

Stormwater Management Strategy

Frequently Asked Questions

Why has the Draft Stormwater Management Strategy been developed?

To provide a consistent and strategic direction for stormwater management, so that Council and the wider community can work together to deliver a safe, healthy and resilient Sunshine Coast.

Why do we need to act now?

This strategy seeks to provide long-term strategic direction to help shape the region and encourage immediate action to:

- limit damage to the natural environment
- respond to population growth in different and improved ways
- actively prepare for growth and meet the needs and expectations of current and future communities
- appropriately prioritise, allocate and manage resources
- protect current and future communities from stormwater flood hazards
- build resilience to climate change.

How will the Draft Stormwater Management Strategy be used?

Like the [Environment and Liveability Strategy](#), the Draft Stormwater Management Strategy will be used to:

- inform planning, including Planning Schemes reviews and amendments
- guide decision making
- drive implementation
- engage stakeholders.

An effective strategy will help ensure that the importance of stormwater management is properly understood and valued by Council and the wider community.

Why is the draft Stormwater Management Strategy relevant to me?

Everyone in our region has a role to play to help manage stormwater effectively. The Draft Stormwater Management Strategy will provide benefits to our environment, our economy and our lifestyle once appropriately implemented. We need the assistance and support of the wider community to be able to deliver the vision for stormwater management in the region.

What is overland flow?

Overland flow is concentrated runoff that flows across land before it enters our stormwater network via a watercourse or underground drainage system. Overland flow can also occur if a drainage system is blocked or has exceeded its capacity.

How large is Council's stormwater network?

Council's stormwater assets are extensive and continually growing. Council currently owns and manages over \$1.5 billion worth of stormwater assets. This includes approximately:

- 1500km of stormwater pipes and culverts
- 63,000 stormwater pits and end structures
- 1300 gross pollutant traps or litter baskets
- 1550 bio-retention treatment devices
- 150km of open drains.

What will be the impact of climate change be for stormwater management on the Sunshine Coast?

Climate change is likely to increase the intensity of short duration storm events, increase sea levels and temperatures and extend the duration of dry periods.

This will increase the magnitude, frequency and duration of local stormwater flooding, increase the extent of backwater flooding in low lying areas, and reduce the life of stormwater assets in coastal areas due to increased saltwater intrusion.

Increased temperatures and prolonged dry periods will mean stormwater needs to be better utilised as a resource in order to sustain greener neighbourhoods and reduce the urban heat island effect.

The Sunshine Coast is currently planning for a 20% increase in rainfall intensity and a 0.8m increase in sea level by 2100.

There will likely be a need to adjust Council policy responses as new climate change science and State and Federal policy becomes available.

Further detail of the required responses will be provided in Council's [Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy](#).

What is Council's vision for stormwater management?

The vision is that stormwater is managed for community wellbeing and resilience, facilitated by an integrated stormwater network that is effective, sustainable and contributes to waterway health.

What are the key objectives of the Draft Stormwater Management Strategy?

The three key objectives of the draft Strategy are:

1. **Resilient and smart.** Wellbeing and resilience are enhanced by increased stormwater awareness, clever planning and good design.
2. **Protected and healthy.** Stormwater management protects the natural

and built environment and supports healthy communities.

3. **Coordinated and well managed.** Stormwater assets are effective and responsive to a changing environment.

How will the Stormwater Management Strategy be implemented?

The implementation of this strategy will include, but will not be limited to, the following activities:

- prioritising projects and actions
- establishing a working group to assist with delivery of the strategy
- increasing community awareness.

Although the draft Strategy provides the strategic direction for stormwater management to 2041, new technologies and initiatives developed in the interim may be considered.

The detailed actions that will drive the implementation are provided in Part B of the draft Strategy, which will be regularly updated.

How can I contribute to effective stormwater management?

Your feedback on the Draft Stormwater Management Strategy would be greatly appreciated. Community input will help to inform the final strategy and the direction of stormwater management in the region.

Stormwater management is about protecting our waterways from pollutants and increased and concentrated flows, utilising rainwater and stormwater as a resource and managing stormwater flood risk for the wellbeing and resilience of our communities.

Effective stormwater management is everyone's responsibility. It is critical to being able to achieve our vision 'Australia's most sustainable region – Healthy. Smart. Creative.'

The community has an important role to play regarding effective stormwater management.

Examples of how the community can contribute include:

- correct disposal of litter, chemicals and animal waste
- washing vehicles on grassed areas or at designated car washes
- participating in local environmental groups and clean-up events
- picking up litter when safe to do so
- abiding by local laws
- avoiding stormwater hazards like driving through flooded roads.
- notifying Council of problems and potential hazards.

These are some ideas for how urban property owners or tenants can contribute to effective stormwater management:

- regularly cleaning gutters and drains
- ensuring leaf litter is not swept into stormwater drains
- suitable storage and disposal of fuels and chemicals
- limiting use of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides, particularly prior to rainfall
- installing gutter guards
- installing rainwater tanks
- installing downpipe diverters for passive irrigation of garden areas
- minimising exposed bare soil
- minimising impervious surfaces
- installing porous pavement or grading pavement to garden areas
- ensuring erosion and sediment control practices are implemented during construction or building works.

To provide your feedback visit
haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
before 5pm Friday 14 May 2021.

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