# POLICY

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| **Name of policy:** | **Stormwater Management** | | |
| **Adoption by Council:** | **14 July 2021** | **Minute number:** | **214/2021** |
| **Last review date:** | **June 2021** | | |
| **Review timeframe:** | **4 Years** | | |
| **Next scheduled review date:** | **June 2025** | | |
| **Related legislation:** | ***Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979***<br>***Coastal Management Act 2016*** | | |
| **Associated policies/documents:** | **Stormwater Assessment Procedure** | | |
| **Responsible division:** | **Liveable Communities** | | |

## Policy objectives

- To provide a framework to safeguard the environment by maintaining or improving the quality of stormwater run-off from development.
- To minimise the potential impacts of development and other associated activities on the aesthetic, recreational and ecological values of receiving water.
- To harvest rainwater and urban stormwater runoff for use where appropriate.
- To control the hydrological impacts of development on receiving surface and ground water systems by controlling the frequency, magnitude and duration of flows to preserve, as far as practicable, predevelopment groundwater and surface water regimes and interactions.
- To control the impacts of development on channel bed and bank erosion by controlling the magnitude, nature and duration of sediment-transporting flows.

## Policy statement

All development with a potential impact on stormwater quality or quantity, shall suitably demonstrate compliance with this policy prior to the issuing of development consent in order to protect water quality and minimise environmental impacts.

## Coverage of the policy

This policy applies across the MidCoast Council area where:

- the quality and/or quantity of stormwater from development may impact on the environment, and

- the development requires assessment under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* or is within a coastal management area as defined under the *Coastal Management Act 2016* or is required under existing Development Control Plans.

Examples of development that MidCoast Council consider to have an impact on the environment include (but is not limited to): subdivision, commercial developments, industrial developments, multi dwellings, manufactured home estates, seniors living, intensive livestock and intensive agriculture proposals or other proposals identified by Council as having potential impact on receiving waters.

**Strategic Plan link**

**MidCoast 2030: Community Strategic Plan**

Connected Community: We protect the health and safety of our communities

- Continue to develop a sustainable network of water, sewer and stormwater systems to meet community needs and health and safety standards.

Our Environment: We protect maintain and restore our natural environment

- Protect, maintain and restore water quality within our estuaries, wetlands and waterways.
- Improve the capacity of industry and the community to achieve the best possible outcomes for the natural environment.
- Ensure our natural assets are maintained to a standard appropriate to their use

Our Environment: We balance the needs of our natural and built environments

- Ensure growth and new development complements our existing natural assets, cultural assets and heritage sites

**Policy content**

*General - Impacts of Stormwater*

Healthy waterways support a healthy environment, society and economy, including more liveable cities and strong, resilient communities. Thriving aquatic ecosystems, which have strong biodiversity or abundant plants and animals, need healthy waterways. This means stressors such as pollutants and the impacts of development need to be well managed.

Stormwater is a generic term for rainfall that runs off surfaces and moves away from the area where it originally falls. In urbanised and developed areas the volume of stormwater generated is increased due to the increase of impervious surfaces such as roofs, roads, carparks, pavements.

Stormwater is a type of diffuse source water pollution. This surface run-off water and everything it carries with it is a major source of pollution in our waterways. The impact of amplified stormwater volumes and pollutant loads due to increasing development has significant impacts on hydrological systems and the water cycle, sedimentation and erosion, water quality and ecological systems.

To some degree, all development has an impact on the behaviour of stormwater through the addition of impervious surfaces, diversions and drainage and through changes to water quality. Sustainable stormwater management is the application of controls on stormwater to mitigate, manage and control changes to the natural water cycle, to protect our region's environmental values and to protect human life and assets.

*Development Assessment - Water Quality and Quantity*

All development covered by this policy must suitably demonstrate how the proposal satisfies the policy objectives. The development will be required to meet water quality targets. The water quality targets and what is required in the development application are outlined in MidCoast Council's Stormwater Assessment Procedure and the Guidelines for Water Sensitive Design Strategies.

*Dedication of Stormwater Treatment Infrastructure to MidCoast Council*

Where subdivision applications propose stormwater from public roads to be directed to stormwater treatment infrastructure, MidCoast Council will require the dedication of that infrastructure to MidCoast Council ownership as a drainage reserve.

Prior to the dedication of any land to Council, all work identified as a condition of development consent must be completed. To ensure the long-term effectiveness of stormwater treatment infrastructure and achievement of water quality and quantity outcomes, adequate routine maintenance, repair and upgrade is required.

Accordingly, dedication of land for stormwater drainage, detention and treatment purposes will only be accepted with the following:

- A Maintenance Plan that has been prepared in accordance with the conditions of development consent. The developer must prepare an annual report detailing the condition of the stormwater treatment system and maintenance activities undertaken prior to handover.

- Maintenance Period and Bond: The developer is responsible for the maintenance of the infrastructure for a period of 3- 5 years, as determined by Council. To ensure all maintenance and repairs are undertaken during this period the developer must provide a bond, or bank guarantee as determined by Council.

**Definitions**

***Water Sensitive Design Strategy (WSDS)*** is a written report detailing management of water quality during and after development. It also outlines the stormwater quantity and integrated water cycle management measures that are to be implemented on the development site.

**References and related documents**

Stormwater Assessment Procedure

Guidelines for Water Sensitive Design Strategies 2019 – MidCoast Council

**Responsible Officer (position)**

Director – Liveable Communities

**Attachments**

Stormwater Assessment Procedure