

# STORMWATER

## Name of area/creek



COUNCIL LOGO



OR



### The effects of Stormwater

#### What are the Impacts of Stormwater?

- As more urban development occurs, more vegetation is removed and the area of impermeable surface increases. This leads to more rainwater running off, rather than infiltrating into the ground. This in turn leads to more frequent and higher flows entering our waterways.
- Increased stormwater volumes and frequencies cause bank erosion. The resulting sediment then smothers aquatic plants and fish, disrupting their life cycles.
- Stormwater, as it runs across hard surfaces, picks up pollutants including rubbish, cigarette butts, rotting organic matter, chemicals and oils. All these pollutants then flow into our rivers and creeks impacting our clean water and threatening native species.



Gross pollutant trap capturing litter from the streets



Raingarden treating stormwater from a carpark

#### How can we better protect our creeks?

- Stormwater from development can be better managed in a number of ways to maintain the water balance.
- Water re-use on site can decrease the amount of water leaving the development, while vegetated swales, constructed wetlands and specially constructed “raingardens” can slow and filter the water.
- Stop littering! Install gross pollutant traps that can capture any larger pieces of litter that end up on the ground.
- Maintain and increase vegetation along our waterways to provide good buffer protection.
- Maintain and increase in-stream vegetation such as rushes and sedges, which provide a mechanism for letting large debris and sediment settle out, as well as harbouring beneficial micro-organisms that metabolise and remove chemicals, heavy metals and nutrients.

#### What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater plus anything the rain carries along with it.

In natural and farming areas, if there is good vegetation cover, this rainfall normally infiltrates into the ground.

In urban areas, where there are more hard surfaces such as driveways, roads, car parks, footpaths and roofs, it runs off, picking up pollutants on its way, before entering stormwater pipes and our local creeks and rivers.

Unlike sewage, stormwater is not treated before it enters our local waterways.



**MORE INFORMATION:**

[cwcewa.com.au](http://cwcewa.com.au)

**We can all play a role in protecting waterways – they are a significant natural resource**

Stop littering | Ensure oils and chemicals stay out of the stormwater | Re-use water at home and in the garden

**Healthy waterways benefit us all**