

Stormwater pollution

Help keep our waterways clean

Stormwater carries pollution and sediment that affect the health of Sydney's waterways and ecosystems.

What is stormwater pollution?

Stormwater is runoff from rain that falls on roofs, roads, and open spaces. As stormwater flows through street drains and pipes to creeks, rivers and the ocean, it carries with it litter, grease, oil, sediment, and chemicals found on the ground.

Heavy rain and storms increase the amount of stormwater entering our waterways, which can cause soil erosion and wash away natural ecosystems.



Pollution flows into waterways through stormwater runoff.

How do we help reduce pollution?

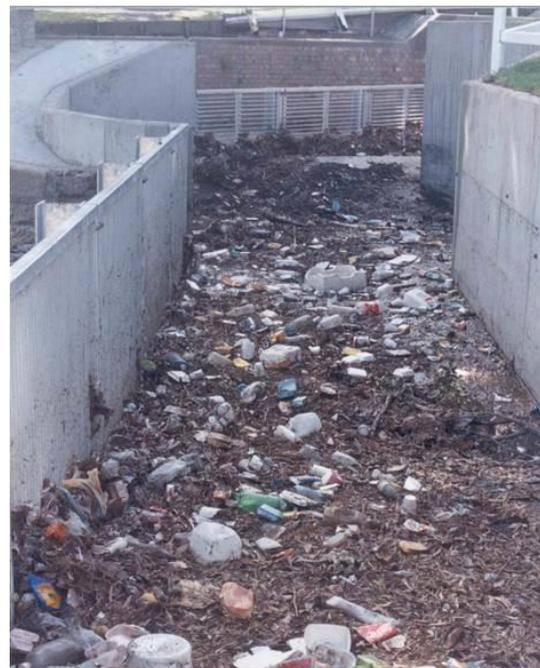
We share ownership and management of waterways with private land owners, local councils, and other government agencies.

We own and operate around 70 Gross Pollutant Traps. All up we stop 8,000 tonnes of

litter and sediment a year from entering our waterways.

Working with councils

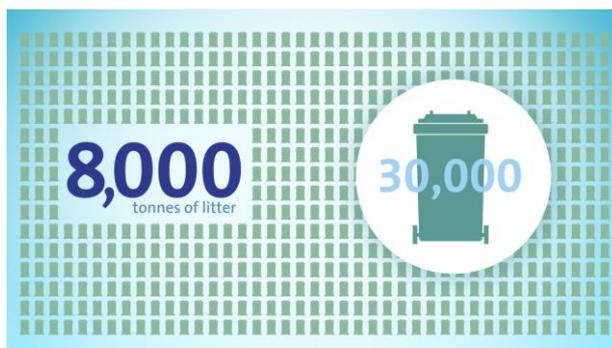
Sydney Water works hand in hand with communities and local councils to manage and reduce the pollution of our waterways. We prepare Waterway Improvement Plans for local areas which include education programs, and social, scientific, and engineering solutions to help reduce and stop pollution from entering our waterways.



The trash rack at Mackey Park in Marrickville stops 200 cubic metres of litter from entering the Cooks River.

What can you do to help?

- Put rubbish in the bin, if you see it on the ground.
- Keep rubbish and cigarette butts with you until you find a bin.
- Wash cars on the grass, instead of hard surfaces, so detergents don't wash straight into the stormwater drain.
- Sweep leaves, dirt and rubbish from driveways and gutters and put in the bin before the next storm takes it to the drain.
- Ensure your gardens have good borders, so soil doesn't wash away.
- Put grass clippings in the compost bin or on the garden.
- Pick up your pet's droppings in a bag and put it in a bin.
- Ask your local Council how to safely dispose of chemicals, pesticides, paints and oils. They should never go down the stormwater drain or your sink.
- Report littering and illegal dumping to the NSW Environmental Protection Authority on 131 555.



Each year we capture 8,000 tonnes of litter – this is enough to fill 30,000 wheelie bins.

We all play a role in keeping Sydney's iconic waterways clean and healthy. They are integral to our way of life and are key to our lifestyle in Sydney.



Parramatta River



Sydney Harbour



Hawkesbury River

For more information, email stormwater@sydneywater.com.au, visit sydneywater.com.au or call us on 13 20 92.