



JULY 2024 E-NEWSLETTER

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The first half of 2024 has seen a whirlwind of activity within ALDE. The sub-committees are in full flight, the collective energy and engagement from the board is setting up 2024 to be an amazing year of achievement.

As president of ALDE, advocacy and collaboration with UDIA and MWC has been at the forefront, the combined efforts and engagement should provide some much needed improvements for our industry going forward. We are buoyed that the Urban Planning and Development Strategic Collaboration Group (UDPSCG) has successfully amended the terms of reference within the committee enabling the formation of working groups to focus on specifics. As an association, I have compiled a snapshot of activities within ALDE to highlight the efforts thus far in 2024;

## **2024 ALDE Conference - 19-21 August**

The conference date is fast approaching, the organizing committee are wrapping up final details. For those that have not yet confirmed attendance, please don't wait until the last minute.

## **Member survey - temporary drainage solutions**

We are aware that many of our members have issues with the Melton City Council drainage outfalls. To understand the extent of the issue we conducted a survey to better and our main drainage committee has complied with the findings showing an alarming trend to not approve temporary drainage solutions.

## **YEILD – First Nations Site tours**

YEILD has been out and about raising awareness and shining a light on cultural awareness. Great to see good attendance at both the Birrarung Marr / MCG walk and You Yangs Regional Park.

## Training and Education

The 12D training course co-designed by ALDE for ALDE members is now live. The generosity of 12D in allowing access to software for 12mths to complete the training is acknowledge and provides a great opportunity for our younger engineers starting their journey in the land development sector.

We have resigned our MOU with IPEWA that provides a discount for ALDE members when signing up the public Works foundation program [PUBLIC WORKS FOUNDATIONS](#)

Reminder that the MRWA also have both fundamentals and DAS training ongoing.

For us all as within the land development sector, our focus is typically on solving today's problems, however we also need to keep an eye on the horizon and anticipate the future needs and challenges. I urge all ALDE members to ask the question: what kind of Victoria do we want? All Victorians (yes, including you) have an opportunity to contribute to the discussion in shaping the future of Victoria. Individually, our opinion may seem insignificant – collectively our actions and voice can make a difference. <https://engage.vic.gov.au/shape-our-victoria>

## Melbourne Water

ALDE has achieved a major breakthrough with the Urban Planning and Design Strategic Collaboration Group (UPDSCG) – the result of 9 months of communication with MWC

The Group has voted in favour of the establishment of 4 working to bring the objectives to fruition. The groups are:

- Land use and Planning
- Technical
- Process and Timeframes
- Planning for a Climate Resilient City
- 

We have also been successful in effecting a change to the terms of reference for the UPDSCG. It is intended that the group be able to make formal recommendation to Melbourne Water for consideration. To put a recommendation up requires a vote from members. Previously, for a vote to be successful required consenses from the group (ie 100% agreement).

This proved difficult on our first vote, so ALDE proposed a change to lower the bar. The group agreed on a 2/3 majority support for a recommendation to go to Melbourne Water. A much more workable solution and one which we feel puts the group in a position where real change could result from the effort being put in.

MWC is about to release an online platform - "Design and Construction Hub" DCH. ALDE has been involved over the past month with user testing. While it may not be perfect, we think it is acceptable, but seek further feedback from our members when it goes live.

ALDE and MWC hosted a webinar on the 20 June to launch the DCH and walk through the process.



**Anthony Grodzki**

Association President

## MEMBER FORUM

The Member Forum held June 5 was a super informative evening, with speakers:-

Glenn Gambetta from Bronze member **Plasgain**, who presented on their range of products, but focusing on their unique light pole "Plaspole" which looks like a traditional light pole but achieves its strength from recycled plastic, not thick steel wall sections. The external skin, manufactured in Australia, is made from a thin aluminum skin.

Adrian Snowden from Gold Member **Plan B Services**, who presented on preparing for all electric estates, current approaches, implications and key takeaways, and also provided an update on earthing assessments.

Cameron Lowe from Bronze member **12D**, and Kim Dihn from Marshal Melbourne provided an update on the progress of the jointly developed Self paced Online Training (SPOT) course tailored to Land Development subdivision in Victoria. Hosted by the Civil and Surveying Institute and aimed at new designers, the training standardizes knowledge and the training process. Active since April, this training is available to ALDE members (at a reduced rate) and also to non-members.

Adam Heaton, Chair of ALDE's YEiLD sub committee provided updates on YEiLD and their recent First Nations Cultural tours. (see report in this issue).

The next Member Forum is scheduled for July 10 and carries the theme of complimentary sub consultants (ie Geo/Flora/fauna) and Local Government/Council/VicRoads etc). If you would like to present at this or any of our other forums, please speak to Karen at the ALDE office.

## YEiLD EVENT

### Cultural Tour – You Yangs

The cultural experience onsite tour on May 23 organised by YEiLD in conjunction with the Geelong ALDE Chapter at the You Yangs was an informative session conducted by the Wadawurrng Traditional Owners to help engineers in the Geelong Region gain a better understanding of the cultural significance of this area and what is meant by connection to country.

The tour guide shared numerous stories in relation to the cultural significance of the Greater Geelong region and discussed the role land development and the engineering industry has to play in approaching these sensitive areas with a collaborative mindset with the traditional owners. This served as a great reminder of the importance of working to preserve areas and elements of cultural

significance within our industry and was also a great event for the YEiLD profile and outreach, working towards the goal of expanding into more regional areas.



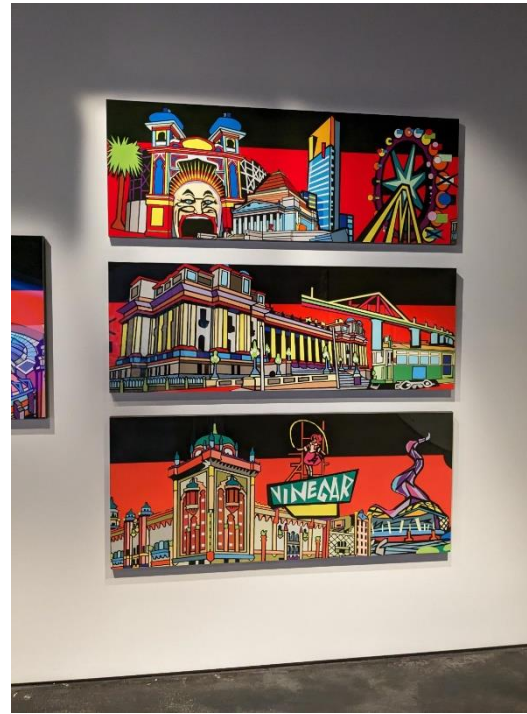
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## Cultural Tour - The Scar Tree Walk

The Scar Tree Walk run by the Koorie Heritage Trust was a highly informative session that delved into Indigenous culture. The first half comprised of the presenter briefly discussing the local aboriginal history and a demonstration of cultural artifacts such as hunting tools (spears, boomerangs, shields), a didgeridoo, possum fur etc.

We then proceeded to do a walk with several points of interests starting from Fed Square to Birrarung Marr which ended at the titular Scar Tree adjacent to the MCG. It was fascinating to listen to the cultural significance of this area we take for granted and following from the tour, I believe the YEiLD participants have a much greater appreciation of it now.





## EVENTS

### Stormwater Victoria/ALDE Industry Event - 18 July

#### “Are Drainage Schemes Still Relevant?”

Stormwater Victoria and ALDE are teaming up to bring our members an evening of productive discussion on how we can work together to improve Drainage Schemes including the planning and delivery of integrated water management. The session is intended to be interactive, whereby you, our valued members will share experiences and test ideas around existing implementation frameworks (such as DSS's, PSP's and DCP's), their current effectiveness and potential future role in supporting the delivery of IWM outcomes.

Featuring a panel of industry experts in engineering, planning, law and economics, we will discuss the most pressing challenges of implementing IWM strategies in the modern development context. We will collectively brainstorm how we can work

together to influence and improve existing regulatory processes and better support the delivery of Victoria's Housing Statement: The Decade Ahead 2024-2034.

Being held at The Wine House, 133 Queensbridge Street, Southbank, on Thursday, 18 July 2024. Check your email inbox for your Members Only invitation which was sent out via email on Thursday 13 June. Numbers are limited to 100 (firm).

[Register Now](#)

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## UDIA Industry Briefing | Melbourne Water Update

Advocacy Win! [UDIA Victoria](#), together with the [\(ALDE\) Association of Land Development Engineers](#) have been working closely with [Melbourne Water](#) to advocate for reforms that will help deliver housing more quickly. The proposed reforms are a significant step forward, and a result of advocacy in action.

Michael Ballock, Mission Lead of Urban Planning and the Housing Statement at Melbourne Water unveiled their roadmap at the Industry Briefing in partnership with [Beveridge Williams](#) to provide an in-depth look at the reforms underway at Melbourne Water.

Access to Michael Ballock's presentation is downloadable via the button below.

[View Presentation](#)



## Speakers



Michael Ballock  
Melbourne Water | Mission  
Lead, Urban Planning and  
Housing Statement



Sean Pinan  
Catalyst Development  
Services | Director



Anthony Grodzki  
Association of Land  
Development Engineers  
(ALDE) | President



Liz Ronson  
Resi Ventures | General  
Manager - Developments



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## ALDE / Winslow Golf Day

Monday May 6 2024 saw the 15th ALDE/Winslow Golf Day played at Royal Melbourne Golf Course, sponsored for the 15th year by the wonderful folks at

Winslow. Days like this don't happen without the support from our amazing sponsors:-

Winslow, Precinct Land, SJE & Prime Equity, R&S Grating, BPD, Aust Gas Networks and Survey Management Systems.

ALDE will be forming a new sub committee to handle the golf day arrangements for 2025. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact Karen.

## CONFERENCE UPDATE



Just incase you've been living under a rock for the last 9 months, a reminder that the ALDE Conference is being held August 19-21 at the Mantra Lorne.

This is the best opportunity to hear from industry leaders on issues that matter to engineers. It is also a great way to gain loads of CPD hours for your Professional Engineer registration requirements.

This event is filling fast, please don't delay in securing your seat.

[Register for the Conference Today](#)

If you are looking for a sponsorship opportunity, the main Conference Dinner remains available! Please download the 2024 Prospectus below.

[Download Prospectus](#)

## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION SUB-COMMITTEE

### Melbourne Polytechnics

ALDE had the opportunity to attend Melbourne Polytechnic's Industry Engagement Event for Engineering/Construction April 30 as industry guests. The event featured speakers who were industry professionals and alumni sharing insights about their career journeys. It was a pleasure to speak to the students for the event.



### RMIT Industry Day

Thanks to RMIT Civil Engineering Student Association, ALDE had the opportunity to meet young civil engineers during the RMIT Industry day. In conjunction with some of our member organisations we highlighted the land development industry and ALDE's contribution to encourage the next generation of civil engineers.



### Queers in Property

ALDE's Diversity and Inclusion subcommittee had the privilege to attend this session with other Property and Industry members. Panel discussion and networking revolved around creating workplaces that are safe and inclusive for all members of our community. Thank you to Queers in Property and Core Projects for the opportunity which was very informative.



## TRAINING & EDUCATION

## IPWEA Training

A reminder that we also have IPWEA training available – note the below dates and course titles:-

### CPD for engineers, technical officers, coordinators and supervisors!

IPWEA	IPWEA	IPWEA	IPWEA	IPWEA	IPWEA	IPWEA	IPWEA
Road Engineering Foundations	Asset Management Foundations	Stormwater Management Foundations	Project Management Foundations	Procurement and Contract Management Foundations	Traffic and Transport Foundations	Effective Engagement Foundations	Finance & HR Management Foundations
Begins: 17 Jul 24 Ends: 7 Aug 24	Begins: 15 Aug 24 Ends: 5 Sep 24	Begins: 16 Oct 24 Ends: 6 Nov 24	Begins: 13 Nov 24 Ends: 4 Dec 24	Begins: Mar 25 (TBC) Ends: TBC	Begins: May 25 (TBC) Ends: TBC	Begins: Jun 25 (TBC) Ends: TBC	Begins: TBC Ends: TBC

**All courses meet the CPD requirements for registration renewal under Victoria's PER Act.**

Note that these courses are run by IPWEA, to find out more information on any of the training courses, their content and registration to attend, please click on the link below.

[View and Book Courses](#)

## SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE

### Tragic Death Serves as Safety Reminder

Earlier this month, members would have heard in the news of a tragic drowning death of a toddler in a dam at Lara. The dam was in a property adjacent to an active land development site, and whilst there was no link between site and dam or toddler's death, this is a reminder to us all to be mindful about risks to children and the public that may exist, or we may be creating, on our sites.

We have identified and categorised general risks that may be present on a land development site, as follows.

## **Pre-construction phase**

When visiting a site, members should identify existing hazards, and assess the risk that they pose relative to their proximity of residential properties, both existing and under construction. Potential hazards may include:-

- Dams
- Watercourses
- Steep embankments
- Pits with broken covers or large entry points
- Hazardous buildings and/or toxic materials

We recommend our members inform the client of any hazards identified on their site, and recommend appropriate actions.

## **Construction phase**

Many of the risks associated with the construction phase can be mitigated through securing the site with appropriate fencing. However, some vigilance is still necessary, including:-

- Regularly monitoring perimeter fencing to ensure it is intact
- Where possible, locate entry gates away from homes and residential construction activity
- If entry gates are located close to residential properties, ensure there is adequate surveillance of the gates, and try to provide sufficient buffer between the gate and potential hazards.

## **Post-Construction**



Risks to the public may still exist post-construction. Generally, these are in the form of temporary assets, or assets that require further works by others (typically landscape) before they can be considered safe.

- Temporary assets may have been constructed that do not have the same protection measures as an ultimate asset; e.g. temporary basins with steeper batters, or temporary drainage inlets/outlets without barriers or grilles. Ideally these would have been addressed during the design process; if not, they may require fencing until the hazard is removed (i.e. in a future stage).
- Most wetlands and waterways are reliant on vegetated edges, or in some cases, impenetrable planting, for safety. Until this vegetation is sufficiently established, the asset is a risk, and a temporary barrier or fencing should be considered.
- Concrete sedimentation basin access ramps provide a particular risk for children on bikes; if the ultimate barrier is not in place at Practical Completion, we recommend placing a temporary barrier until the ultimate is constructed.

## Conclusion

Safety is everyone's responsibility, and if the recent tragedy was to repeat itself on a land development site, it would have a significant impact on our industry.

By following some of the simple measures outlined above, members can rest assured that they have done all they can to prevent such a tragedy from occurring on one of their projects.





## Foundations for Safety Victoria Update

ALDE are members of Worksafe's Foundations for Safety Victoria Committee, and Safety and Environment subcommittee member Shankar Tisseverasinghe attend the recent quarterly meeting.

While much of the discussion was heavy focused on residential home construction, some points of discussion were relevant to the land development industry.

### Falls from heights

A recent spike in falls from heights on domestic building sites has renewed focus on the use of ladders.

- There has been 12 serious falls since the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2024 including one fatality
- This is a significant spike in incidents with majority of them involving improper use of a ladder.
- Large construction sites (commercial builders, infrastructure including civil land development) did not record a fall from heights incident in the same time period

While the risks associated with falls from heights on land development sites is very different to that of a domestic building site, there are some key basic takeaways that are worth being cognisant of when auditing civil construction sites:

- Always maintain 3 points of contact when using a ladder
- Ladders should always be secured in place when being used

If these two control measures were implemented, the majority of incidents would have been prevented.

## Dogging & Rigging

NSW government has released a comprehensive guide to dogging and rigging:

- This is a useful resource for any sites conducting lifting activities
- It is not a substitute for proper training and tickets but can help engineers understand the complexities with lifting operations, the risks involved and how they are mitigated.
- <https://www.doggingandrigging.nsw.gov.au/dogging-and-rigging-guide>

## Silica Dust – is it an issue on our sites?

Engineered Stone has been banned in Victoria from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2024, and works on legacy silica products will be now considered high risk work. The definition of an engineered stone is a manmade product composed of 1% or more of crystalline silica.

By this definition, it does not include concrete, pavers, crushed rock, plaster or ceramics. Exposure to rock crushing and breaking dust is not considered high risk as it is not a man-made product and is generally conducted in open air environments not enclosed spaces.

Controls such as wearing a mask and wetting the rock is not mandated by WorkSafe, but may be considered on a case by case basis if dust from rock crushing activities is excessive or presents a broader environmental risk of air pollution.

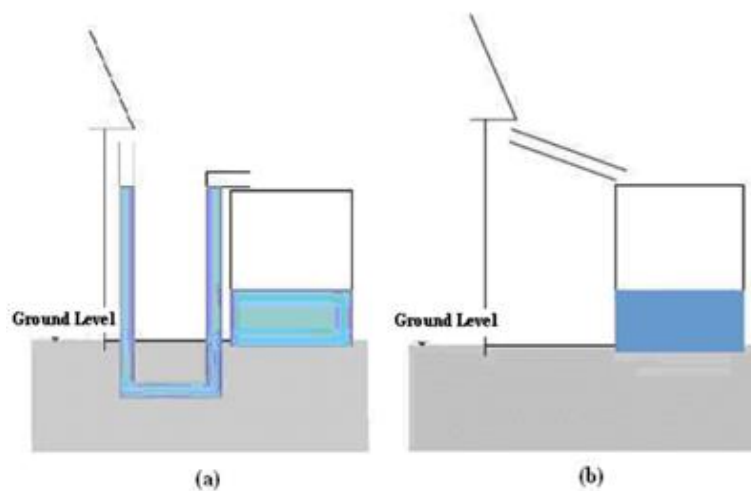
# MAIN DRAINAGE SUB-COMMITTEE

## Charged Drainage Systems

It was brought to ALDE's attention by a member company that charged water tank connections have been removed from AS3500.

The impact of this change is that charged systems require a performance solution as there is no deemed to comply method.

Jamie Tainton (ALDE Exec) has been able to find a contact within DEECA and this is now being reviewed. It has also been raised by Master Plumbers.



## ELECTRICAL & GAS SUB-COMMITTEE

ALDE electrical & gas sub-committee are pleased to share the results of the recent AusNet's insightful 'Greenfield Developer Survey'.

This survey delves into expected trends in the electricity and gas mix within new residential developments and homes, providing valuable insights for industry professionals and stakeholders.

[Developer Industry Survey Results](#)

## ALDE GIPPSLAND SUB-COMMITTEE

We are pleased to introduce the ALDE Gippsland sub-committee as our representatives of the land development industry in the Gippsland Region. This sub-committee has had contributors from Beveridge Williams, KLM Spatial, Miles Civil Design, Millar Merrigan, Spiire, and Taylor Miller.

In consideration of the success of other regional ALDE groups, this sub-committee is seeking to provide greater collaboration, advocacy, and profile to our profession across Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley which incorporates key municipalities of Baw Baw, Latrobe, Wellington and South Gippsland, as well as Gippsland Water, South Gippsland Water, DTP and West Gippsland CMA as key stakeholders.

The Warragul/Drouin area is one of the fastest growing regional centres in Victoria and has some unique challenges relating to its undulating topography and ecology. There are other challenges relating to the transition of these communities from traditionally regional/agricultural areas to centres which will facilitate urban growth over the coming years. These topics are front of mind for developers, consultants and authorities, and much of this group's focus will be around building strong understanding and relationships with the stakeholders to help this happen effectively.

Some of our target initiatives include:

- Build the profile of ALDE amongst local authorities as a useful sounding board to consult on land development engineering matters.
- Review of updates to Water Authority procedures and standards to provide feedback from the consulting industry on matters that affect the land development process.
- Collaboration with Baw Baw Shire to provide input on critical land development topics and streamline the permit/approval process for consistency and efficiency.
- Organisation of an industry forum to share knowledge and discuss issues which are specific to the Gippsland Region.
- 

The Gippsland sub-committee has slowly gathered momentum over the last 12-18 months and would be receptive to thoughts and ideas from the broader ALDE group on how to make our efforts count in the Gippsland region. Certainly, we are open to more contributors from the Land Development community. Please feel free to reach out to any of us to discuss ALDE matters.

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