently available.

Community Education

Interpretive signage has been erected.

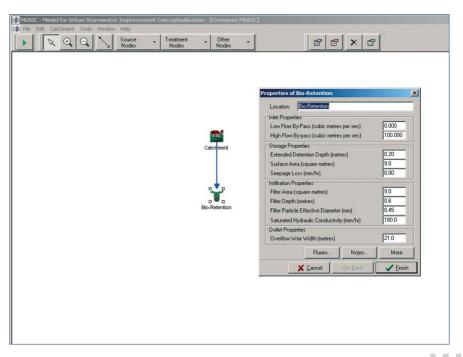
Costs

Yarra City Council matched an EPA VSAP grant of \$143,000, making each of the 29 bio-retention basins approximately \$9,860.

Music Modelling Results

The Co-operative Research Centre for Catchment Hydrology's program "MUSIC" was used to assess the performance of the systems. There are slight differences in each basin because of services, therefore a typical design has been used for the modelling. The average catchment is 0.02Ha, including a section of roadpavement and one property. The assumptions for the bio-retention basin are displayed. The model is conservative, assuming no seepage loss and using a saturated hydraulic conductivity of 180mm/hr.

The performance of each basin exceeds the Victorian stormwater management targets of 80% retention of total suspended solids and 45% retention of total nitrogen and total phosphorus.





QuickLinks

The results from the MUSIC model are:

Location

Responsible Authority

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Plans

Maintenance Requirements

Community Education

Costs

MUSIC Modelling Results

Contact

Total Suspended Solids (kg/yr)	98
Total Phosphorus (kg/yr)	83
Total Nitrogen (kg/yr)	52

% Reduction

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← Back to photo thumbnails



Cremorne St interpretive signage

← Back to photo thumbnails



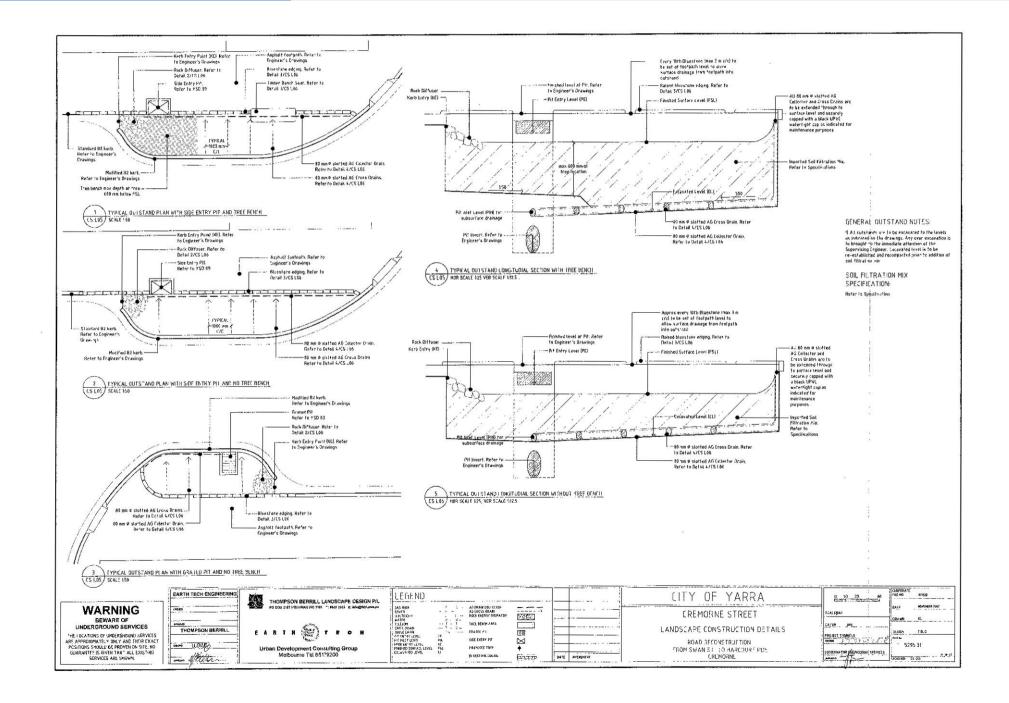
Established vegetation at Cremorne St

← Back to photo thumbnails

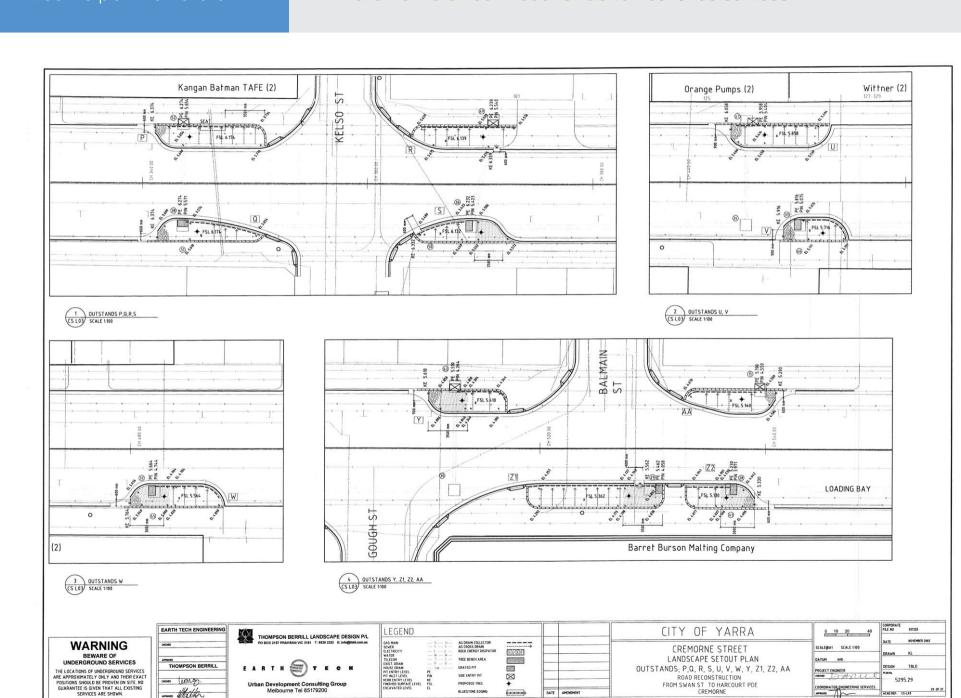


Bioretention cells can be used to define parking bays





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BLUESTONE EDGING