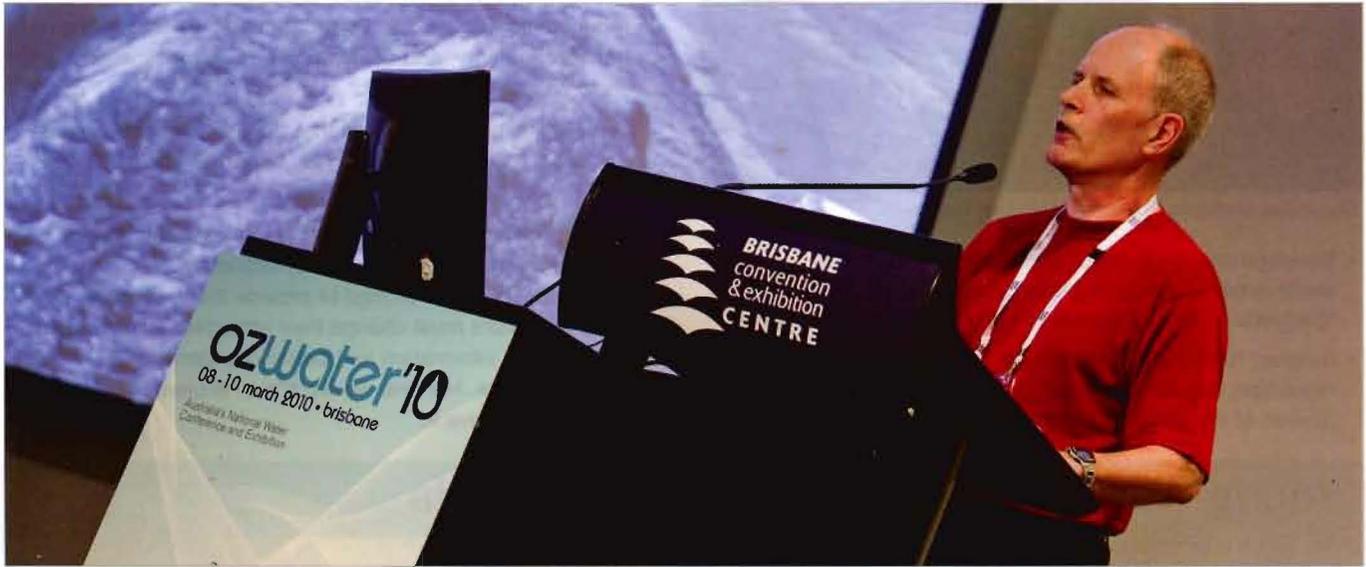


# Planning for the Future

The WSAA/IWA Ozwater'10 *Cities of the Future* workshop provided a unique opportunity for opinion leaders from across Australia to develop a planned approach and to define the place of water in the vision of the city of the future.



Traditionally, the urban planning of our cities has been dominated by transport and other considerations, with the provision of water viewed as a 'given'. The water sector must take a more active role in urban planning in order to actively influence a transformational change in urban design.

The *Cities of the Future* workshop was attended by water authority board members, CEOs, general managers, research professors and other leaders who were able to provide a water perspective. However, it is important to recognise the interdependencies with the other disciplines involved in shaping our cities, and that a multidisciplinary approach is adopted when planning our cities so that all social, environmental and sustainability considerations are included in planning models from the outset.

With this in mind the workshop took a new approach by inviting guests from outside the water sector to challenge thinking and contribute new ideas. Collaboration between the water sector and professionals in different sectors, such as transport, was considered key to achieving sustainable cities of the future.

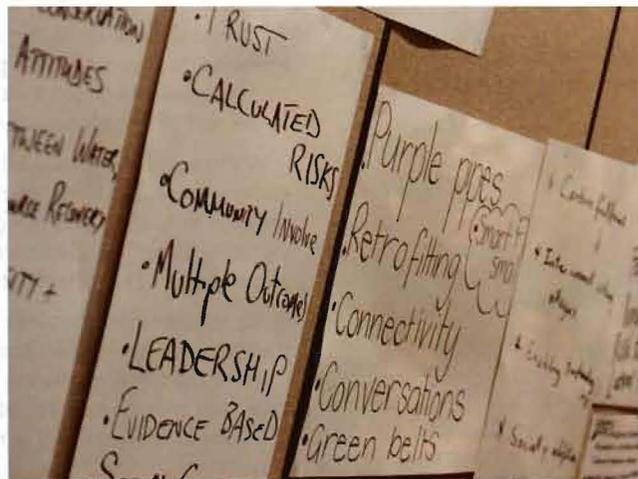
The workshop captured the views from diverse cross sectors on how the city of the future might look in 2060 and identified a number of common themes. There was agreement that cities are likely to become socio-ecological systems that are more compact and increasingly localised. Citizens will become more informed decision makers and will demand greater efficiency.

Buildings in the city of the future will be energy self-sufficient, with no water or waste leaving the building except where necessary. The design of buildings would be harmonised with the broader environment.

Participants felt that all water in the future would be considered good water that would be of a quality and safety appropriate to its use. The source of the water would become irrelevant and water would be distinguished by different grades.

The workshop produced a set of principles that can be used within the Australian water sector as well as internationally to guide the transition to a "water sensitive" city of the future. As our cities evolve the principles will enable the water sector to compare what we see around us with the actions and principles discussed in the workshop to see how they match.

The outcomes of the workshop will form the basis of a *Cities of the Future* position paper which will form Australia's contribution to the International Water Association's World Water Congress being held in Montreal in September 2010. The outcomes will also enable the Australian water sector to influence policy and practice internationally, and firmly establish Australian cities as leaders in sustainable cities in water scarce environments.



Discussion on the *Cities of the Future*.