



Future of Water

→ Introducing Strategic Water Planning

Universal pressures

The impact of existing and emerging environmental, socio-economic, and geopolitical forces on water will be realised in different ways in different parts of the world over the coming decades. Increasingly frequent and extreme weather events, rising sea levels, ageing infrastructure, population growth and demographic shifts are just some of the universal pressures causing uncertainty.

Across all geographies and aspects of the water cycle, our clients have told us that the complex, rapid change resulting from these dynamic, global forces is making the challenge of long-term planning even more acute. As a result, traditional planning approaches are quickly becoming outdated and new, more agile thinking is required.



A future-focused approach

In response to these client challenges, we are exploring flexible planning solutions that are applicable over 10, 30 and 50+ year horizons to help guide the delivery of long-term objectives while being adaptive to change. We call this future-focussed approach 'Strategic Water Planning'.

Through Strategic Water Planning, we work hand-in-hand with our clients to help them establish a strategic framework that considers the 'big picture' and takes an integrated look at multiple factors of relevance to their local context. By understanding their challenges in a more comprehensive way, we work with them to identify multiple pathways available to achieve their desired outcomes. This broader perspective not only presents potential engineering solutions, but also complementary approaches (such as behaviour change or policy change) that our clients can consider, to achieve the same end goal over time.

Strategic Water Planning is a holistic approach that enables our clients to account for, and adjust to, different scenarios along their water journey, while maintaining a clear line-of-sight to their overarching strategic goals and preferred 'destination'. It's about bringing diverse perspectives and longer-term thinking together to deliver our clients increased optionality and multiple benefits.

Work in progress

Under the banner of Strategic Water Planning (SWP), we are in the process of synthesizing the many planning tools and methodologies currently available to our clients and condensing these inputs into digestible, value-adding framework and guidance packages — or 'SWP modules' — to build a deep knowledge bank of best practice approaches. These inter-connected modules will be available to our clients, in combination with our technical guidance and subject matter expertise, enabling our clients to adopt and apply the right strategic planning approach for them. Drawing on emerging trends, new technologies and ideas from multiple disciplines, our Strategic Water Planning modules will help clients explore a range of interrelated considerations during the planning process — including factors such as ecological outcomes, nature-based solutions, community expectations, cultural identity, and indigenous perspectives — to give them a broader baseline from which to better assess and evaluate their options and make more informed decisions.

By considering the many ways our lives intersect with and rely on the water cycle, we can account for the environmental, cultural and socio-economic forces that will shape our response now and in the future.”

– Justine Bennett, Strategic Water Planning
Technical Leader

Partnering on new solutions

Our commitment to help shape the Future of Water through Strategic Water Planning is only one part of the solution; our clients' knowledge, insights and experience is integral to realising its full potential. We will combine our technical strengths with our clients' intimate understanding of their business, stakeholders, customers, and communities — knowing that our solutions need to be tailored to our clients' unique needs.

Partnership is at the heart of our new Strategic Water Planning approach; by establishing collaborative relationships built on trust and being open to testing, challenging, and exploring new ideas in tandem with our clients, we hope to spark deeper, more meaningful conversations that ultimately, lead to better outcomes.

**Find out more:
ghd.com/FutureofWater**

Our philosophy

It's time to move away from treating water as a commodity to be controlled to instead, recognising its intrinsic value as a natural, balanced cycle. To shift to integrated, system-wide solutions, embracing a broader understanding of water's whole, circular picture. To combine engineering and artistry — inventive approaches, original ideas — to deliver truly elegant outcomes.

That's where GHD comes in; where we can make a meaningful difference, together with our clients. And that's where the Future of Water lies; a future that's ours for the taking.

→ The Power of Commitment