



POLICY REGISTER

POLICY TITLE: **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

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POLICY OWNER / DIVISION: Infrastructure and Major Projects

POLICY OWNER / BRANCH: Asset Operations and Maintenance

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RELATED POLICIES:

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INTRODUCTION

The Stormwater Management Policy has been compiled to provide protection from flooding and a sustainable urban environment using innovative and affordable stormwater management systems.

STRATEGY

To achieve Council's aim the Stormwater Management Policy provides strategies to:

- alleviate drainage and flooding problems in existing development areas
- assist in the planning and development of new urban release areas
- assist in the redevelopment of existing urban areas
- protect and improve the natural environment by sensible management of the water cycle
- ensure drainage system design and management encompasses total catchment management principles

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

This Stormwater Management Policy encompasses the following:

- Goals - Overarching Strategy Outcomes
- Objectives - Specific end results desired as the strategy is implemented
- Principles - Conceptual framework which governs overall effort
- Requirements - Actions needed to implement policy

Goals

1. To manage stormwater as an integral part of the comprehensive urban planning and development process.
2. To implement a unified conceptual program for the management of urban stormwater.
3. To systematically reduce existing flood risk.
4. To prevent damage and improve the safety of proposed developments.
5. To maintain and enhance the quality of the natural waterways and adjoining bushland.

Objectives

1. To retain major creeks, streams and watercourses in a condition that minimises interference to stormwater flows, especially those from major storms.
2. To minimise the exposure of people and property to stormwater inundation.
3. To systematically reduce the extent of stormwater damage.
4. To minimise erosion and sedimentation problems.
5. To protect and enhance the environmental quality and social well-being of residents.
6. To ensure that supportive, preventative and remedial measures are consistent with the overall principles, goals and objectives.
7. To implement education programs on the rights and responsibilities related to the management of watercourses and drainage systems.
8. To protect the natural environment against degradation from changes to stormwater runoff patterns and the transportation of pollutants.

Principles

1. The Drainage System is Part of a Larger Environmental System

Urbanisation has the potential to increase both the volume and rate of stormwater runoff.

The influence of planned new developments and redevelopment within a catchment must be analysed and, where necessary, adjustments made to minimise drainage and stormwater inundation and degradation problems. Where practicable, drainage works must be integrated with other community demands on watercourses and associated lands.

2. Watercourses and Flow Paths are Natural Storage Areas

The primary natural function of each watercourse and its associated flow path is the collection, storage and transmission of stormwater runoff. This function should be maintained and allowed for when other uses within the flowpath are considered.

3. Stormwater Requires Space

If the time of concentration or natural storage is reduced by urban or other land use practices without appropriate compensatory measures, then additional space will be required by stormwater at some other location.

4. Reduce, Remove, Recycle

By reducing the amount and velocity of runoff the design goals will be easier to achieve. Preventing the entry of pollutants into the system is more efficient and effective than treatment after they enter the system. Stormwater should be considered as a resource and whenever possible recycled and reused.

Requirements

To implement this Policy the following actions are required:

1. Drainage Asset Register

Council should establish and maintain a register of all its drainage assets in accordance with Council's Asset Management Policy.

2. Stormwater Management

To effectively undertake Stormwater Management, the following plans and programs are elements to ensure the policy is effective:

2.1 Stormwater Management Plans and Flood Studies (SMPFS)

Council should prepare and maintain these plans and studies for each of its urban catchments. They need to cover the following areas:

- establish the current situation within the catchment
- establish strategies for improvements to Council's stormwater system
- nominate acceptable levels for sediment, nutrients litter and flood protection
- establish strategies to trap contaminants and store/reuse stormwater on site
- establish costs for the identified options and integrate these proposals within Council's full range of functions and resources
- establish a monitoring and evaluation process as part of this plan

2.2 Floodplain Risk Management Plan (FRMP)

This plan is to be prepared in accordance with the NSW Flood Prone Land Policy and as outlined in the Floodplain Development Manual (2005). The FRMP is intended to manage the flood risk within the Shire and should be complimentary to Section 2.1.

2.3 Stormwater Improvement Program

The recommendations from the SMPFS and FRMP are to be reviewed and used to prepare a program of works to address flooding risk, capacity and quality of the stormwater system.

2.4 Design for Stormwater

The design of all works included in Council's Stormwater Improvement Program shall comply with the current version of AR&R, Council's Stormwater Drainage Manual and Specification.

2.5 Easements and Other Drainage Systems

2.5.1 Easements that Benefit Council

Council will undertake routine maintenance to ensure a clear waterway is provided. Generally Council will not undertake improvements works unless an easement in favour of Council is present or will be agreed to by the property owner.

2.5.2 Inter-allotment Easements

These easements only benefit private property. The responsibility for the maintenance and management of these easements rests solely with the property owner.

2.5.3 Drainage Reserves

The responsibility for the maintenance and operation of these areas rests with Council.

2.5.4 Natural Watercourses

Council will remove obstructions to the free flow of water as part of routine maintenance. Generally, Council will not undertake improvement works in natural watercourses. Council is not responsible for changes to the alignment of natural watercourses. If improvement works are undertaken in natural watercourses Council will only proceed if an easement over the watercourse in favour of Council is agreed to by the property owner.

3. Development and Building Applications

In considering development and building applications, Council shall have regard to the likely effect of the development on the quality, volume and rate of stormwater runoff from the subject property and the capacity of the drainage system to cater for that additional runoff. In each case, Council will consider what conditions should be imposed to deal with the drainage matters.

4. Connection to Council's Drainage Assets

Connection of drainage outlets to Council's drainage assets may be permitted subject to completing the Application Form and payment of fee to Council's Planning Division.

5. Review of Policy

Investigations are constantly being undertaken by professional bodies to enable drainage systems to be more accurately modelled and best management practices to be improved upon.

It is intended that the requirements in this Policy be regularly reviewed to ensure that it reflects the state of the art principles. The maximum period between reviews should not exceed two years.

6. Associated Policies and Documents

The contents of this Policy apply to urban stormwater management. For maximum benefit stormwater systems cannot be considered in isolation but rather as one principal part of the urban environment. This is in keeping with the concept of total catchment management. Therefore, the contents of this Policy must not be considered as exclusive but rather as part of a suite of practices which together act to improve the quality of living within the Shire.

The following documents should also be read in conjunction with this Policy for more specific details:

- Sustainable Water Development Control Plan
- Sustainable Water Best Practice Guidelines
- Civil Works Specification – Design Series – Stormwater Drainage Design
- Specification for On-Site Stormwater Detention Systems for Drainage Works to be Carried Out in Developments and Subdivisions