



Standardisation across the Urban Water Authorities (UWA) in Victoria



Consistency in safety training, procedures and practices

Background



- In late 2017, Safety managers at SEW, MW, YVW & CWW started discussing on similar challenges in safety and how to collaboratively address them
- In 2018, SEW established the Urban Water Authorities Forum, to discuss the findings of a Confined Space Entry (CSE) review by SEW and gain support for developing a standardised approach

Partnering



- We recognised that:
 - We can tackle issues better in a joint manner
 - We share many of the same contractors and training providers
 - Can effectively manage high risk activities and common challenges
 - Standardisation will be beneficial for us all by having the same (or similar) processes and expectations
- Paving the way for collaboration in other areas of safety and wellbeing.

Consultation



- **UWA consultation groups:**
 - **UWA General**, participated by management representatives to approve the strategic initiatives, work carried out by Focus groups and setting direction for other matters
 - **UWA CSE Focus Group** – targeting on operational processes with particular focus on harmonisation across the four water authorities

Confined Space Entry



- CSE was identified as the highest risk within the water sector and was selected as the first activity on which to collaborate
- CSE related procedures could be **streamlined** to better meet current legislation and industry best practice
- The clarity and **ease of use** of our CSE related procedures may be improved
- We needed a **standardised approach** on CSE training, resources and equipment use
- We wanted to **raise the profile** of CSE across the water industry in general

UWA Agreements



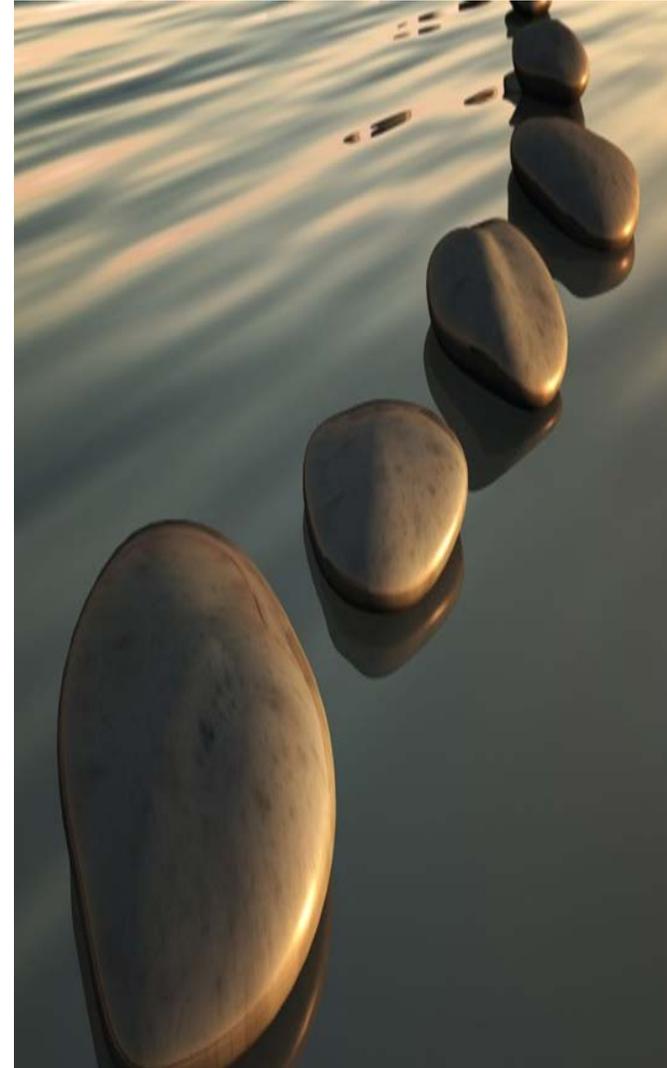
- CSE agreed minimum principles:
 - Where there is **one person** in the confined space there shall be no less than **two persons who are part of the work party, outside the space**
 - Where there is **more than one person** in the confined space, the specific **emergency procedures (rescue plan) shall determine the number of persons** required outside the space
 - Clarified the **roles and responsibilities**, such as a person must be responsible for initiating the emergency procedures
 - The **CSE Permit and Rescue Plans** of individual organisations are provided as an allowable option for use by employees and contractors
 - **CSE permits** shall be retained for a **minimum of 30 days** after the work is completed
 - **Equipment** (including PPE) shall be compliant with **Australian Standards**

Next Steps



- The UWA collaboration of the CSE process set an industry precedent
- The journey does not end here – UWA have agreed to collaborate on other themes:
 - Trenching and shoring
 - Prevention of falls
 - High Voltage/ Electrical Safety/ Energy Isolation
 - Organisational culture and values
 - Wellbeing, including mental health
 - Sharing of information via contractor safety forums

Sharing the learnings



- **Expanding the horizon:**
 - Vic Water and WSAA joined the forum as guests and are now permanent attendees, willing to be part of the collaborative process and be able to share the learnings with a wider audience
 - The success and expansion of the UWA forum has opened the potential for the water industry to influence industry standards and relevant legislation

Q & A