

Stormwater connections to natural waterways

1. Overview

What

1.1. At a glance

This policy explains Sydney Water's requirements for stormwater connections into open channel natural waterways that Sydney Water owns or manages. We allow stormwater connections that ensure:

- stable transition from a constructed drainage system to the natural waterway
- sustainable water quality management
- restoration of native vegetation following construction.

This policy is additional to the Office of Water's controlled activity approvals required under the *Water Management Act 2000*. It is not an alternate set of requirements.

Who

1.2. Scope

This policy applies to owners and developers proposing to construct a stormwater connection to a waterway that is owned or managed by Sydney Water. The policy applies to connection proposals for residential, commercial and industrial developments.

Why

1.3. Objective

This policy ensures that owners and developers design and construct proposed stormwater connections to a safe and sustainable standard by:

- minimising the number of uncontrolled stormwater discharges
- ensuring they cause minimal environmental impact to the waterway and its water quality
- restoring and maintaining disturbed waterfront and riparian vegetation through appropriate rehabilitation.

2. Policy in detail

Connecting stormwater to natural waterways affects the waterway and riparian corridor. Sydney Water provides information, advice and responses to enquiries or applications to enable urban development. We will consider connections to natural waterways to discharge stormwater if the below requirements are met.

2.1. Determining a stormwater connection point

We want to minimise the number of uncontrolled stormwater discharges into natural waterways. If an existing stormwater line is available, new lines must connect to it.

If this is not viable, the owner or developer must liaise with local council and Sydney Water to identify an agreed connection point and design specifications.

2.2. Type of development and its water quality management

New stormwater connections must limit environmental impact to the waterway and its water quality. Water quality provisions vary depending on the type of development the connection is intended to support. Stormwater run-off from residential developments differs from commercial/industrial developments, so there are specific provisions to correctly manage the water quality being discharged into the natural waterway.

The *Stormwater connections to natural waterways guide* explains these provisions and other requirements under 'Outlet structures'.

Outlet structures are the discharge points at the end of the stormwater connections. Outlet structures must provide a stable transition from the constructed drainage system to the natural waterway. The structure must also be appropriate for the surrounding environment.

To minimise the chance of erosion due to discharge flow, outlet structures must be:

- built offset from the waterfront and discharge in an angled downstream direction
- structurally stable (using appropriate geotextiles and a combination of rock sizes)
- accessible
- safe for the public.

For requirements in detail, refer to the *Stormwater connections to natural waterways guide*.

2.3. Vegetation

You must re-establish any disturbed waterfront vegetation after connecting to a natural waterway. This is necessary to restore native vegetation cover to disturbed areas within the riparian corridor.

For detailed requirements, refer to the *Stormwater connections to natural waterways guide*.

3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Controlled activities	Developments and activities that are carried out in or near a river, lake or estuary (as defined by the Water Management Act 2000)
Sydney Water natural waterway	A course of water carrying the flow of a river, lake or estuary that is owned and/or managed by Sydney Water.
Riparian corridor	The transition zone between the land and waterway (as defined by NSW Office of Water)