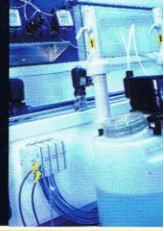


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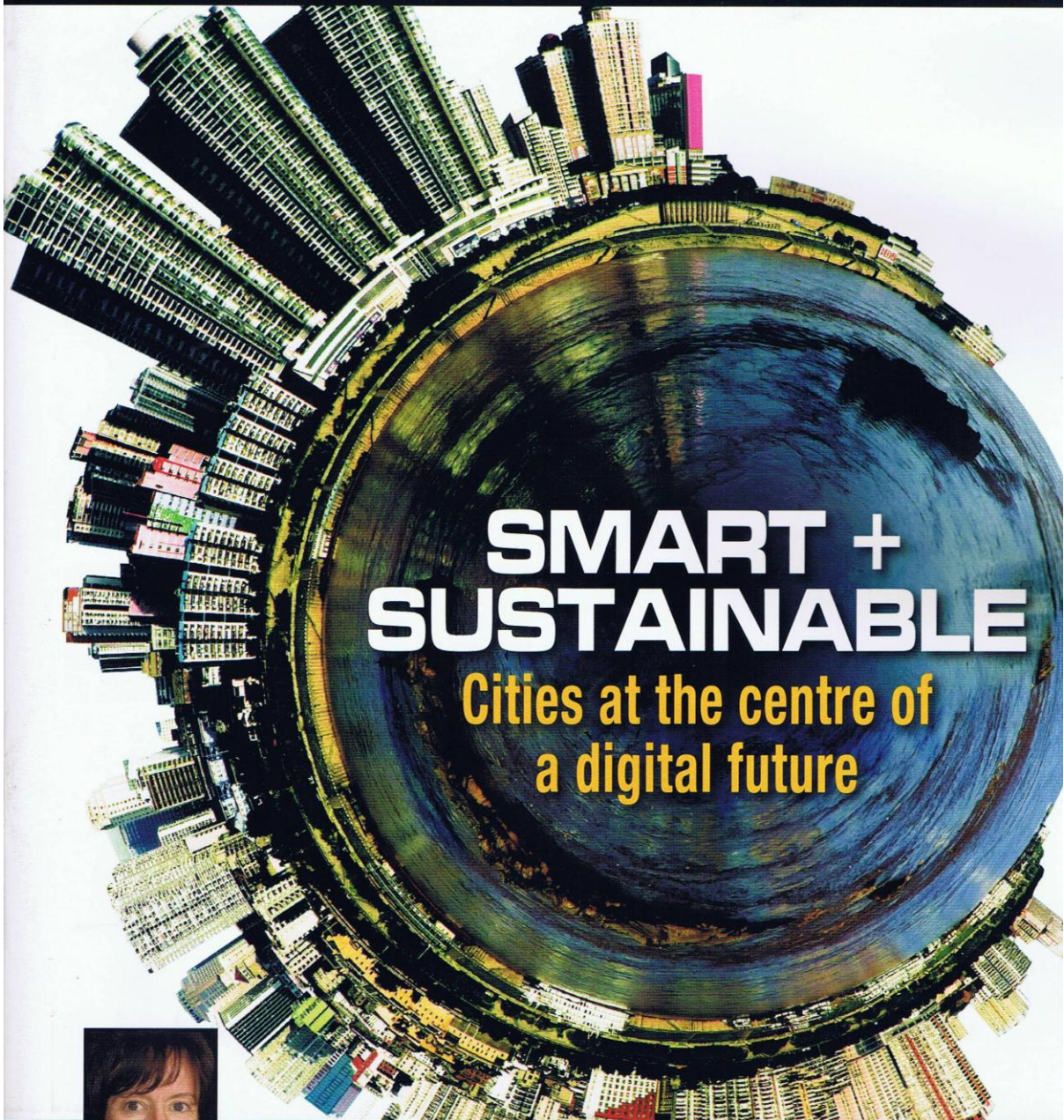
Sustainability model:
inside the journey of
Kogarah Council



Decentralised energy:
new roadmap leads
to low carbon



Responsible retail:
recycling scheme
for flexible plastics



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In Perspective: PVC's strategic success story

TREATING WATER RIGHT ON-SITE

The Australian head of greywater treatment specialist Nubian Water Systems sees a great opportunity to leverage the increasing media attention on water to drive the agenda for sustainability and 'green' solutions at a commercial level.

Barry Porter spoke with WME about innovation in water sustainability and the growing interest in the kinds of services offered by Nubian in helping businesses to close the loop in processes where water is needed.

"Whether we're talking about residential, office buildings or industrial applications, there's a few things coming together... Fundamentally there are two underlying issues: increasing demands on potable water or drinking water, and there's an over-demand in the amount of water going to the sewer," he said.

Nubian's solutions are primarily decentralised water treatment systems designed to reduce the cost of operational licensing; reduce water bills and environmental impact; and create a local solution that can save time.

It may account for the fact that Nubian's name has popped up more frequently in the last year than ever before, through participation at industry events and putting information into the market that the company has moved strongly into a commercialisation phase with its novel technology.

It has just launched a vehicle wash solution, one of the first commercial applications of its greywater treatment system that recycles more than 80 per cent of water used. It's a flexible, self-contained system that can be installed on-site and removes the need for continuous water resource and related water permits, which can be expensive for business.

"What I would say about the decentralised water treatment industry [is] if you look at most of the companies selling technology on a non-municipal level.... most of the companies you wouldn't have seen prior to 2002," said Porter.

He sees Nubian's role as one of industry advocacy rather than self-promotion, believing its products are strong enough to win their "fair share" of business.

"The idea of not moving everything to some kind of centralised treatment facility, whether you move it in a pipe or truck... is still a relatively novel concept. I don't think most companies even know it's possible," said Porter.

Water solutions

The core of Nubian's water treatment technology is Australian and patented in a number of countries. The system takes in wastewater under gravity and runs it through a biofilter containing several different kinds of media.

Realising the opportunities for on-site water treatment that can reduce water usage and wastewater discharge costs requires some good old Aussie ingenuity says a solutions provider. Paula Wallace reports.



Nubian's vehicle wash solution recycles more than 80% of water used.

"By the time it's been through that biofilter we've stripped out pretty much all the organic content. And the system is pretty quick, it uses very little energy," explained Porter.

"We need some energy to pump it into the top of the system and drive some disinfection post the process, but the remainder of the system runs under gravity."

The technology can be used on sites generating anywhere from two to 100,000 litres of wastewater per day.

Nubian installed its wash solution system for vehicle hire firm Hertz in Albury, NSW and saved the company \$25,000 by assisting the company in avoiding the license cost to connect to the local sewerage system which would have been in the order of \$33,000.

"Traditional hose methods can use up to 180 litres per car wash so it is vital vehicle firms look at alternative eco-friendly methods," said Porter.

"Hertz has created a closed loop system so it hasn't used any council water for two years... This is a great example of someone coming up with a localised solution, a classic bit of Australian ingenuity."

Nubian has also turned up considerable demand in South Australia, where price increases for water and wastewater will kick in from July and a tightening up of the criteria for dissolved solids in wastewater has the potential to affect a wide range of businesses.

"Depending on the nature of the water and how economic it is to treat, whether it's air conditioning condensate or a byproduct of the manufacturing process, I'd encourage companies to really look at how much water is going to the sewer or being carted away," said Porter.

WME



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– Barry Porter,
Nubian Water
Systems