

Our suburbs, our waterways and our coastline are all connected



Central
Coast
Council

Rainwater and pollution from our streets flow directly to our waterways and the ocean.

Rain that falls on roofs, gutters, paving, roads and drains is called stormwater. Stormwater can collect pollutants as it travels through the catchment, and carry them into local creeks, rivers and wetlands before eventually ending up in our lakes or the ocean.

This can have a negative effect on the health of our waterways.

Based on scientific research, we know that most of the waterway pollution comes from the suburbs, as well as the industrial and agricultural areas of the Central Coast.

This means that the things we do in our daily lives can have a positive or negative impact on local water quality. Our waterways and ocean are everyone's responsibility, and it's important that the community and Council work together to care for our unique coastal environment, both now and into the future.

What role does Council play in maintaining our sewerage network?

Council manages more than 320 wastewater pumping stations and eight wastewater treatment plants which treat over 80 million litres of wastewater on the Central Coast every day.

Over the next four years we are rolling out significant upgrade and expansion works across our sewerage network including an \$11million region-wide project to renew targeted gravity sewer infrastructure.

Like all infrastructure, sewerage pipelines occasionally require repair. We are using innovative solutions to upgrade our sewerage network and increase the functional life of existing pipes. This includes relining damaged pipes with a purpose made liner to reinforce them, seals any leaks, reduces repair costs and reduce the need to dig up and replace, which ultimately means less disruption to the community and the streetscape.

What is Central Coast Council doing to improve our waterways and Coastline?

Council and the NSW Government are working in partnership to assess possible sources of pollution within the Terrigal catchment, coastal lagoons and several other beach and estuary sites. The program assesses the impacts from possible pollution sources on long-term water quality and will inform water quality improvement programs.

For more information, please go to:

yourvoiceourcoast.com/tcla



We can all do our bit to help

Inside the home - How can you help 'Save Our Sewers'?

- By being water and sewer aware, and actively participating to 'Save Our Sewers', we will continue to make the Central Coast even better
- Only ever flush the three Ps down your porcelain throne – Poo, Pee and Paper – everything else needs to go into the appropriate bin
- Flushing things down drains or toilets can cause significant damage. Household waste such as food scraps, fats and oils, cigarette butts, nappies, dental floss, sanitary items, cotton buds, stickers on fruit, and wipes – even if they are labelled 'flushable' all belong in the bin, not the sewer
- Make sure you 'Dial before you Dig' – this is a free national referral service which can be accessed online to locate underground pipes and prevent damage and disruption to our vast infrastructure networks.

Outside the home - What can you do to help reduce sewer overflows and breaks?

- Have your sewer system checked and make sure it connects to the sewer network and not the stormwater network
- Have your stormwater assets (**pipes that convey rainwater from the house, shed, garage or rainwater tank overflow**) checked and make sure they connect to the stormwater network. Connecting your stormwater to the sewer network overloads the sewer's capacity and can cause overflows in rainy weather.
- If you suspect you have a damaged manhole on or near your property, please contact Council on **1300 463 954** anytime day or night to report it
- Make sure gardens and trees are located away from the sewer pipes. Tree roots flourish in the sewer, but they can cause a lot of damage that can be hard to detect from the surface
- If renovating, make sure you do not damage underground sewer pipes. Cracks and breaks can cause sewage to leak into the groundwater and stormwater, contaminating our waterways and coastline.
- If you own an on-site sewer system, be sure to have it inspected on a regular basis.

What should you do if you suspect a sewerage block or overflow in your area?

When alleged blockages and overflows are reported, our primary concern is the health and safety of the public and the environment. We have crews on standby 24 hours a day, 365 days a year so please **call Council immediately – day or night – on 1300 463 954** if you experience water or sewerage concerns.

How can you help to improve our waterways and coastal environment?

Protecting waterways is a big job, but every bit helps. Challenge yourself to do more for our local environment:

- Put litter, pet droppings and garden waste in the bin – this will stop pollution before it occurs and keep our waterways and foreshores clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy
- Make sure soil from your yard cannot be washed into the drain when it rains
- Plant native species, as they require less water and fertiliser – this helps reduce the nutrients entering our waterways and ocean which can cause algal blooms
- Install rainwater tanks to reduce run-off entering stormwater
- Wash your car on the lawn or use a professional car wash to reduce the chemicals getting into our waterways and ocean
- Report environmental vandalism to Council
- Consider reducing the amount of chemicals used in the home and garden or go chemical-free!
- Get involved! Help save your local environment by joining a Landcare group.

