



## Meaning and design of nature for the urban built environment

24 – 26 August, 2005

*Lincoln University*

### **Facilitating nature's role in urban design: integrating the built and natural environments**

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This paper outlines our approach to advancing sustainable building (SB) approaches and low impact urban design and development (LIUDD) to facilitate nature's role in urban development. Conventional development practices lead to adverse effects from stormwater runoff in urban areas and contribute to escalating costs of infrastructure. SB and LIUDD comprise design and development practices that utilise natural systems and new low impact technologies to avoid, minimise and mitigate environmental damage, reduce energy requirements and waste. However, there are major constraints and research is required to overcome obstacles to broadscale uptake. With this in mind we are advancing research that provides information on i) the performance at the building, development site and catchment scale, ii) the economics of conventional versus alternative development, and iii) the potential for integration amongst different types of instruments (district plans and codes of practice) that will be a pre-requisite for the development of a rational set of incentives. To facilitate implementation of SB and LIUDD we aim to demonstrate, technical and ecological benefits of these approaches in the built environment.