

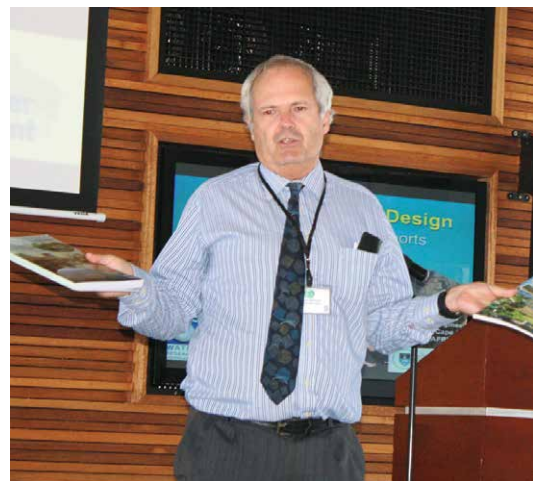
New guidelines launched towards water-friendlier cities

In February more than a 100 delegates gathered in the heart of Sandton to share in the launch of two Water Research Commission (WRC) guidelines aimed at water sensitive urban design. Water sensitive urban design is defined as an approach towards urban planning and design that integrates land and water planning and management into urban design. This approach involves various disciplines of engineering, social, economic and environmental sciences, while recognising water as a scarce, finite and vulnerable resource. Special international keynote speaker, Prof Ana Deletic, of the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities at Monash University, in Australia, explained some of the benefits of this approach, while Prof Neil Armitage, head of the Urban Water Management Department at the University of Cape Town officially launched the WRC reports. There was also a panel discussion with various speakers debating the benefits and challenges of implementing water-sensitive urban design in South Africa.

(All photographs by Lani van Vuuren)



Speakers at the event were Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata (WRC), Dhesigen Naidoo (WRC), Dr Valerie Naidoo (WRC), Prof Ana Deletic (Monash University), Prof Neil Armitage (University of Cape Town), Jane Eagle (Johannesburg Metro), Mercedes Mathebula (City of Tshwane), Sithole Mbanga (South Africa Cities Network), John Dini (South African National Biodiversity Institute).



Prof Neil Armitage of the University of Cape Town with the two WRC guidelines on water sensitive design.



More than a 100 delegates from various disciplines and institutions attended the event.



Prof Ana Deletic of Monash University in Australia was the keynote speaker at the event.