



Stormwater Management Service Charge

Frequently Asked Questions

What is stormwater management?

For the purpose of the Stormwater Management Service Charge, stormwater management is defined as the management of the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff that flows off land. It also includes activities associated with the re-use of stormwater runoff.

Who is responsible for stormwater?

Property owners are responsible for the collection and disposal of stormwater runoff that falls on their property or naturally runs across it. Once this runoff is discharged from private property, it generally becomes the responsibility of Council or other authorities who manage the public stormwater drainage system. These public systems include:

- roadside kerb and gutter and drainage pits;
- Council owned easements;
- piped drainage systems;
- detention systems;
- floodways and trunk drainage land;
- creeks and rivers; and
- gross pollutant traps, wetlands and other devices to improve water quality.

What is the Stormwater Management Service Charge?

The Stormwater Management Service Charge is the outcome of legislation approved by the NSW State Government that provides a mechanism by which Council can raise funds for the capital and recurrent costs associated with the introduction of additional stormwater management activities. It is expected that the charge will generate an additional \$1,000,000 for Council for such activities annually.

What properties are eligible to be charged for stormwater management services?

The only properties that are eligible to be charged for stormwater management services are those within the urban areas of the Shire and classified as either residential or business categories for rating purposes.

Vacant properties are exempt from the charge unless they are covered by large slabs of concrete or similar materials that prevent rainfall from being absorbed into the ground.

If you have a vacant property and receive the charge, you should contact Council's Customer Service Team on (02) 9843 0555.

How much is the Stormwater Management Service Charge?

The Stormwater Management Service Charge has been determined on the following basis:

- \$25 per annum for single residential dwellings;
- \$12.50 per annum per residential strata dwelling; and
- \$25 per 350 square metres (or part thereof) per annum for business rated properties.

The charge is capped by State Government legislation.

How often will I have to pay the Stormwater Management Service Charge?

The Stormwater Management Service Charge is levied on an annual basis. Payment may be made quarterly, after receipt of Council's Rates Notices.

What can income from the Stormwater Management Service Charge be spent on?

The income from the charge can be spent on both capital projects and recurrent expenditure relating to new or additional stormwater management services such as:

- planning, construction and maintenance of drainage systems including for example, pipes, channels, detention basins and waterways receiving urban stormwater;
- planning, construction and maintenance of stormwater treatment measures including for example, pollutant traps and constructed wetlands; and
- planning, construction and maintenance of stormwater harvesting and reuse projects.

This is the first time that I have heard about the Stormwater Management Service Charge. Has Council publicised its introduction?

Details of the Stormwater Management Service Charge are provided in the annual Draft Management Plan which is placed on public exhibition.

How much will Council be spending on stormwater management projects?

Prior to the introduction of the Stormwater Management Service Charge, Council was planning to spend an average of about \$400,000 per annum of its own funds on stormwater management activities. With the funds raised from the Stormwater Management Service Charge, this planned level of expenditure has increased to approximately \$1,400,000 per annum. This will enable a number of stormwater management projects to be carried out much earlier than would have otherwise been possible. Full details of proposed stormwater management activities can be found within The Hills Shire Plan, on Council's website.

How will I know Council will be using income from the Stormwater management Service Charge for its intended purpose and not something else?

All work undertaken using funds from the Stormwater Management Service charge are reported in Council's Annual Report.

Additional information will be provided in the monthly reviews of Council's annual Resourcing Strategy and quarterly reviews of the Operational Plan. These documents are available for viewing on council's website.

Additional reporting regarding stormwater management activities is made in Council's State of the Environment Report.

I live in the Kellyville/Beaumont Hills/Rouse Hill area and currently pay Rouse Hill stormwater charges to Sydney Water. Am I subject to the Stormwater Management Service Charge?

Yes. Payment of the Rouse Hill stormwater charge is for the operation and maintenance of trunk drainage facilities managed by Sydney Water within the Kellyville-Rouse Hill release area. The Stormwater Management Service Charge payable to Council is used for stormwater management activities upstream of Sydney Water's trunk drainage system.