

## **FACT SHEET**

### Water Quality Basins on the Westlink M7

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#### **What is a water quality basin?**

A water quality basin is a storage area with restricted outlets which have the effect of slowing down the passage of stormwater flows to minimise impacts on natural flow patterns, adjoining land and the surrounding environment.

#### **Why are water quality basins used?**

Water quality basins are used to protect the environment. They are designed with a controlled drainage system to provide a way of treating stormwater runoff before it is discharged into local waterways. The aim is to protect the environmental quality of local creeks.

#### **How do they work?**

The runoff from the pavement surface of the Westlink M7 is directed through one of the 169 specially constructed water quality basins. This is done to remove any pollutants that are typically associated with a motorway pavement. The water quality basins can also be used in the event that fuel or chemicals are spilt.

The basins have been designed to achieve the following:

- First flush detention storage: Basins have been designed to capture the initial runoff from the Westlink M7.
- Sedimentation controls: Water is detained for a short while, allowing coarser sediments, litter and particulate pollutants to settle.
- Entrapment of spills: The basins have lockable valves that remain open unless a spill of fuel or other chemicals occurs. The valve would then be manually closed to capture the spill which would then be treated.
- Collection of rubbish and litter: Gross pollutant traps have been installed in some areas (depending on the area available). These are designed to capture coarse sediments, hydrocarbons / chemical spills and litter.

#### **Maintenance**

All the water quality basins are inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Sediment and vegetation will be removed from the basins if it is impeding the functioning of the basins.

If the valve of a basin has been closed due to potential contamination, the water will be discharged as soon as the appropriate treatment has been undertaken and any required testing has been done.

Fencing has been erected around the basins to restrict access to these areas for safety purposes. The fences are inspected regularly.

Please do not enter or interfere with the basins. They are there to protect the environment and control pollution. They should not be used for other purposes.

#### **Queries?**

Send an email to: [info@westlinkm7.com.au](mailto:info@westlinkm7.com.au)