

## At the edge of the cliff: planning for Australia's ageing infrastructure

With so much of Australia's water and sewerage infrastructure built before the 1970s, many water, wastewater and stormwater assets are reaching the end of their expected 50-year lifecycle—a phenomenon known as the 'infrastructure cliff'.

Earlier this year, Infrastructure Australia released its Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019—a comprehensive analysis of Australia's infrastructure. The report identified that addressing Australia's ageing infrastructure is fast becoming an urgent issue. Pressures such as our growing population and a rise in the number of single-person occupied homes are expected to increase by more than 60 per cent by 2036.

However, despite these trends, Australia ranks below average for infrastructure investment among other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

### Investing in the future

According to John Adamo, Far North Queensland operations and business development manager for Interflow, Australasia's leading solution provider for water infrastructure works, investing in water asset renewal is more important than ever.

"Assets across Australia are fast approaching the 'infrastructure cliff'—the end of their 50-year life expectancy," Mr Adamo said.

"However, many councils don't have the funds to jump on repairing things; they need to program the work when the funds are available. But a lot of councils are struggling to establish a program of works that will ensure they rehabilitate the correct sewers, before their sewers actually collapse or stop working."

Mr Adamo said the best way for asset owners to better understand the structural condition and serviceability of its sewer pipes was to carry out an assessment.



"Interflow works with its clients to carry out a condition assessment, which is a program to clean and conduct CCTV inspections, of the sewer lines using remotely operated cameras," Mr Adamo said.

"This will give asset owners the information they need to address issues before they become significant faults, while receiving maximum value from existing infrastructure, and delivering reliable services to their customers into the future."

Contact Interflow for more information. ●



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