

## **Shaping Water Sensitive Cities – Journey of a River Manager**

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### **Abstract**

Rivers have always been integral to the development and functioning of cities and evolve in a complex relationship with their inhabitants. In the water sensitive city, rivers are recognised as essential to the provision of water system services that sustain liveability, biodiversity, resilience and productivity. Many cities in Australia and the world aspire to being a water sensitive city although no city can yet claim to have truly reached that goal.

Chris Chesterfield has personal experience of the changing landscape of policy and practice, community perceptions and attitudes, institutional and regulatory arrangements, scientific understanding and professional capacity in 30 years of being involved in river management. In his keynote presentation Chris will draw on these experiences to explore the changing relationship between a city and its waterways as it develops and transitions towards a water sensitive city and what role river managers can play in the transition. He will use the Yarra River as a case study and recent experience from Chairing a Ministerial Advisory Committee making recommendations to the Vic Government on governance and other reforms to improve the management of the River.