

## Community

Water flowing overland moves downhill towards local creeks and waterways, and can carry with it chemicals, rubbish and uncovered soil.

What we do in the catchment affects the health of our creeks and rivers. When water runoff is contaminated with chemicals, litter or soil; native animals and plants in local waterways are put under threat. The amount of rainfall determines how much mud, chemicals and rubbish are carried into local creeks often through the stormwater drains.

*Plastic breaks up into many smaller pieces and these have adverse impacts on aquatic animals.* It's important to put rubbish in the right bin and make sure it's secure. Overflowing bins can release litter into the environment. Ensure balloons are not released into the environment where they can be a major problem for aquatic animals notably turtles. Reducing chemical runoff could include washing the car on the lawn and economizing on the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides in the garden.

Make sure soil is contained using sediment control measures on building sites and when carrying out landscaping work. Planting local native vegetation provides habitat for native animals and helps protect soil. Getting involved in a local catchment care group is a great way to learn more and make a vital contribution to the health of our waterways.



Photo courtesy of Unitywater



Photo courtesy of Seqwater

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**ECO Education Service**



## Roles in Water Management



Unitywater  
Serving you today,  
investing in tomorrow.

# Sunshine Coast Council Stormwater Management

When it rains, water enters stormwater drains that empty out into our creeks. Along the way it picks up pollutants from grass, paved surfaces, roads, and agricultural land. Stormwater pollutants include oil, grease, paint, litter, lawn clippings, animal droppings and manure, agricultural chemicals, industrial chemicals, dirt and dust, and much more!

These pollutants build up and impact our waterways, including our estuaries and coral reefs. If not managed correctly, stormwater runoff can cause downstream flooding, bank erosion, fish kills, loss of aquatic plants, and significantly impact on our ability to safely enjoy our waterways.



ECollaboration monitors stormwater on behalf of Sunshine Coast Council. The information collected is used to determine where we might need to install stormwater devices such as litter traps, sediment traps, or constructed wetlands.

## Unitywater

Unitywater is the water supply and sewerage services provider for more than 700,000 customers across Moreton Bay, the Sunshine Coast and Noosa regions. Unitywater's core business is the delivery of clean, fresh water and the collection and treatment of sewage and trade waste. These vital services help to keep our waterways clean and communities healthy.

### Working together to keep waterways clean

Did you know around 8 million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in our oceans each year? By simply switching to tap water and refilling a water bottle we can each help to reduce the amount of plastic polluting our waterways and harming our marine life.

### Don't Block it Bin it

Washing the wrong things down the sink in your kitchen can result in blocked pipes, smelly drains and even overflows into the environment. You can help by:

- Scraping down plates and put all food scraps in the bin
- Using sink strainers on all sinks
- Dispose of fats and oils appropriately and not down the sink
- Using environmentally friendly detergents and cleaning products

### Love your loo

**Remember**, only human waste, waste water or toilet paper should ever be flushed down the loo. Anything else can block sewerage pipes and lead to overflows into the environment.

## Seqwater

As the region's bulk water supply authority, Seqwater manages the region's major water supply dams and weirs, conventional water treatment plants, and other climate resilient sources of water such as the desalination plant and recycled water scheme. A 600 km pipeline network (the SEQ Water Grid), moves water around the region, delivering safe, cost-effective drinking water to 3.1million people.

Most of our drinking water comes from rain which flows into dams, but it doesn't always fall in the right place and sometimes we don't get enough. That's why a whole-of-region approach is taken, using the Water Grid and climate resilient advanced water treatment plants to deliver safe drinking water and keep our community healthy and our region prosperous. We live in a climate of extremes and part of living here means we need to have good water habits so there's enough water for everyone. There are simple things you can do at home, school and work:

- Install water efficient devices and appliances
- Take shorter showers
- Do full loads of washing and dishwashing
- Don't leave the tap running - half fill the sink
- Fix leaking taps and toilets quickly
- Water in the cool of the day and use mulch
- Keep the pool cover on when pool not in use
- Use tank water for the garden and pool top up
- Check for concealed leaks on your property
- Wash your car on the lawn

