

FACT SHEET:

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGE

The *Local Government Act 1993* was amended in 2005 to allow councils to levy a Stormwater Management Service charge (SMSC) for improved stormwater management. This change was made in recognition of councils' need for sustainable funding to support their key role in stormwater management.

Land within an urban area (a city, town or village) that is in the residential and business categories for rating purposes, except vacant land, will be charged the stormwater management levy.

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 \$532,937 for Council for such activities in 2023-24.

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

The properties that are eligible to be charged for stormwater management services are residential and/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 9083 8000.

5. How will I know if Waverley Council will be using income from the Stormwater Management Service Charge for its intended purpose and not something else?

All works undertaken using funds from the Stormwater Management Service Charge will be reported in Council's Annual Report. Additional information will be provided in the Operational Plan. These documents will be available on Council's website.