

Catchments Remediation Rate

2015 Annual Performance Report

HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL

Catchments Remediation Rate Program

2014 - 2015 Annual Report



Plate 1 – Patricia Place, Cherrybrook – Biofilter

Acknowledgements

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Comments, assistance with programs and report contributions were provided by staff from Council's Natural Resources Branch.

For further information contact:

DAVID BEHARRELL

Natural Resources Operations Manager

Natural Resources Branch

Environment and Human Services Division

Tel: 02 9847 6860

Fax: 02 9847 6598

Email: dbeharrell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.crr.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

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Executive Summary

This report aims to provide both quantitative and qualitative commentary on a number of programs run as part of the Catchments Remediation Program, funded by the Catchment Remediation Rate and identified in the Sustainable Total Water Cycle Management Strategy. These programs include the water quality treatment and stormwater harvesting capital works, asset maintenance and monitoring, asset renewal, landfill and leachate remediation, street sweeping and catchment education.

The primary focus of the report is to provide quantitative data and analysis of the relative performance of different water quality treatment measures, including gross pollutant devices (GPD's), sediment basins, wetlands and biofilters that have been constructed to improve stormwater quality in Hornsby Shire. The results of the report will be used by stormwater and catchment managers to provide a better insight into determining the type of structures that are suitable for specific sites. Furthermore, the data provides valuable information about the costs (both capital and maintenance), benefits and device optimisation which can aid in the formulation of strategies to improve catchment and landuse practices by both structural and non-structural means.

Gross pollutant devices, sediment basins, wetlands and biofilters all come under the general description of Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices (SQUIDS). The principal objective of installing SQUIDS is to improve water quality by removing pollutants and in some instances retaining stormwater flows. In the 2014 - 2015 financial year, \$878,000 was spent on capital works with 6 new catchments remediation projects being initiated and completed, including two major upgrades of existing assets. These works involved the construction and/or installation of:

- Four end-of-pipe biofilters: Pennant Hills, Epping, Cherrybrook (x2).
- Two vault installations: Hornsby Pool (installed by Infrastructure & Recreation Division) and Mount Colah;
- Installation of a Biofilter/Stormwater Harvesting System: Dural;
- 9,761 native plants at new and existing sites to replace and outcompete weeds and help facilitate the process of water quality treatment

Additionally, the following works were also carried out on existing sites that involved either upgrading their water quality treatment and pollutant removal, instigating repair works or sediment removal:

- Upgrade of Community Nursery water reuse system, Pennant Hills;
- Sediment removal from:
 - Hull Road, Beecroft;
 - Malton Road, Beecroft;
 - Blantyre Close, Thornleigh;
 - Castle Howard Road, Cheltenham;
 - Denman Parade, Normanhurst;
 - Larool Crescent, Thornleigh; and
 - Duneba Drive, Westleigh x 4 sediment basins.

While these repair and maintenance works treat and remove pollutants directly, the Catchments Remediation Program also promotes and funds non-structural initiatives in the pursuit of improving water quality in the Shire's creeks, waterways and receiving waters. These include: monitoring, maintenance, street sweeping, riparian bush regeneration, environmental education, business auditing, compliance programs, pollution clean-ups and estuary management initiatives.

The collection of performance data over the 2014 - 2015 financial year has allowed Council to quantify the volume of gross pollutant (sediment, litter and organic matter) removal from Council's 443 water quality improvement assets. The data show that 1000 cubic metres of sediment, litter and organic matter collectively was captured and prevented from entering the Shire's waterways during this period.

The total cost to Council to maintain its water quality improvement devices and adjacent landscaped areas was approximately \$430,000 in the 2014-2015 financial year. This included \$203,000 for the cleaning of SQUIDS and disposal of waste and \$227,000 for landscaping maintenance and bush regeneration at the sites. Other associated costs included the monitoring and maintenance of leachate treatment facilities, tree work and staff wages.

Overall, the findings of this report give stormwater managers a better insight into the cost-effectiveness and performance of water quality improvement structures and the management of life-cycle costs for individual stormwater treatment measures. The performance of these devices allows Council to both refine and modify the design of future water quality control measures and judge their appropriateness for proposed remediation sites based on catchment size and land use impact.

1. Introduction and Background

Hornsby is located 25 kilometres north-west of the Sydney CBD and is the Council base for a Shire covering approximately 50,990 hectares and serving the needs of an estimated 157,000 residents (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011). The Shire extends from Epping in the south to Brooklyn and Wisemans Ferry in the north fronting a large expanse of the Lower Hawkesbury River. A majority of the northern and central Shire consists of National Park and Nature Reserve. This unique natural character combined with the many creeks and estuaries has led to Council being termed the 'Bushland Shire'.

In an attempt to conserve the ecological value of the Shire's many natural waterways and to improve the quality of urban stormwater, Hornsby Shire Council has taken an integrated approach to stormwater quality management by developing a range of capital and non-capital (preventative) measures. This initiative includes all major catchments under the Stormwater Management Plan framework, together with more closely modelled sub-catchment plans. Council's progressive strategy has recognised the need to tackle these challenges using a broad approach to understanding and managing the total water cycle. This has led to the development of a Sustainable Total Water Cycle Management Strategy (2005).

This report focuses on the performance of different stormwater treatment measures, including gross pollutant devices, constructed wetlands, sediment basins, stream remediation, and biofilters that have been constructed under Council's Catchments Remediation Rate (CRR) Capital Works Program. The report also outlines Council's work on leachate treatment and stormwater harvesting schemes.

1.1 Report Objective

To provide quantitative data and an analysis of the relative performance of different stormwater and leachate quality improvement devices that have been implemented under the Catchments Remediation Rate Program. Specific reference will be made to those devices constructed and / or installed in the 2014 - 2015 financial year.

1.2 Background of the Catchments Remediation Program

1.2.1 Catchments Remediation Program

In response to general water quality degradation, including red algal blooms and fish kills in the Berowra Creek estuary in September 1993, Hornsby Council placed a moratorium on all development assessments within the catchments of the West Hornsby STP. To resolve this, the Minister for Planning established a Technical Working Party (TWP), comprising representatives of Council, the Water Board (Sydney Water) and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) which are now known as The NSW Department of Planning. Representatives from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Trust joined the TWP in early 1994. The TWP confirmed that the two Sewage Treatment Plants (STP's) contributed to the poor water quality of the creek. Moreover, it highlighted the significant role of polluted urban stormwater, particularly runoff from developing and newly developed residential areas.

On 27 April 1994, the participating organisations of the TWP signed a Statement of Joint Intent (SoJI - also known as the Community Contract for Berowra Creek) agreeing to work together to achieve the ecologically sustainable development (ESD) of the Berowra Creek catchment and the recovery of the environmental health of the creek. The Community Contract, included agreements to upgrade the STP's and it bound the parties to the preparation and implementation of a Water Quality Management Strategy. It also required Council to prepare and implement a strategy to reduce stormwater nutrient ingress to Berowra Creek and to utilise water sensitive design in its consideration of future developments.

However, the level of pollutants and the urgent need for action was not confined to Berowra Creek. Water quality in the other major catchments within the Shire had also deteriorated as a result of urbanisation. Remedial works to reduce pollution and improve water quality were required throughout the entire Shire including relevant areas draining the Cowan Creek, Lane Cove River and the Hawkesbury River catchments.

In 1995, the Water Catchments Team initiated the first phase of the ongoing strategic planning for catchment management within the Shire. The result was the production of a Catchments Remediation Program Five-Year Plan which detailed the proposed expenditure of the Catchments Remediation Rate towards meeting the objectives of the Statement of Joint Intent and in turn improving water quality in the Shire's waterways. The Plan included financial forecasts of rate income over a five year period together with capital investment and non-capital expenditure including asset management.

It was hoped that Hornsby Shire Council's Catchments Remediation Program would give stormwater managers a better insight into the cost-efficiency and performance of individual devices, but more importantly, monitoring of devices would reflect the individual characteristics of sub-catchments and the associated point sources of pollution, which can be targeted through pollutant minimisation strategies. It was also seen that community and industry awareness projects are important to complement the Catchments Remediation Program, whilst Local Government can also review work practices and strategies in relation to sediment and erosion controls on building sites (and their enforcement), street sweeping, street tree planting, rubbish collections and kerbside recycling collections.

Additional objectives of the Catchments Remediation Program, which still apply today, aim to address:

- Innovative Products and Services – generate and use ideas to add value to the community as stakeholders, provide productivity improvements, continue leadership and management capabilities in local government
- Health and Safety – provide a safe and healthy aquatic environment for the community, council staff and contractors
- Performance – to better understand community needs and expectations and deliver reliable devices which maximise the cost / benefit of installed capital projects
- Reporting – detail expenditure through regular reporting to the community; and
- Service – protect and service assets and continually improve operations.

1.2.2. Catchments Remediation Rate (CRR) and Panel

Council's catchments remediation work up to 1997 was only partly funded by the CRR, with the majority of funding being at the expense of other traditional Council services e.g. Parks. However, the cost of Council's 'Statement of Joint Intent (SoJI) for Berowra Creek' obligations and remediation works in the other catchments was highlighted to be much more than was covered by the rate. The proposal to increase the CRR from 2% to a 5% levy on ordinary rates in 1997 was presented with the idea to accelerate remediation capital works and return resources to traditional services that had suffered funding cuts. The increased funding was intended for planning, design, construction, maintenance and management of remediation devices. The proposal to increase the CRR to 5% was adopted by Council on the 13th April 1997 and still applies today.

Approximately 50% of the CRR is directed to non-capital costs including project management and a series of studies, associated with meeting the SoJI objectives. These studies are designed to identify more precisely the cause and effect mechanisms of pollution generation in the Shire, develop effective longer term remedies for the problems, and establish appropriate technological and monitoring techniques to determine and report progress. The remaining 50% of CRR funding is allocated to on-ground capital remediation works and subsequent routine maintenance of all constructed devices. Current remedial environmental protection works include the design and construction of wetlands, SQUIDs, leachate control from old landfill sites, sediment basins and creek stabilisation / rehabilitation.

The Catchments Remediation Rate Expenditure Review Panel (the Panel) was established in July 1997 following community consultation on increasing the CRR from 2% to 5%. The Panel meets twice annually to review expenditure following the second and fourth quarters of each financial year and currently comprises six community members, relevant council staff and two nominated Councillors. The purpose of the Panel is to ensure accountability and transparency of expenditure of CRR funds.

The terms of reference for the Panel were to:

- note the criteria which enables costs to be eligible for CRR funding;

- assess the validity of funding decisions made by Council staff against the criteria;
- note information relevant to CRR funding, available from Council's accounts;
- determine, in consultation with Council and staff, if the CRR funds have been appropriately assigned; and
- report to Council on the Panel's determination.

1.2.3. Synergy with Council's Strategic Direction

Council's Community Plan 2013- 2023

The Hornsby Shire Community Plan has been prepared by Hornsby Shire Council in partnership with local residents, our business community, other levels of government, educational institutions, non-government community and cultural organisations and neighbouring councils.

The Hornsby Shire Community Plan sets the strategic direction for where the people of Hornsby Shire want to be in 2020. It's a long term plan to deliver the best possible services to the people of the Hornsby Shire.

The Community Plan is aligned to the Hornsby Shire 2020 Framework for a Sustainable Future which states that a sustainable future requires a successful combination of:

- Protection and enhancement of our natural environment
- A resilient local economy and sustainable resource use
- Enhanced social and community wellbeing
- Effective community infrastructure and services
- Leadership that is accountable and effective

These strategic themes are supported by key goals that will guide the Shire for the next 10 years. The Catchments Remediation Program has a key role to play in delivering Goal 1.2: Maintain healthy waterways and catchments, which emphasises protecting the landscapes and health of our waterways and catchments, including the Hawkesbury River, Berowra Creek and associated tributaries and applying a total water cycle management approach to maintain water quality in our creeks, wetlands and rivers. The strategy pursuant to this goal and related actions are identified below.

Table 1-1 - Link to Council's Community Plan

Goal	Strategy	Actions for Council
Maintain Healthy Waterways and Catchments	Strategy 1.2.1: Protect and improve the catchments in the Shire by providing support and direction to the water catchments program	Construct water quality remediation devices as per the Catchments Remediation Rate (CRR) 10 year capital works program Undertake the Estuary Management Program
	Strategy 1.2.2: Identify and implement innovative water conservation and sustainable water cycle management practices	Implement the Total Water Cycle Management Strategy Implement water conservation and reuse projects
	Strategy 1.2.3: Work with the community to care for, protect, enjoy and enhance the health of waterways in the Shire	Provide education to the community on the importance of waterways and estuaries
	Strategy 1.2.4: Provide a water quality monitoring service using methods that are reliable, professional and contemporary	Monitor and report environmental conditions, including water quality, at creeks and estuaries

Total Sustainable Water Cycle Management Strategy

Council has shown leadership in successful water quality management since the break out of algal blooms in Berowra Creek in the early 1990s with the implementation of the Berowra Creek Water Quality Management Strategy. However, the Water Catchments Team recognised the need to expand traditional thinking of water quantity and quality, to include an understanding of the total water cycle which culminated in the adoption of the Sustainable Water Cycle Management Strategy 2005.

Council's recognition of the need to tackle these challenges using a strategic approach places it at the forefront of sustainable water cycle management and provides the inspiration for this project. The continuation of the Catchments Remediation Program is critical to the successful implementation of this strategic approach to total water cycle management.

Stormwater Drainage Asset Management Plan 2005-2025

The Stormwater Drainage Asset Management Plan (SDAMP) 2006 formalises the process for the financial and physical requirements for a 20 year long-term performance of Council's stormwater and water quality infrastructure assets. The Plan demonstrates responsible stewardship as well as defines and articulates how the stormwater and water quality infrastructure assets are and will be managed to achieve Council's objectives. The Plan also identifies the future service delivery funding requirements for the adopted levels of service, future demand for infrastructure, current asset performance, asset failure, risk, required works and funding constraints.

1.2.4. Statutory Considerations

It should be noted that the Hornsby Shire Local Environment Plan (LEP), 1994, permits Council to undertake the construction or maintenance of stormwater drainage and water quality treatment devices, bush regeneration and landscaping without obtaining development consent. The proposals for construction are assessed under Part V of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, which requires Council to prepare a Review of Environmental Factors (REF). This identifies and evaluates the impacts of an activity to determine whether the impacts are likely to significantly affect the environment. The REF must also consider impacts of the activity on critical habitat or

threatened species, populations or ecological communities or their habitat, under section 5A of the EP&A Act.

The Threatened Species Conservation Act (TSC Act) 1995 specifies a set of seven factors which must be considered by decision makers in assessing the effect of a proposed activity on threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats. These factors are collectively referred to as the seven part test of significance.

The outcome of any threatened species assessment should be that activities are undertaken in an environmentally sensitive manner, and that appropriate measures are undertaken to minimise adverse effects on threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats.

1.2.5. Asset Auditing and Lifecycle Management

Lifecycle Management

Lifecycle management enables Council to plan interventions, whether its maintenance or renewal, at the optimum stage of an asset's deterioration to enable cost effective extensions of its useful life. There are a number of activities considered in lifecycle management:

- **Operations:** those activities that have no effect on asset condition but are necessary to keep the asset appropriately utilised.
- **Maintenance:** the day to day work required to keep assets operating at agreed service levels. This falls into two broad categories: planned (proactive) maintenance which are maintenance activities planned to prevent asset deterioration; and unplanned (reactive) maintenance which are maintenance activities to correct asset malfunctions and failures on an as required basis (e.g. emergency repairs). Maintenance work is required to maintain the asset's ability to provide the agreed service level but does not extend the life of the asset. Operations and Maintenance expenditure are considered an "Expense" for Council's financial accounting purposes. A key element of asset management planning is determining the most cost-effective mix of planned maintenance in order to reduce unplanned maintenance to a minimum.

- **Renewal work:** the substantial replacement of the asset, or a significant asset component, to its original size and capacity. This work generally aims to return the asset to a condition or state similar to the original asset.
- **Reconstruction (or upgrades):** are those projects that are created for the extension or upgrading of assets required to cater for growth or to maintain or improve on the levels of service.

The Stormwater Drainage Asset Management Plan (SDAMP) 2006 was prepared to provide a financial forecast for water quality assets in the Shire over a 20 year period. Cumulative operating expenditure identified in the Plan includes the cumulative operation / maintenance expenditure and asset renewals and upgrades associated with assets reaching their optimum life or age. To ensure responsible financial management the assumptions made in the modelling were very conservative. Hence, both renewal and projected maintenance cost were set at a high level to allow for unforeseen circumstances or unpredictable rises in costs.

The key feature of these financial projections is that it is envisaged that operational and renewal costs will take an increasingly larger proportion of CRR funds in future years as the number of assets increases. The life cycle analysis modelling of the catchments remediation program, as with Council's

Asset Management Plans, will be reviewed at regular intervals to allow for the input of monitoring and knowledge gained over time.

Asset Auditing

Over the previous two financial years Council's water Quality Assets Officer has concentrated on assets auditing. By the end of 2014 all of the 400 + assets had been audited using a risk assessment approach which included assessing:

- Public Safety, resulting in:
 - An action register
 - Signage requirements
- Performance – both functionality and structural integrity
- Contractor and Staff WH&S requirements

This proactive auditing regime will be ongoing as it provides a much more realistic assessment of asset condition and hence the requirement for renewal and repair than lifecycle modelling. The information gained from this auditing process along with careful tracking of the costs associated with maintenance, renewal and repair have shown that at present there is little need for a CRR sinking fund for asset renewal/repair. The next round of audits are scheduled for the end of 2015.

2. Catchments Remediation Rate Capital Works Program

2.1 Delivery of Capital Work

The selection and implementation of structural stormwater quality improvement devices involves numerous steps. These include: site identification and prioritisation; determination of treatment objectives; development of treatment train; concept design; comparison of potential treatments (modelling); detailed design; review of environmental factors; notification and authority to commence construction.

2.1.1. Project Management and Construction

Due to the varying degrees of expertise in different fields the Divisions of Environment and Human Services and Infrastructure and Recreation have forged a partnership approach to deliver CRR capital works projects. The Infrastructure and Recreation Division's Design and Construction Branch now incorporate the design, construction and project management responsibilities associated with CRR capital works routinely into their annual civil works improvement program.

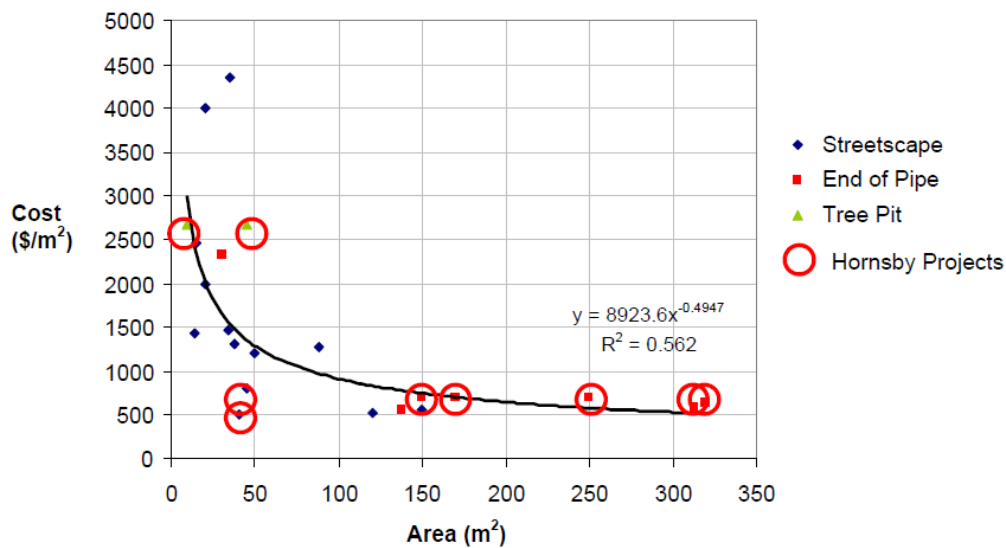
There are a number of benefits to both Divisions and to the Council as a whole as a result of this partnership. Some of these are:

- Projects are developed ensuring compatibility with local engineering and environmental standards, and making sure that all issues are addressed;
- Experience and knowledge from involvement in these projects is utilised in all Council works so that Council sets the standard for developers / builders to follow;

- Opportunities for the Infrastructure and Recreation Division staff to be involved in environmentally "cutting edge" technologies;
- Involvement of staff in the Infrastructure and Recreation Division in an area of environmental management, with a flow-on effect resulting in better understanding of sustainability issues;
- Opportunities for Environment and Human Services Division staff to become more aware of engineering issues in the development of projects;
- Expansion of the core business of the Infrastructure and Recreation Division; and
- Flexibility during the construction phase not necessarily afforded in contractual arrangements.

The combination of the push towards competitive tendering and the need to seek specialised engineering and contractor services results in the contracting out or tendering of some of the design and construction activities. At present a small proportion of the works is contracted out (usually low-risk remediation projects such as stream remediation works and small scale gross pollutant devices) together with specialised design and consulting services.

To date the Environment and Human Services Division has been satisfied with the quality of work achieved and the cost-benefit involved. To reaffirm this, Council has benchmarked the cost of constructing biofilters against other Sydney Councils. As **Figure 2.1** illustrates the in-house arrangement represents good value for money.



Comparative costs of construction of bioretention systems for Sydney Councils

Figure 2-1 - Comparative construction of biofilters (Knights *et al*, 2010)

2.1.2. Work Health and Safety (WHS) and Risk Management

All contractors are required by Council to have a WHS Policy in accordance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and The Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 which aim to secure and promote the health, safety and welfare of people at work. Employers and supervisors of staff and contractors have a duty of care under the Act to protect employees and demonstrate due diligence in their WHS Management Systems. Council and contractor policies must address:

- certificates of currency for public liability, third party motor vehicle insurance and workers compensation;
- safe work practices and procedures (hazard identification and risk analysis per site / device);
- induction and safety training (Green or White card);
- corrective actions and documentation;
- incident / accident recording and investigation; and
- personal protective equipment (PPE).

By ensuring these requirements are met by both Council staff and contractors the risks identified

during the cleaning and maintenance process can be analysed, evaluated and risk treatment plans implemented in accordance with AS / NZS 4360 Risk Management.

2.2 Types of Stormwater Quality Improvement Assets

2.2.1. Objective of Stormwater Treatment

Historically, the principal objective of stormwater treatment measures was to improve the quality of stormwater by removing pollutants, including litter, sediment, nutrients, metals and associated bacterial contamination. Stormwater treatment can be grouped into three categories: primary, secondary and tertiary (Refer to **Table 2.1** and **Section 2.2.2**).

Recent research suggests that to further protect stream ecosystems stormwater management systems should be designed to retain water from small-to-moderate rain events. By doing this the disturbance or damage caused by frequent events can be reduced (Walsh *et al* 2004).

With this in mind Council's Catchments Remediation Program has been implementing and providing funding to projects which retain and use stormwater, e.g., biofilters (through plant evapotranspiration) and stormwater harvesting schemes (through sports field irrigation).

Table 2-1 - Pollutant ranges for stormwater treatment measures (Engineers Australia, 2006).

Particle Size Grading	Treatment Measures	Treatment Process
Gross Solids > 5000 µm	Gross Pollutant Traps	Screening
Coarse- to Medium-Sized Particulates 5000 µm – 125 µm	Sedimentation Basins (Wet & Dry)	Sedimentation
Fine Particulates 125 µm – 10 µm	Grass Swales & Filter Strips Surface Flow Wetlands	Enhanced Sedimentation
Very Fine/ Colloidal Particulates 10 µm – 0.45 µm	Infiltration Systems Sub - Surface Flow Wetlands	Adhesion and Filtration
Dissolved Particles < 0.45 µm		Biological Uptake

Typical Stormwater Pollutants and Contaminants

- **Gross pollutants** are typically those materials greater than 0.05mm, both degradable and non-degradable, which detrimentally impact physically, visually and bio-chemically on aquatic ecosystems.
- The deposition of **suspended solids** can block pipes, change flow conditions, decrease light penetration and disrupt the habitat of aquatic invertebrates and fish (e.g. by infilling pool habitat). Equally important is that they are associated with other contaminants such as heavy metals, hydrocarbons and phosphorus (Engineers Australia, 2006).
- Increased **nutrients** (phosphorous and nitrogen) levels may cause excessive and unbalanced growth of plants and algae leading to oxygen depletion. Sources of nutrients include atmospheric deposition, tree leaves, domestic and agricultural fertilisers, industrial waste, sewer overflows, animal droppings, detergents and lubricants (Engineers Australia, 2006).
- A wide variety of **heavy metals** are present in stormwater and toxic effects can occur once concentrations exceed certain levels.

2.2.2. Biofilters

Biofilters can be simply thought of as “vegetated sand filters”. Stormwater run-off is delivered, either directly or via a low flow diversion, to the biofilter where it is spread over the vegetated area and slowly percolates through a filter media. Pollutant removal is achieved through the interface of the vegetation and filter media as a result of enhanced sedimentation in the vegetation zone, mechanical filtration, sorption and other chemical processes in the filter media and plant and biofilm uptake of pollutants (Hatt, et al 2006). An underdrain collects the treated water and delivers it to existing stormwater infrastructure or waterways.

Biofilters can be constructed at different locations within the catchment; they can be at-source within the streetscape (e.g. within traffic calming devices or tree pits) or at the “end-of-pipe” where stormwater infrastructure (pipes) run into bushland or waterways.

End-of-Pipe Biofilters

These systems encapsulate the “treatment train” approach by providing primary, secondary and tertiary treatment through the one biofilter.

To provide optimal treatment both the vegetation type and filter media have been specified to comply with recent research findings. While the concept is simple, extensive research has refined the specifications to optimise performance of these systems.

Primary Treatment: Stormwater flows into sediment forebays which captures larger sediments. It then flows into a distribution swale where the stormwater is evenly spread across the basin surface to allow litter, leaves and finer sediment to be trapped on the surface of the filter media. Through the CRR maintenance program these larger litter items and accumulated sediment are removed on an as needs basis.

Secondary Treatment: After the stormwater has entered the biofilter it percolates down into the filter media where finer sediment and pollutants are retained by attaching to soil particles or becoming trapped within pore spaces.

Tertiary Treatment: Tertiary treatment also occurs as biofilms on the highly fibrous root system of the

plants take up nutrients and metals. In addition, this system has been installed with the option to create a permanent saturated zone which assists in the depletion of available nitrogen through the process of denitrification.

2.2.3. Gross Pollutant Devices and Sediment Basins

Gross Pollutant Devices (GPD's) and sediment basins can operate in isolation to protect immediate downstream receiving waters or as part of a more comprehensive treatment system. When acting in isolation they are used primarily to protect downstream waters from litter or to address specific issues such as excessive leaf drop. When maintained at a prescribed level they can be useful in retaining a significant proportion of all pollutant types.

In an integrated treatment system (or treatment train), they are the most upstream measure and are important in protecting the integrity of downstream treatments (such as wetlands and biofilters) by removing the coarse fraction of contaminants (e.g. litter, coarse sediment etc) (Engineers Australia, 2006, p8-2).

For the purposes of this report, GPD's take many forms including trash racks, litter baskets, channel nets, pit inserts and underground sumps. Some GPD's are fabricated to fit specific locations, whereas others are bought off the shelf (proprietary devices). At present over 443 stormwater treatment measures have been installed and / or constructed throughout the Shire.

Hornsby Shire Council maintains 68 sediment basins throughout the Shire. As with GPD's, proper maintenance is essential to ensure optimal performance, therefore, Council scheduled the cleaning of a number of established basins in the 2014 - 2015 period. It is important that sediment basins are cleaned at least biennially (or at 30% capacity) so as to prevent colonisation of weeds and the release of potentially bio-available contaminants caused by disturbance events (e.g. scour and re-suspension).

2.2.4. Constructed Wetlands

Natural wetlands are transitional environments between terrestrial and aquatic habitats. They are characteristically shallow environments that are cyclically, intermittently or permanently inundated by fresh, brackish or saline water. Wetlands provide habitat for biota such as emergent macrophytes, macroinvertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds which are dependent on the inundation of the wetland.

In managing urban stormwater pollution of natural waterways, constructed wetlands are often built to mimic nature and to achieve improvements in stormwater quality through natural physical and chemical processes. Furthermore, they provide additional benefits through the provision of habitat for aquatic and terrestrial fauna, maximising biodiversity and enhancing aesthetics.

2.2.5. Stream Remediation

Many creeks become physically degraded when the natural hydrology of the catchment is altered. This most often results in creek bank scour and erosion which is accelerated through processes such as the clearing of riparian vegetation and increased stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces. This degradation can have a detrimental impact on water quality often resulting in an increase in sediment transport and associated sediment bound contaminants.

Aquatic flora and fauna are impacted through a loss of habitat, increased competition with weeds, poor light penetration into the water column due to increased turbidity levels and smothering of benthic organisms with increased sedimentation.

In the remediation of a degraded section of stream the following techniques are used:

- **Riffle zones and natural rock fall structures** - Are used to provide in-stream habitat, stabilise the creek bed, aerate the water and allow maximum UV light treatment from sunlight to destroy faecal bacteria.
- **Pool zones** - Are incorporated to create habitat for fauna and macrophytes and to dissipate flow velocities which allows sediments to drop out for later removal.
- **Revegetation of riparian zone** - This zone is planted with indigenous native tubestock to improve habitat, enhance faunal corridors and vegetation links, provide a food source for both terrestrial and aquatic organisms and to stabilise the banks.
- **Stabilising stormwater outlets** - Rock armouring around stormwater outlets reduces erosion and scour caused by high flows.

In addition, the majority of stormwater treatment measures discussed in this report also incorporate some stream remediation to stabilise banks around the devices and improve habitat immediately up and downstream. Although the environmental benefit of stream remediation works is difficult to quantify, the works provide a significant benefit in terms of a reduction in erosion and associated sediment loads moving to the lower reaches of creeklines and receiving waters, improved native riparian and aquatic habitat and enhanced visual aesthetics.

- **Creek bank stabilisation** - Typically using locally sourced sandstone boulders that prevent the creek bank from eroding any further and provide habitat for fauna and flora on the rock surface and in cracks between rocks. A variety of softer creek bank armouring strategies may also be incorporated, including the pinning or staking of jute mesh/matting, woven blankets, fallen logs and chain-wire mesh. These approaches are often combined with the planting of native plant cells or tubestock.
- **Use of meanders** - To aid in the reduction of flow velocities during storms.

2.2.6. Projects Delivered in 2014 - 2015

In the 2014-2015 financial year, \$878,000 was spent on capital works with 6 catchments remediation projects being initiated and completed. These works involved the construction of:

- Four end-of-pipe biofilters: Pennant Hills, Epping, Cherrybrook (x2).
- Two vault installations: Hornsby Pool (installed by Infrastructure & Recreation Division) and Mount Colah;
- Installation of a Biofilter/stormwater Harvesting System: Dural;
- 9,761 native plants were planted at new and existing sites to replace weeds and help facilitate the process of water quality treatment.

Additionally, the following works were also carried out on existing sites

- Upgrade of Community Nursery water reuse system, Pennant Hills;
- Sediment removal from:

- Hull Road, Beecroft;
- Malton Road, Beecroft
- Blantyre Close, Thornleigh
- Castle Howard Road, Cheltenham
- Denman Parade, Normanhurst
- Larool Crescent, Thornleigh
- Duneba Drive, Westleigh x 4 sediment basins.

Catchment characteristics, site conditions and constraints are the core factors in determining what type of measure is constructed. However, where possible, Council aims to provide primary, secondary and tertiary treatment to optimise benefits to the downstream environment.

Table 2.2 lists the locations and treatment measures for projects completed in 2014 – 2015. A full list of all devices managed by Hornsby Shire Council is detailed in Appendix A with projects from the 2014 – 2015 period defined in bold.

Table 2-2 - Capital Works Projects 2014 – 2015

(1-main treatment 2- supplementary treatment, EP- End-of-pipe biofilter)

Project Location	Biofilter	Stormwater Harvesting Scheme	GPT Installation
James Henty Drive, Cherrybrook	1(EP) ¹	2	
Patricia Place, Cherrybrook	1(EP)		
Abuklea Road, Epping	1(EP) ¹		
Hornsby Pool, Hornsby			1 ²
North Street, Mount Colah			1 ³
Pennant Hills Park (below Netball courts), Pennant Hills	1(EP)		

1 Upgrade of sediment basin to biofilter

2 Installation by Infrastructure & Recreation Division

3 Vault installed upstream of existing biofilter



Plates 2-5: Biofilters completed in 2014-2015 period
Patricia Place, Cherrybrook
James Henty Drive, Cherrybrook (retrofit of a sediment basin to biofilter)
Abuklea Road, Epping (retrofit of a sediment basin to a biofilter)
(clockwise from top left)



Patricia Place, Cherrybrook - Biofilter

In early 2015, Council installed a two biofilters at Patricia Place, Cherrybrook downstream of two existing sediment basins. This catchment receives high levels of leaf litter from both deciduous and indigenous trees in the area which are delivered to the two basins via Council's piped stormwater system and drainage channels. For this reason a treatment train approach was used, including a sediment basin on each channel leading to a biofilter, to optimise the treatment efficiency of the system.



**Plates 6-9: Patricia Place,
Cherrybrook –
Rock works, media added,
Basin during rainfall event and basin
planted out.**

North Street, Mount Colah - Stormwater Quality Improvement Device (SQID)

A stormwater quality improvement device was installed at North Street, Mount Colah in June 2015 to capture suspended pollution in response to issues regarding litter, debris and sediment clogging the biofilter at Parrish Place, Mount Colah (downstream

of vault location). Modifying the site with a waste rack was unfavourable due to limited access and significant costly earthworks. To address these issues a Continuous Deflection Device (CDS) type trash screen was installed below ground upstream of the biofilter. The CDS separates pollution using a vortex action to capture suspended pollution prior to entering the biofilter basin downstream



Plates 20-23 Installation of North Street
Underground Vault, Completed Vault.

3. Catchments Remediation Rate Asset Maintenance

3.1 CRR Asset Maintenance

3.1.1. Cleaning and Maintenance of CRR Assets

Included within the CRR capital works budget is provision for monitoring and maintenance of all structures on a regular, recorded basis. Council continues to utilise contractors (on a 3 year contract) to undertake maintenance works under Council supervision.

Maintenance typically involves regular cleaning of SQUiDs and periodic maintenance of sediment traps and wetlands in terms of sediment removal and bank repair. Fundamental design principles allow ease of draining and access for maintenance of all water quality control devices which results in efficient and cost-effective maintenance techniques in the long term. The current maintenance contract runs to 2016.

The existing contracts stipulate the contractor's responsibilities. These are outlined as follows:

- To maintain existing water quality remediation structures to ensure optimal functioning and a weed-free surrounding landscape of many devices;
- To ensure quality control / assurance throughout the maintenance process incorporating:
- Minimal pollution of the site during cleaning and transport of materials; and
- Efficient, accurately documented records of contents removed and / or actions taken.
- Contractors are required to provide both a status and cleanout report sheet for each structure after maintenance. Council requires this to evaluate SQUiD performance and device accountability;
- Contractors are required to dispose of waste material to a nominated landfill or a privately operated screening operation that offers a competitive rate per tonne. The only exception being the liquid / solid mix waste removed by vacuum from wet sump

devices. This waste shall be disposed of to an approved location at Council's expense; and

- That the contractor has a proven record of Work Health and Safety (WHS) commitment, training and record keeping.

The frequency of maintenance varies between treatment measures and a majority of SQUiDs need regular inspections and maintenance after each significant rainfall event. In 2014 - 2015 Hornsby Shire recorded approximately 33 large events (>10mm of rainfall in the previous 24hrs) and 4 very large events (>50mm in the previous 24hrs) which has resulted in higher yields than in previous years (refer to Appendix B for statistical data).

Larger wet vault SQUiDs are inspected and maintained on a quarterly basis, whilst constructed wetlands and leachate treatment systems are maintained on a more regular schedule. Sediment basins are inspected regularly and maintained as required biennially. These basins need periodic maintenance in terms of sediment removal, bank repair or minor structural repairs. The scope of these works is based on additional quotations for specific works and upon joint inspection by Council's Environmental Scientist Catchment Remediation and the Contractor (Refer to **Table 3.1**).

Wet vault SQUiD: Rocla CDS Unit



Table 3-1 - Maintenance Operations for Stormwater Treatment Measures

Stormwater Treatment Measure	Inspection Frequency	Maintenance Frequency	Waste Destination	Reporting
GPD (end-of-pipe)	Storm event (>10mm in 48hrs)	Selective based on inspection (within 5 working days)	Council nominated site.	Within 2 weeks from completion
GPD (wet vault)	No inspection. Quarterly empty as scheduled	Quarterly empty as scheduled	Council nominated site. Liquid fraction decanted to passive open space or to an approved facility	Within 2 weeks from completion
GPD (pit insert)	Quarterly or after a Storm Event (>10mm in 48hrs) Monthly	Selective based on inspection (within 5 working days)	Council nominated site	Within 2 weeks from completion
Constructed wetlands, Leachate treatment, Biofilter	Biannually or after a storm event (depending on magnitude)	Scheduled monthly or as required	Weed material composted onsite or disposed of to an approved facility. Sediment disposed of to a Council nominated site	Monthly
Sediment basins, Creek remediation	Biannually or after a storm event (depending on magnitude)	Selective based on inspection (within 10 working days)	Weed material composted onsite or disposed of to an approved facility. Sediment disposed of to a Council nominated site	Within 2 weeks from completion

Table 3.2 presents the efficiencies in terms of cubic metre of waste collected against the cost of maintenance in the July 2014 – June 2015 financial year for each type of device. The total clean cost for each device and average clean cost of devices emptied during this period are also presented. The

table shows that good efficiencies can be achieved with devices such as vaults, trash racks and pit inserts. Higher costs are associated with net devices, litter baskets and ski-Jumps due to various factors related to cleaning and pollution removal efficiencies.

Table 3-2 - SQID comparative costs from July 2014 - June 2015

Device	Total Clean Cost / Total m ³	Total Clean Cost for 2014-2015	Average Clean Cost of Devices Emptied
Net-Techs (Proprietary Net), (n=84)	\$218.11/m ³	\$10,558	\$125.70
Proprietary Underground Vaults ¹ (n=81)	\$184.60/m ³	\$29,550	\$365.00
Litter Baskets (n=30)	\$206.00/m ³	\$3,565	\$119.00
Channel Nets (Proprietary Net), (n=106)	\$230.51/m ³	\$21,955	\$207.00
Trash Racks (n=27)	\$104.13/m ³	\$13,427	\$497.29
Ski-Jumps (Proprietary Device), (n=4)	\$278.70/m ³	\$1,378	\$344.44
Pit inserts (n=118)	\$209.05/m ³	\$2,360	\$20.00

¹**Note:** Proprietary Underground Vaults include Rocla, CDS and Humeceptor Vaults.
n: number of device empties.

3.1.2. Bush Regeneration, Landscape and Wetland Maintenance

Due to the increasing number of devices being built and the resulting demand for timely and efficient maintenance, Council has continued to engage bush regeneration contractors on a 3 year basis with an optional additional 1 year. The contracts are annually renewed based on a performance evaluation of the previous year's work and compliance with the conditions of the contract. The key objectives of the contract are:

- to maintain planted native vegetation around water quality structures and nominated wetlands, using methods that have minimal environmental impact on aquatic organisms and water quality;

- treatment and eradication of any riparian and aquatic weeds giving priority to the treatment of categorised noxious weeds, applying herbicide according to manufacturer's specifications and in a responsible and recorded manner (in terms of both environmental and personal safety); and
- to provide a maintenance report for each site after treatment, including a more detailed maintenance report for the wetland sites which is required to assess the extent of plant growth and site recovery from weed infestation.

In 2014 - 2015, contractors were responsible for landscape maintenance of seventy eight sites at a cost of \$154,000 (approximately 3,756 hours) which covered bush regeneration activities on approximately 69,000m² of land managed under this contract. This involved weeding and spot spraying

of the immediate area surrounding each water quality control asset including landscaped areas that have been mulched and planted with local native species. Some replacement planting and staking of existing tubestock is also required. Newly constructed devices will also require planting of terrestrial tubestock and in some cases, aquatic (macrophyte) plantings, with the majority of plant stock being supplied by Council's Community Nursery. Maintenance reports and invoices are submitted to Council on a fortnightly basis. Targeted terrestrial weed species include - Privet, Camphor Laurel, Lantana, Blackberry, Turkey Rhubarb, Castor Oil plant, Balloon Vine, Madeira Vine, Honeysuckle, Morning Glory, Asparagus Fern, Mist Flower, Crofton Weed, Ochna, Ginger, Wandering Jew and other herbaceous weeds and grasses such as Kikuyu and Paspalum.

Wetland maintenance involves the weeding / spraying of riparian areas and removal of weeds and nuisance plants within the shallow wetland ponds. In 2014 - 2015, contractors were responsible for maintaining 16 wetland sites carrying out approximately 1,780 maintenance hours at a cost of \$73,000 (this includes four wetlands not built using funding from the CRR budget) and covered works on approximately 46,000 m² of land and wetland under this contract. Of this, 56% was dedicated to Council's four largest wetlands (Wallumeda, Laurence Street, Hastings Road and Clarinda Street). Time is also allocated to the removal of stormwater litter / rubbish

dispersed throughout the pond and edge areas. Replacement planting with macrophytes is also carried out, including occasional wetland establishment at new sites. A wetland maintenance sheet is required to be completed when conducting works within wetlands, as Council requires this information for wetland condition monitoring.

Target aquatic weed species include Typha (Bullrush), Barnyard Grass, Milfoil, Watercress, *Cyperus eragrostis* and other undesirable or noxious water plants (e.g. *Ludwigia peruviana*, Alligator Weed and Salvinia). If a W1 Noxious Weed category plant is found onsite, the Contractor is to immediately notify Council as required under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

3.1.3. Total Maintenance Costs

The total cost to Council to maintain its water quality improvement devices and adjacent landscaped areas was approximately \$430,000 in the 2014-2015 financial year. This included \$203,000 for the cleaning of SQUIDS and disposal of waste and \$227,000 for landscaping maintenance and bush regeneration at the sites. Other associated costs included the monitoring and maintenance of leachate treatment facilities, tree work and staff wages.

4. Catchments Remediation Rates Assets Performance

4.1 Rainfall Measurement

Daily rainfall data is obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology at eleven sites across the Shire. This data is used to examine the relationship between total yields of gross pollutants and rainfall. In 2014 - 2015 the Hornsby Council area recorded more than double the rainfall received in 2013 - 2014 (Refer to Appendix B for statistical data).

4.2 Pollutant Removal Trends

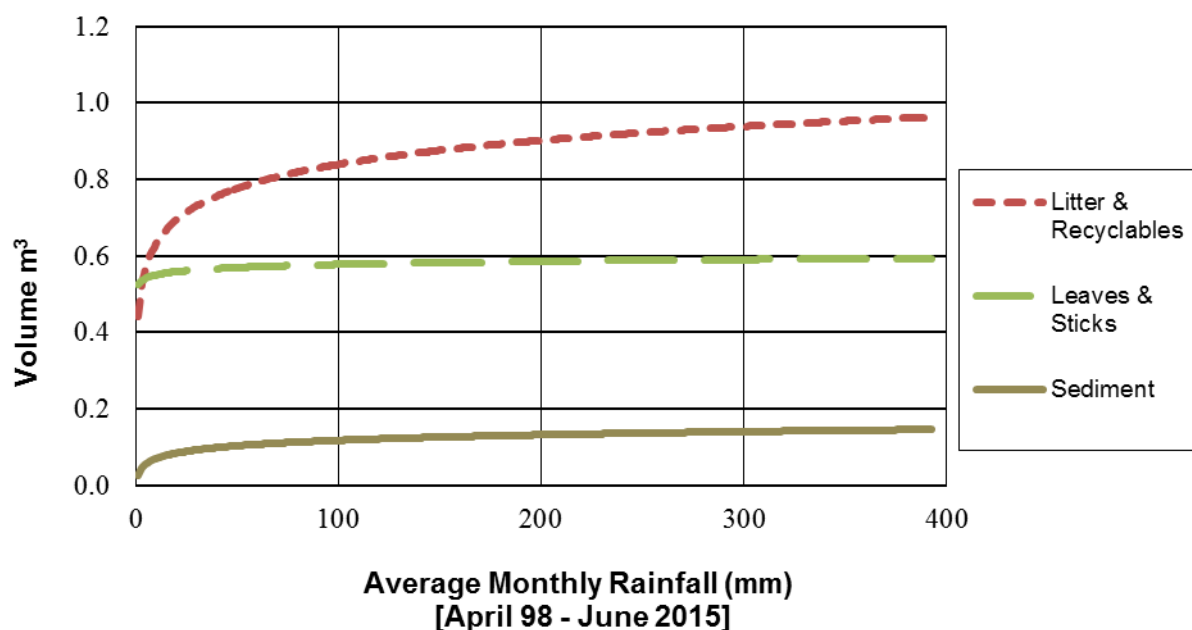
The collection of performance data over the 2014 - 2015 financial year has allowed Council to examine the indicative maintenance costs and gross pollutant removal trends for the 433 water quality improvement devices in the LGA. The results indicate that in 2014 - 2015, SQIDs have served to remove approximately 1000 cubic metres collectively of sediment, litter and organic matter from the Shire's waterways.

These volumes were more than the previous year which can be best explained by two anomalies:

- The higher levels of rainfall experienced during the 2014-2015 period compared to the 2013-2014 financial year which can translate to a higher mobilisation of organic matter from gutters and drains and being captured by downstream devices; and
- The high yield of sediment and organic matter resulting from the cleaning out of a number of large sediment basins in the 2014 - 2015 period.

The following series of figures examine the performance of SQIDs in 2014 - 2015 and against previous years.

Figure 4-1 - The relationship between average monthly volume of gross pollutants and average monthly rainfall



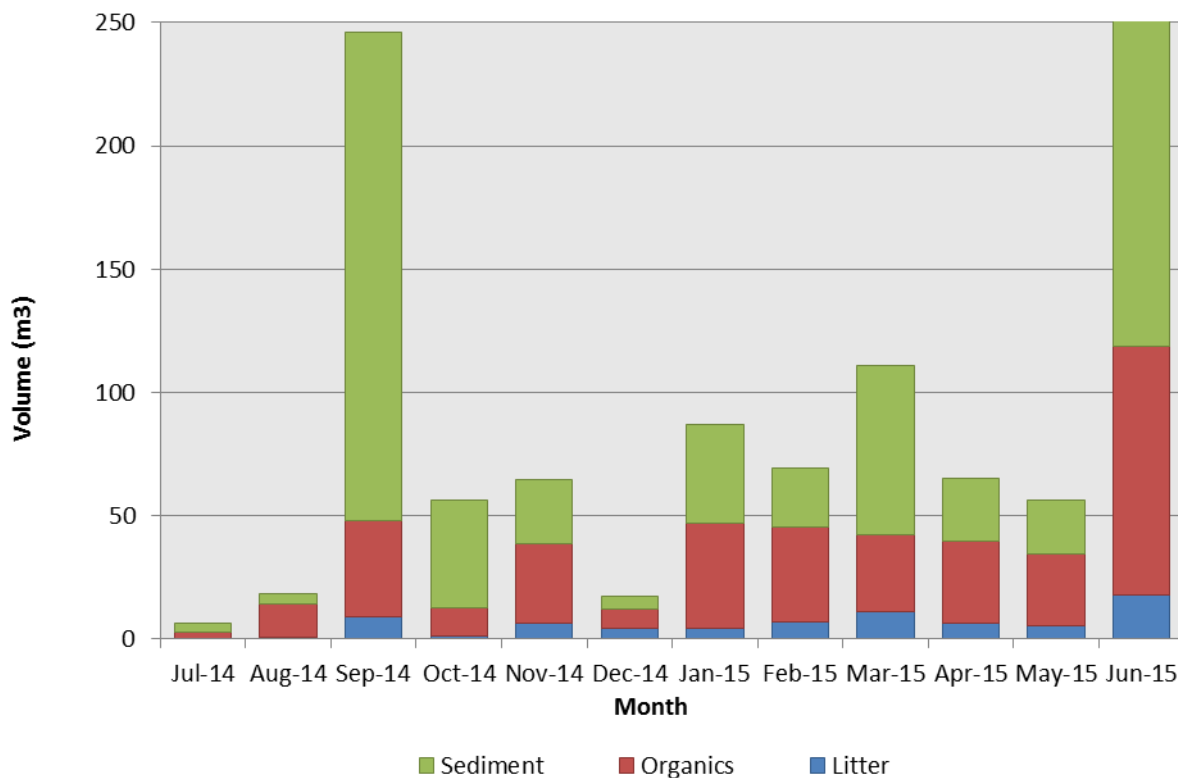
NOTE: Volume removed = total volume removed by all SQIDs across the Shire divided by number of SQIDs emptied.

When pollutant volume is analysed against average annual rainfall, all three categories of gross pollutants are mobilised and captured after only 10 mm of rainfall as evidenced in **Figure 4.1** by the evident rise in each curve. This phenomenon is referred to as the “first flush” effect, after which the volume captured continues to rise at a much slower rate in relation to rainfall volumes.

It can be seen that the load of litter recovered from all devices is relatively mobile when experiencing

only small levels of rain. This can be seen by the more steeply rising red dotted line. This is most likely due to the fact that litter is readily mobile and floatable in the formal drainage system (curb, gutter and pipes) and most of it will be flushed and collected in downstream SQIDs, even in small rain events. However, the fact that the curve for sediment has a gradual climb, proportional to rainfall, illustrates that after the initial flush the transport of sediment is directly proportional to stormwater volumes and associated energy.

Figure 4-2 - Volumes of pollutants removed from SQIDs (2014 - 2015)



The actual volume of pollutants removed from month to month shown in **Figure 4.2** varied greatly in the 2014-2015 period. A clear correlation between monthly removal rates and rainfall cannot be made due to: 1) variable lag times between rainfall events and cleaning events, and 2) the disproportionately high volumes removed from sediment basins and wetlands evidenced in the September 2014 and June 2015 periods, which are in addition to regular cleaning events.

However, a correlation is found between rainfall and pollutant yield from Council’s SQIDs when viewed annually, as shown in **Figure 4.3**. With the higher

rainfall levels experienced in the 2014 – 2015 period there is an increase in stormwater run-off into Council’s drainage system that results in pollutants being mobilised and therefore transported and trapped by SQIDs. A greater number of rainfall events also resulted in a greater number of SQID empties (in response to the event) which reflects the higher yield in the 2014-2015 period (compared to 2013-2014). Additionally, higher rainfall levels can result in greater mobilisation and scour of sediment from the upstream catchment due to the higher velocities experienced.

Figure 4-3 - Pollutant volume (m3) removed from SQIDs against average annual rainfall July 2009 – June 2015

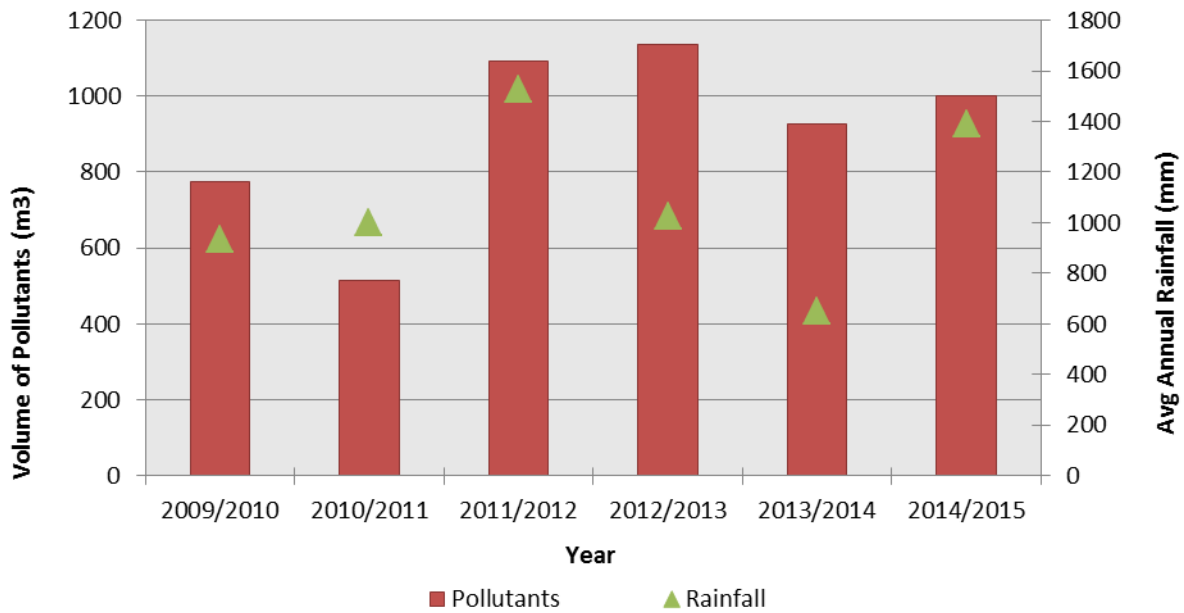
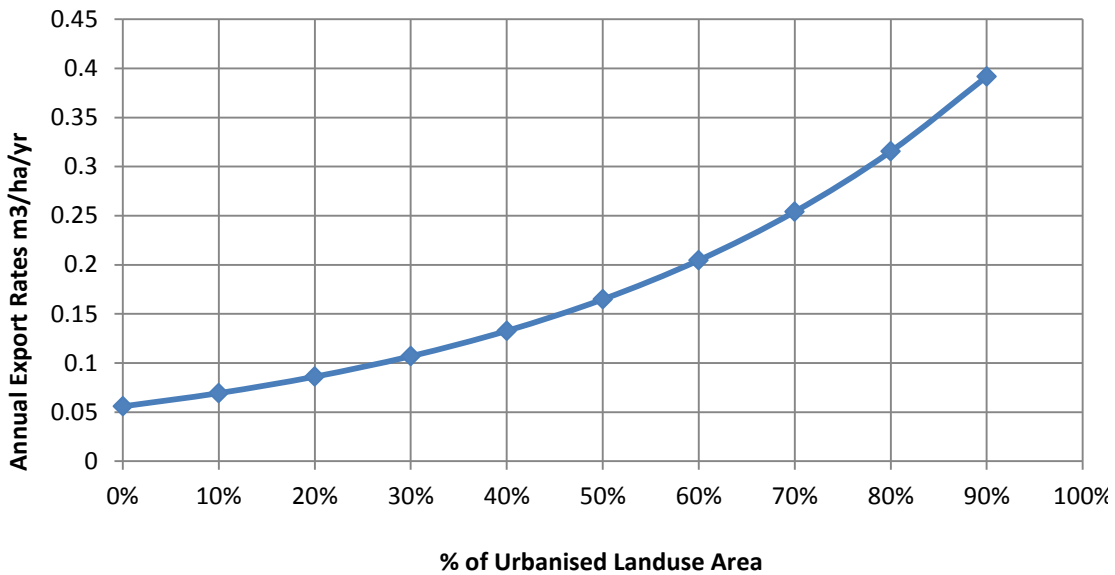


Figure 4-4 - Prediction of annual gross pollutant rates using landuse area



Hornsby Shire Council is now at a stage where the data gathered from the various SQIDs can be used to predict the annual gross pollutant (export) rates on the basis of landuse. **Figure 4.4** shows how the annual export rate of pollutants exponentially increases with the amount of catchment that is urbanised (excludes bushland / open space). This information can be used when planning for future devices, in terms of expected export rates and

known device capabilities. Stormwater managers can then compare actual pollutant export rates with the predicted values in order to gauge the efficiencies of devices through time.

The high frequency of Hornsby Council’s inspection and cleaning of the devices combined with the unique trap designs for ease of maintenance, ensures that the pollutant trapping efficiency is

optimum for each storm event and that materials do not decompose or stagnate causing additional

problems with the release of pollutants into downstream receiving waters.

4.3 Wetland Performance

4.3.1. Pollutant Removal Trends and Costs

The size of catchments draining to these constructed wetlands ranges from 15-400 hectares. The average pond surface area to catchment area ratio calculates at 0.23% which is below the minimum design size recommended by DLWC (1998) of 2% of the catchment area. It should be noted that this recommendation does not account for the variability associated with different catchment land uses, pollutant loads, peak flows, topography and soils. It is best used to determine preliminary wetland feasibility. Because the nature of Hornsby Shire is so topographically constrained (ridge top development that does not afford large areas for wetland construction) and contains significant remnant bushland, the wetland feasibility threshold is much lower than average.

Table 4-1 - Constructed wetland annual costs and monitoring records to end of June 2015

Wetland (Year Built)	Capital Cost \$	Pond Surface Area (m ²)	Pond Surface Area to Catchment Area (%)	Cost per m ² of pond (\$/m ²)*	Average Annual Maint. Cost ² (\$/yr)	Monitoring Data (year/s)
Asquith						
Baldwin Avenue (2005)	38,000	123	0.46	327	2,240	Nil
Beecroft						
Lamorna Ave (2005)	134,000 ⁴	400	0.44	349	5,675	Nil
Midson Rd (2003)	252,000	1,220	0.03	209	2,598 ³	Nil
Plympton Rd (2000)	305,000	350	0.06	878	2,383 ³	Nov 99-Jun 2002
Brooklyn						
Brooklyn Rd (1997)	46,000	205	0.26	231	1,421	Nil
Castle Hill						
Hastings Park (2002)	445,000	1,500	0.60	301	6,353	Jul 2001-Aug 2003
Cherrybrook						
Cherrybrook Lakes (1988)	70,000	4,615	0.58	16	1,897	2007-current
Dural						
Millstream Grove (1995)	60,000	1,014	1.06	62	2,470	Nil
Galston						
Salloway Rd (2000)	36,000	190	0.01	194	785	Nil
Hornsby						
Clarinda St (2001)	241,000	1,550	0.82	159	5,732 ³	Jul 2002-Feb 2010
Pennant Hills						
Laurence St (1996)	135,000	225	0.06	621	4,733	Jun 1995-Jun 2002
Thornleigh						
Dartford Rd (2006)	80,000	250	2.27	327	1,649	Nil
West Pennant Hills						
Boundary Rd (1996)	288,000	1,875	0.14	159	10,625	Aug 1998-Jun 2002
John Savage Cres (2004)	203,000	1,050	0.09	195	1,409 ³	Nil
Mean	163,333	985	0.46	306	3,251	NA
<p>1 Includes monthly grab sampling (wet / dry) and probe (total of 13 parameters). Analysis by NATA lab 2 Includes weeding/spraying, sediment / rubbish/debris removal, planting / mulching and replacement and reporting (excludes volunteer Bushcare labour) 3 Volunteer Bushcare present onsite 4 Capital costs incorporates up to 100m of stream remediation *Cost/m² of pond is calculated using capital cost and average annual cost / year</p>						

5. Landfill and Leachate Remediation

The Catchments Remediation Program has also been responsible for funding the treatment of polluted leachate from two of the Shire's largest former municipal tip sites at Arcadia Park, Arcadia and Foxglove Oval, Mt Colah. Instead of using the traditional technologies available for the treatment of leachate, Council has looked to more sustainable and innovative methods that can achieve pollution reductions and serve as a model for leachate treatment at a local government, state and national level.

This work is significant by way of the methodology which mimics natural processes of nitrification and denitrification. Council staff have worked with

specialised scientific and consultants to design, construct and monitor both treatment systems. Council is committed to the long-term maintenance, monitoring and management of the two facilities in order to justify and apply the technological benefits to other landfills within the Shire. Monitoring to date has revealed a reduction in ammonia-nitrogen which has maximised the opportunities for reuse on adjoining open space and landscapes (Foxglove Oval only).

Monitoring results illustrating the treatment levels achieved by the system can be viewed in the "Water Quality Monitoring Program 2014 – 2015 Annual Report".

6. Catchments Remediation Rate Environmental Education

Environmental education is delivered by Council's Catchments Remediation Education Officer to rate payers, residents, local business & industry, community groups, council staff, teachers and students within the Shire.

The definition of "environmental education" generally refers to organised efforts to teach about how natural environments function and, particularly, how human beings can manage their behaviour and ecosystems in order to live sustainably.

In the context of the Catchments Remediation Program, council's environmental education activities generally focus on promoting community awareness of:

- CRR-funded capital works program
- Stormwater quality improvement devices
- Hornsby's water quality monitoring program
- Hornsby's catchments, creeks and estuarine areas
- Total water cycle management
- Stormwater pollution
- Stormwater harvesting
- Water conservation
- Catchment care personal actions

During the 2014 - 2015 financial year, the Catchments Remediation Education Officer completed the design and installation of educational interpretive signage at fourteen locations around Hornsby Shire. The signs were installed at a selection of Hornsby's biofiltration stormwater quality improvement devices. Locations included the suburbs of Cherrybrook, North Epping, Pennant Hills, Thornleigh, Westleigh, Hornsby Heights, Mt Colah, Berowra and Brooklyn. This initiative produced six separate signs, including five customised site specific biofilter signs and one generic biofilter sign (see image below).

This education initiative received a highly commended award at the 2015 Stormwater NSW Awards in the *Excellence in Policy or Education* category.

To date, activities co-ordinated or facilitated by the Catchments Remediation Education Officer have included:

- Stormwater Pollution awareness and CRR promotion at Community Events
- "EnviroMentors" Keeping Waterways Clean & Saving Water school incursion program within Hornsby Shire
- Catchment tours
- Hornsby Environment Network for Schools (HENS)
- Lane Cove River Catchment Day
- Hosting stalls and displays at various community events, such as
 - Council's Native Plant Giveaways
 - Berowra Woodchop Festival
 - Brooklyn Spring Fair
 - Hornsby's Christmas Spectacular
 - Hornsby TAFE Environmental Expo
 - Bushland Festival
- Media campaigns
- Promotional Material
 - developing print material and website content
 - preparing case studies of CRR devices
 - stormwater pollution messaging
- Guided tours promoting the CRR program and capital works installed
- Workshops
- Rainwater tank and grey water awareness workshops
- School presentations
- Resource materials for school assignments

- Streamwatch water quality monitoring support
- Grant funded projects
- Water for Life Council Partnership Kit (stormwater awareness)
- Catchment Connections (stormwater and catchment awareness)
- Tankscape – Rainwater Tanks in Schools Program
- Hornsby Creek Catchment Urban Sustainability Program



Environmental education is a learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment and associated challenges, develops the necessary skills and expertise to address the challenges, and fosters attitudes, motivations, and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action (UNESCO, Tbilisi Declaration, 1978).

Plate 10-11 Educational Initiatives

(top to bottom)

Catchment Tour of CRR Biofilter

Nature's Filter

Biofilters (also known as bioretention systems or raingardens) use the combination of plants and sand to filter and remove pollutants from stormwater run-off. Here's how they work:

1 Polluted stormwater from surrounding properties, footpaths and roads runs into the biofilter via street drainage.

2 Biofilters are customised for each site location and may include a gross pollutant trap to collect litter and leaves.

3 Stormwater flows into a sediment trap, which slows the flow of water, allowing sediment to drop out for later removal.

4 Water disperses over the surface of the biofilter maximising the volume of run-off to be treated. Native grasses, shrubs and trees are densely planted and selected on their proven capacity to absorb pollutants.

5 Run-off water is filtered as it percolates downwards through almost a metre of loamy sand. Biofilters remove pollutants (eg. nutrients and heavy metals) through physical, chemical and biological processes, including filtration, plant uptake and microbial activity.

6 Slotted drainage pipes collect the treated water and direct it into a collection pit. These pits also act as overflow points during heavy rainfall.

7 Cleaner, treated water flows to local creek and estuary.

Filter media (loamy sand)
Coarse sand
Gravel drainage layer
Slotted collection pipes

Leaves, litter, dog poo, cigarette butts, car wash detergent, paint, engine oil, garden run-off (fertiliser and pesticide) and sediment from building sites all pollute our waterways. Please remember: the drain is just for rain!

Hornsby Shire Council... **protecting your local creek**

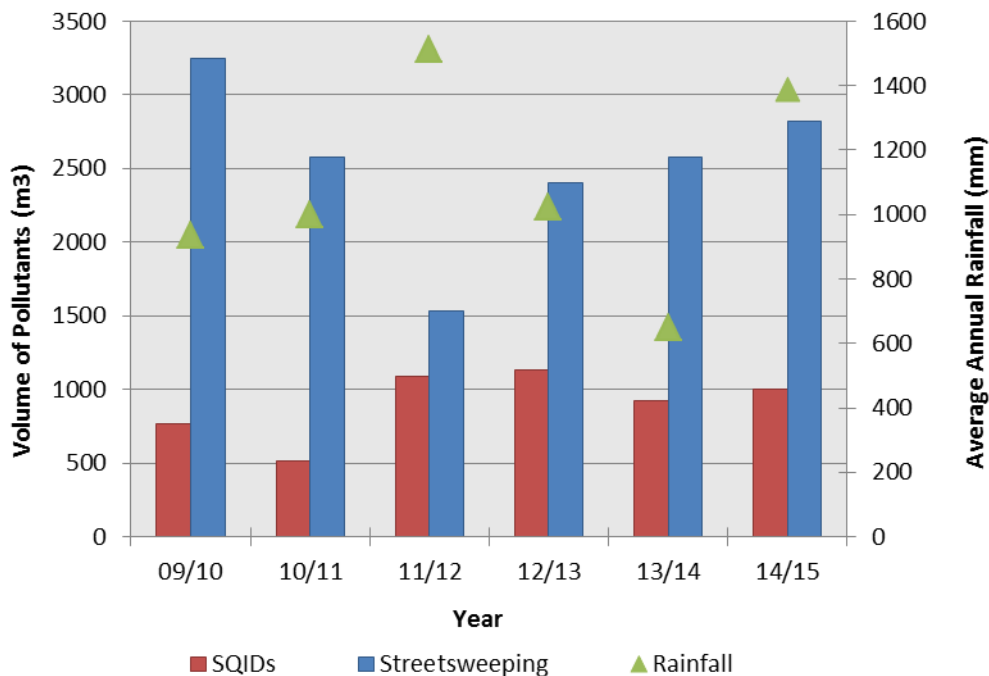
7. Street Sweeping

Since 1997, the Catchments Remediation Rate (CRR) has funded a proportion of Council's Street Sweeping Program at a total cost of \$233,000 per year. Street sweeping is an effective method by which gross pollutants (sediment, leaves and litter) can be collected at source by targeting problem leaf drop areas and high pollutant load land use areas, e.g. commercial and industrial.

In 2014 - 2015, 2,820 cubic metres of material was collected from scheduled cleaning of roadside curb

and guttering. This is an increase on the 2,579 cubic metres collected in the 2013 - 2014 financial year potentially due to the higher level of rainfall during the 2014 – 2015 financial year resulting in a greater delivery of this matter into the guttering of Hornsby streets. This is further supported by the higher capture of cubic metres captured in SQID's during the same period. This can be seen in Figure 7.1.

Figure 7-1 - Pollution yield (m³) extracted by SQIDs and street sweeping against average annual rainfall July 2009 – June 2015



8. Total Water Cycle Management

The Sustainable Total Water Cycle Management Strategy provides actions and integrates existing programs for managing the natural and urban water cycle in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Urbanisation has altered the way water flows through a catchment resulting in poor water quality and aquatic ecosystem health. Broadly the actions outlined in the Strategy aim to minimise the urban impact on the natural water cycle, including water quality. This is based on the premises that by managing the urban water cycle as a whole a more efficient use of resources can be achieved providing not only economic benefits but also improved social and environmental outcomes.

The enhancement of water quality treatment, through the Catchments Remediation Program, and water re-use has been the main focus of the Strategy. To achieve this goal biological treatment of polluted water and stormwater harvesting has become an effective and environmentally viable option to reduce pollution and potable water use in urban areas.

8.1 Stormwater Harvesting

The harvesting of stormwater involves the collection, treatment, storage and use of stormwater run-off from urban areas. The process differs from rainwater harvesting as the runoff is collected from drains or creeks rather than roofs.

Benefits associated with stormwater harvesting include:

- engagement of water conservation practices;
- cost savings from reusing water;
- reduce and reuse the volume of stormwater/irrigation water leaving the site;
- water quality treatment of stormwater;
- reduced pollution loads to waterways;
- reduce wastewater flows;
- apply water resource sustainability practices;
- minimise the dependency on potable water;

- enhancing playing field condition and
- promote social interaction, and a healthier community.

8.2 Stormwater Harvesting Projects

Stormwater harvesting facilities have been previously constructed at Greenway Park, Berowra Oval, Epping Oval, Nth Epping Oval, Somerville Oval, Foxglove Oval, Pennant Hills Nursery and Thornleigh Oval. The benefits derived from these works have included, reusing water to irrigate the parks in a sustainable and cost effective way and to reduce pollution downstream ecosystems. These works have also provided social benefits to the community by enhancing playing field condition and promoting social interaction. Typically urban stormwater contains high levels of gross pollutants and suspended solids that alter flow conditions, decrease light penetration and effect habitat of aquatic ecosystems. Nutrients and bacteria are also associated with urban pollution which causes excessive growth of plants and alga leading to oxygen depletion.

• Greenway Park

Greenway Park is located in Cherrybrook. The stormwater harvesting facility was completed in 2009. The facility has a storage capacity of 400kL (i.e. four underground 110 kL tanks).



Plate 12 Water quality testing of harvested stormwater, Thornleigh Biofilter/stormwater harvesting system

- **Berowra Oval**

Berowra Oval is situated north of Hornsby in Berowra. The stormwater harvesting facility was completed in October 2009. Water storage consists of a 90kL concrete belowground tank located adjacent to Gully Rd.

- **Epping Oval**

Epping Oval was completed in 2011. The facility has a storage capacity of 400kL's consisting of two underground tanks (i.e.100kL's and 300 kL's).

- **Nth Epping Oval**

North Epping Oval was completed in 2011. The project includes 100kL's and 300kL's below ground storage tanks.

- **Somerville Oval**

Somerville Oval was completed in 2010. The facility has a belowground storage capacity of 400kL

- **Foxglove Oval**

Foxglove Oval was a landfill site. The oval was compacted, capped and converted to Foxglove Oval in 1985. A water quality treatment facility was installed to reduce the impacts of the leachate coming from the site. The treatment process involves a two-cell natural soil-based shallow wetland and a nitrification-filter to treat water to a level compatible with standards for irrigation reuse. A harvesting system was completed in June 2010 to reuse the effluent to irrigate the oval.

In 2014 the recycling system was upgraded to a three phase stainless steel pump and a monitor protection system. The monitor system will protect the pump from power surges and electrical malfunctions.

- **Thornleigh Oval**

The Thornleigh oval stormwater harvesting scheme was completed in 2013. The facility is located at Dawson Ave, Thornleigh. Stormwater flows are captured into a primary 100kL's stormwater storage biofiltration tank.

Water is pumped via a rising main along Ferguson Avenue to a 20kL header tank located at Thornleigh Oval ready for distribution.



Plates 13-14 Thornleigh Biofilter/Stormwater Harvesting System (during and after construction)

- **Pennant Hills Nursery Cottage**

The nursery cottage stormwater harvesting scheme was completed in 2003. Flows discharge into a primary 107kL's primary storage tank. Water is then treated and stored in a 110kL's tank ready to be used for irrigation.

The facility was upgraded in 2014/2015. The works included: cleaning and renewal of all drainage pipework, pits; seal and repair of water leakages; renewal of biological media; cleaning of storage tanks; servicing of pumps and electrical panels and the installation of a UV lamp. Details can be seen in one of the examples below.

James Henty Oval Biofilter Basin and Stormwater Harvesting

In May 2015 Council constructed a biofilter basin at James Henty Park, Dural. The biofilter basin is a vegetated sand filtration system consisting of a sand filter medium that provides treatment to

stormwater flows through dense sedge vegetation. The benefits will result in improving the water quality, reducing noxious weeds and restoration of habitat. The project involved the construction of the biofilter wetland and a storage tank for the purpose of reusing the treated water to irrigate James Henty Oval.



Plates 15-19 Before and During Construction,
Post Construction Prior to Media Being Added,
Completed Biofilter & Tank Installed.

Pennant Hills Nursery Water Recycling Plant

An ultraviolet radiation (UV) treatment lamp was installed at the Pennant Hills Nursery stormwater harvesting plant in June 2015. The upgrade improved the water quality to a high standard for producing healthy disease free plants and in doing so fulfilled the Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme (NIASA) standards. The NIASA

accreditation ensures an affective framework for management against plant microbial diseases that ensures the community are receiving plants grown to the highest industry standards. This is maintained by instilling best practice management in terms of nursery operations and from accredited suppliers that are regularly audited to ensure continued compliance and ongoing improvements.



Plates 24-26 UV Treatment Equipment inside Shed, View of Treatment Tank and Nursery Plants Produced at the Council's Community



8.3 Stormwater Harvesting Facilities Preventative Maintenance

Council has implemented a preventative maintenance program for the stormwater harvesting facilities. The preventative maintenance program includes a six

monthly service for each facility. The program will also ensure public health safety by preventing equipment failures and decrease system downtime by replacing suspect defective worn components. The outline of the preventative maintenance work requirements is shown in Table 8-1

Table 8-1 - Stormwater Harvesting Preventative Maintenance Program

Process	Function	Preventative Maintenance
Raw Water Collection	Pump well	Dewatered and de-sludge.
	Rising main pumps	Clean, replace seals, O rings, oil and test.
Storage Tanks	Raw Storage	Empty, inspect, clean and de-sludge as required.
	Transfer Pumps	Clean, replace seals. O rings (as per manufactures requirements)
Filtration	Backwash screen filter	Clean screen filter and inspect and replace worn components as per manufactures requirements (i.e. O rings , pawl and reverser)
	Media Filter	Check valves, water quality (turbidity), pressure and increased frequency of backwash. Media to be replaced every 5 years.
Tertiary Treatment	UV Disinfection	Clean / replace lamps and test as per manufacturer requirements.
Electrical Systems	Control Panel	Clean sensors and calibrate all functions to ensure true accurate readings.
Plant Room	Mechanical	Check lines and fitting connections for leaks and wear.
Header Tank	Treated Storage	Inspect and clean as required.

9. Conclusions

This report aims to provide quantitative data and analysis of the relative performance of different water quality treatment measures, including GPD's, sediment basins, wetlands and biofilters that have been constructed to improve stormwater quality in Hornsby Shire. The results of the report can be used by stormwater and catchment managers to provide a better insight into determining the type of structure and suitability for specific sites. Furthermore, the data provides valuable information about the costs (both capital and maintenance), benefits and device optimisation which can aid in the formulation of

strategies to improve catchment / landuse practices by both structural and non-structural means.

The performance of these devices has allowed Council to both refine and modify future designs, and judge their appropriateness to proposed remediation sites based on catchment size and land use impacts.

10. References

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Appendix A - SQUID Site Location

Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices Non - Proprietary (37)

Graduated Waste Racks (4)

Cherrybrook
Flametree Crescent (2)
Appletree Close
Odney Place

Trash Racks (21)

Beecroft
Norwood Avenue

Berowra
Berkeley Close
The Gully Road

Berowra Heights
Warrina Street

Castle Hill
Belltree Place

Cheltenham
Castle Howard Road

Cherrybrook
Woodgrove Road

Epping
Beecroft Road

Glenorie
Tekapo Road

Hornsby
Northcote Road
Water Street
Clarinda Street
Malsbury Road
Old Berowra Road

Mt Kuring-gai
Hamley Road

Normanhurst
Denman Parade

Pennant Hills
Bellamy Street

Thornleigh
The Comenarra Parkway
Larool Crescent

West Pennant Hills
New Farm Road
Wilga Street

Litter Baskets (11)

Asquith
Mittabah Road

Beecroft
Sutherland Road

Berowra
Bambil Road x 3

Berowra Heights
Berowra Waters Road

Cherrybrook
Shepherds & Macquarie
Drives

Hornsby
Clovelly Road
Sherbrook Road

Thornleigh
The Comenarra Parkway
Janet Avenue

Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices (SQIDs) - Proprietary (278)

Underground Vaults (27)

Asquith
Dudley Street
Gardenia Street

Beecroft
Jacinta Avenue

Berowra
The Gully Road

Berowra Heights
Woodcourt Road

Berowra Waters
Dusthole Bay

Brooklyn
Dangar Road
George Street

Castle Hill
Foley Place

Cheltenham
Castle Howard Road

Cherrybrook
Greenway Park
Millbrook Place
Monterey Place
Rosemary Place

Dural
Lockyer Close

Eastwood
Blaxland Road (Somerville
Park)

Epping
Somerset Street

Hornsby
Hornsby Pool
Hunter Street

Hornsby Heights
Pike Road

Mount Colah
North Street

North Epping
Boundary Road

Thornleigh
Dartford Road x 2
Sefton Road

Waitara
Unwin Road

West Pennant Hills
Cardinal Avenue

Net Techs / Pratten Nets / Channel Nets (75)

Asquith
Baldwin Avenue
Stratford Place

Berowra
Boundary Street x 3
Ti Tree Crescent

Berowra Heights
Currawong Road x 2
Joalah Crescent

Castle Hill
Childrey Place

Cheltenham
Castle Howard Road x 2
Kirkham Road x 2

Cherrybrook
Gavin Street
Glenoak Way
Kenburn Avenue
New Line Road x 5
Pecan Close

Cowan
Alberta Avenue

Dural
James Henty Drive
New Line Road x 3

Epping
Brucedale Road x 2
Ridge Street
Stanley Street

Hornsby
Burdett Street x 8
Clarinda Road
Pacific Highway
Rosemead Road x 2
Sherbrook Road
Binya Close

Hornsby Heights
Galston Road x 5
Raphael Drive

Mount Colah
Jessica Place
Murralong Road x 2
Parklands Road

Mount Kuringai
Gundah Road x 2
Pacific Highway x 5

Normanhurst
Hinemoa Avenue

North Epping
Boundary Road

Pennant Hills
Brittania Street x 2
Morrison Place x 2

Thornleigh
Blantyre Place x 2

Westleigh
Duneba Drive x 3
Russell Crescent

Ski-Jump Litter Traps (3)

Carlingford
Anthony Street

Hornsby Heights
Off Heights Place

Pennant Hills
George Street

Pit Inserts (172)

Beecroft / Carlingford / Epping
Various Locations (35)

Eastwood
Blaxland Road (Somerville
Park) (2)

Pennant Hills
Commercial area (4)

Asquith
Mills Park Tennis Carpark
Wattle Street (3)

Glenorie
Cairnes Road

Thornleigh
Industrial / Commercial
Zone (11)

Berowra
Berowra Waters Road & Pacific
Hwy (4)

Hornsby
Hornsby Industrial area (20)
Dural Street (3)
CBD Various Locations (70)

Waitara
Thomas and Orara Streets
(6)

Berowra Waters
Dusthole Bay

Mount Colah
Pacific Highway
Sue Place (2)

Westleigh
Eucalyptus Drive

Brooklyn
Brooklyn Road (5)

Normanhurst
Denman Road (2)

Sediment Basins (63)

Asquith (1)
Beecroft (2)
Berowra (6)
Berowra Heights (1)
Cheltenham (5)
Cherrybrook (11)
Cowan (1)

Dural (2)
Epping (7)
Epping North (1)
Glenorie (1)
Hornsby (3)
Hornsby Heights (2)
Mount Colah (3)

Mount Kuringai (2)
Normanhurst (2)
Pennant Hills (3)
Thornleigh (4)
West Hornsby (1)
Westleigh (5)

**Biofilters, Bioswales, Streetscape Raingardens, Tree Pit Biofilter and Stormwater Reuse Biofilter (68)
Biofilters/Bioswales (29)**

Berowra
Boundary Street

Berowra Heights
Currawong Road

Epping
Abuklea Road

Cheltenham
Castle Howard Road
Lyne Road

Cherrybrook
Appletree Drive
Gavin Place
James Henty Drive
Lawson Place
Patricia Place
Pecan Place

Glenorie
Tecoma Drive

Hornsby
Stewart Avenue

Hornsby Heights
Margaret Avenue
Oorin Road
Peter Close
Spedding Road

Mount Colah
Murralong Road
Parish Place

Mount Kuringai
Gundah Road

North Epping
Belinda Crescent
Malton Road
Braidwood Avenue
Eastcoate Avenue

Pennant Hills
Albion Street
Blackbutt Avenue
Pennant Hills Park

West Pennant Hills
Bellamy Street

Westleigh
Apanie Avenue

Streetscape Raingardens (21)

Berowra Heights
Turner Road (6)
Brooklyn
George Street (4)

Epping
Ray Road (4)
Cowan
View Street

Waitara
Alexandria Parade (4)
Galston
Fagan Park (2)

Tree Pit Biofilter (17)

Epping
Oxford Street (13)

Hornsby
Coronation Avenue (4)

Stormwater Reuse Biofilter (1)

Thornleigh
Dawson Avenue

Constructed Wetlands (14)

Beecroft
Lamorna Avenue
Midson Road
Plympton Road

Brooklyn
Brooklyn Road

Castle Hill
Hastings Park

Epping
Ridge Street

Galston
Salloway Road

Hornsby
Clarinda Street
Clovelly Road

Pennant Hills
Laurence Street

Thornleigh
Dartford Road
Larool Crescent

West Pennant Hills
John Savage Crescent
Boundary Road

Developer Constructed Wetlands (10)

Berowra
Summer Hill Way

Dural
Millstream Grove**

Thornleigh
Huntingdale Way
Wild Ash Avenue

Castle Hill
Foley Place

Hornsby Heights
Sydney Road**
The Outlook**

Westleigh
The Sanctuary

Cherrybrook
Shepherds Drive (The Lakes)**

Mount Colah
Kalang Road**

** Council managed

Stream Remediation Projects (47)

Berowra Creek Catchment	Hawkesbury River Catchment
<u>Berowra</u> - Boundary Street - Gwandalan Crescent <u>Berowra Heights</u> - Wymah Road <u>Castle Hill</u> - Hastings Park <u>Cherrybrook</u> - Lakes of Cherrybrook - Woodgrove Road <u>Glenorie</u> - Tecoma Drive <u>Hornsby</u> - Clarinda Street - Reddy Park - Stewart Avenue <u>Hornsby Heights</u> - Heights Place <u>Mount Colah</u> - Murralong Road - Parrish Place - Parklands Road <u>Pennant Hills</u> - Albion Street - Laurence Street <u>West Pennant Hills</u> - John Savage Crescent - Wearne Avenue - Wilga Street <u>Westleigh</u> - Duneba Drive - Elouera Road	<u>Brooklyn</u> - Brooklyn Road
	Lane Cove River Catchment
	<u>Beecroft</u> - Fearnley Park - Lamorna Avenue - Midson Road - Norwood Avenue - Plympton Road - Ray Park <u>Carlingford</u> - Anthony Street <u>Cheltenham</u> - Castle Howard Road - Kirkham Street - Lyne Road <u>Cherrybrook</u> - Flametree Crescent <u>Epping</u> - Brucedale Avenue - Kent Street - Ridge Street (east) - Ridge Street (west) - Pembroke Road - Stanley Street - Essex Street <u>Normanhurst</u> - Hinemoa Avenue - Nicholas Crescent
Cowan Catchment	<u>North Epping</u> - Belinda Crescent <u>Pennant Hills</u> - Orchard Street <u>Thornleigh</u> - The Comenarra Parkway - Thornleigh Street
<u>Hornsby</u> - Sherbrook Road (Northcote end)	

Appendix B - Rainfall Data for Hornsby LGA

Location and Sources of Rainfall Data (BOM 2015)

Monthly / Annual Rainfall For Hornsby Shire (mm)												
Month	Berowra 67052	Cherrybrook 67062	Dural 67086	Hornsby Pool 67065	Glenorie 67010	Maroota 67014	Parramatta North 66124	Pennant Hills 66047	Wisemans Ferry 61119	Wahroonga 66211	Canoelands 67023	Monthly Average
Jul	10	19	18	18	14	15	18	18	15	20	8	16
Aug	128	236	247	265	186	154	185	235	145	262	156	200
Sep	67	40	35	51	31	41	36	42	44	56	35	43
Oct	48	65	60	79	59	48	74	78	33	84	54	62
Nov	32	26	29	21	31	24	35	19	18	18	41	27
Dec	173	231	230	228	207	230	244	204	174	241	186	213
Jan	180	186	165	204	117	120	139	209	147	184	126	162
Feb	58	44	33	58	60	57	62	62	47	56	71	55
Mar	51	53	48	60	57	75	13	57	110	74	124	66
Apr	396	440	464	441	396	409	407	418	344	442	379	412
May	97	77		114	87	78	81	89	70	103		88
Jun	59	71		71	64	48	60	64	47	70	52	61
TOTAL	1301	1489	1328	1611	1309	1299	1354	1495	1194	1611	1233	N/A

Note: Shaded monthly totals have not been quality assured.

Average rainfall and average number of days exceeding 10mm and 50mm of rain for 11 sites across the Shire 2014 - 2015. (Note: Figures in brackets are for 2013 - 2014)

Month	Average Monthly Rainfall 2014 - 2015 (mm)	Average No. of Days >10mm rain	Average No. of Days >50mm rain
Jul	16 (13)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Aug	200 (11)	6 (0)	1 (0)
Sep	43 (20)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Oct	62 (21)	2 (0)	0 (0)
Nov	27 (216)	1 (7)	0 (0)
Dec	213 (29)	8 (1)	0 (0)
Jan	162 (24)	4 (0)	1 (0)
Feb	55 (82)	1 (3)	0 (0)
Mar	66 (141)	2 (7)	0 (0)
Apr	412 (51)	5 (1)	2 (0)
May	88 (10)	3 (0)	0 (0)
Jun	61 (31)	2 (1)	0 (0)
Total	NA	35 (21)	4 (0)

