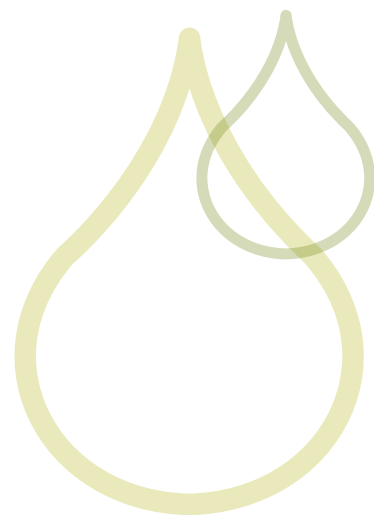




NSW CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

Rainwater Tank Rebate application form



Why are we offering you a rebate?

The NSW Government's \$340 million Climate Change Fund has been established to help business, households, schools and government save energy and water.

It includes \$100 million for rebates to help householders make their homes more water and energy efficient. As well as rebates for rainwater tanks, the program also provides rebates for ceiling insulation and energy-efficient hot water systems.

The purpose of the Rainwater Tank Rebate is to save drinking water by encouraging householders to install a tank to harvest water to flush toilets and wash clothes. The rebate is scaled so that the highest rebate is available for tanks which are connected to a toilet and washing machine.

Eligibility criteria

The NSW Rainwater Tank Rebate is available for the installation of any new rainwater storage system for a residential property, with a minimum 2000 litre capacity, purchased in full and installed between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2009. The tank must also meet the other terms and conditions listed in this brochure.

Households not connected to the mains supply are eligible for a rebate for the purchase of the tank only.

Rainwater tanks installed to comply with BASIX (the Building Sustainability Index) for new homes, major renovations or a pool installation are not eligible for a rebate.

If you install more than one tank, it's the combined size that counts. The total rebate can be no more than the total cost of the tank and installation.

TANK(S) CAPACITY	REBATE	CONNECTION TO TOILET(S)	CONNECTION TO WASHING MACHINE(S)	MAXIMUM TOTAL
2,000 – 3,999 litres	\$150	\$500	\$500	\$1150
4,000 – 6,999 litres	\$400	\$500	\$500	\$1400
7,000 litres and above	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1500

Tank types and size

Rainwater tanks can be above or below ground and can be made of:

- + plastic
- + galvanised steel
- + concrete
- + fibreglass.

Other types of eligible storage systems include bladders and gutter storage.

The most suitable tank for your home will depend on your budget, site and personal preference. You may also need to take into account location-specific needs such as coastal environments, bushfire prone areas or sites with poor access. Tank manufacturers and suppliers can also advise on the most suitable tank for your needs.

Local planning regulations

The rules covering installation of rainwater tanks vary in different council areas. Generally tanks with a capacity of 10,000 litres or less do not need council approval. However your council may have specific requirements for installing the tank, including size, colour and distance from neighbours' boundaries. Contact your local council to find out about planning and building requirements in your area before you install a rainwater tank.



Tank installation and connection

Rainwater tank connections to the toilet or washing machine must be undertaken by a licenced plumber and meet requirements under the NSW Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage.

The licenced plumber will need to sign your rebate application form and provide a Compliance Certificate to confirm that the tank has been professionally installed and complies with the regulations.

Hunter Water will inspect your tank and plumbing before the rebate can be paid by DECC. Your plumber is required to notify Hunter Water on completion of rainwater tank plumbing work.

On receipt of your rebate application, Hunter Water will arrange an inspection with you. The inspection will confirm that the installation meets all relevant standards, the Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage, backflow prevention and Hunter Water requirements. All minimum requirements of compliance with Hunter Water must be met to be eligible for a rebate.

The Rainwater Tank Inspection Fee must be paid before Hunter Water will inspect your rainwater tank. The fee can be paid by cheque/credit card or cash at a Hunter Water Customer Centre or by cheque/credit card with the application. Contact Hunter Water on 1300 657 657 for further details.

Backflow prevention devices

Tanks connected to toilets and washing machines must have a backflow prevention device to ensure that rainwater from the tank does not mix with the drinking water supply.

Hunter Water or the licenced plumber who installs your tank, can advise on the backflow prevention requirements. Visit www.hunterwater.com.au for more information.

To help residents to comply with this requirement Hunter Water will provide a new water meter with a backflow prevention device.

Mains top-up

To ensure water quality, rainwater tanks should not be allowed to run dry. Most rainwater tanks, especially ones that are plumbed into the house, are topped up with mains (drinking) water. This ensures that there is always water available to flush toilets and wash clothes during long periods without rain.

Because the tank will be supplemented with mains water when levels get low, you may still be subject to special rainwater tank water restrictions. Contact Hunter Water to find out what water restrictions apply.

First flush device

It is mandatory for all rainwater tanks to have a first flush device to reduce the amount of debris from the roof accumulating in the tank.

Health requirements

The NSW Department of Health does not recommend drinking rainwater where a reticulated water supply is available. More information is available from the NSW Health Rainwater Tank Brochure, available for download from the department's website at www.health.nsw.gov.au.

Applying for the rebate

You apply for the rebate after your tank has been installed and any plumbing work is completed. You will need to:

- + agree to the Terms and Conditions of the rebate offer
- + complete and sign the attached application form
- + ensure a licenced plumber has signed the form if the tank is connected internally and/or tops up from the mains supply
- + attach original receipts demonstrating proof of purchase and installation and clearly indicating payment in full has been made. The receipts will be posted back to you after processing
- + attach receipt of payment for Hunter Water Rainwater Tank Inspection Fee or payment
- + attach Certificate of Compliance (signed by installation plumber).

Forward the application form and receipts to Hunter Water:

NSW Climate Change Fund Rainwater Tank Rebate Program
Hunter Water | PO Box 5171, Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310

When will I receive the rebate?

Subject to verification of your application details, the Department of Environment and Climate Change will send your rebate cheque within 60 days of receiving the completed application form and receipt(s) from Hunter Water.

Application for a Rainwater Tank Rebate



FORWARD THE APPLICATION FORM AND RECEIPTS TO:

NSW Climate Change Fund Rainwater Tank Rebate Program

Hunter Water | PO Box 5171, Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310

Please tick this box if you wish to pay your Hunter Water Rainwater Tank Inspection Fee by credit card (Mastercard, Visa, Bankcard). A representative from Hunter Water will contact you to arrange this payment.

1. APPLICANT (PLEASE PRINT)

Title: First name:

Last name:

(Note: The rebate cheque will be issued to the name supplied)

Phone (business hours): Mobile:

Email:

Installation address

Address:

Suburb/town: Post code:

Local Council:

Local Water Utility:

Is postal address same as installation address?

Yes No

Applicant's postal address (if different to above)*

Address:

Suburb/town: Post code:

*Your rebate cheque will be posted to this address.

I would like to receive information in future on how I can help combat Climate Change (please select): Email Post

Rain is mostly free of micro organisms and pollutants. However, when rainwater is collected and stored it can become contaminated. For this reason, NSW Health does not advise using rainwater for drinking when there's an alternative source of water available. For more information visit www.health.nsw.gov.au.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

RWT Entered by On / / 20 | Approved Not eligible RFI

Notes:

Application for a Rainwater Tank Rebate (continued)

2. RAINWATER TANK DETAILS

Q1. Tank volume (in litres):

Q2. Estimated roof area connected to rainwater tank (in square metres):

Q3. Is the tank above or below ground?

Above Below

Q4. Purchase date:

Q5. Installation date:

Q6. Is your property connected to mains supply:

Yes No

Q7. Will the tank be 'topped up' from mains supply?

Yes No

Q8. Is the tank connected to a toilet and/or washing machine?

Toilet Yes No How many?

Washing machine Yes No How many?

If you answered Yes to questions 7 or 8, a licenced plumber must complete section 3 of this form.

3. LICENCED PLUMBER'S DECLARATION (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Required where the tank has a plumbing connection to mains supply

Company name:

Plumber's name:

Plumber's licence number:

Plumber's contact number:

I certify that I have done the plumbing work required to connect the rainwater tank supply on this property to a toilet and/or washing machine, and/or to install a backflow prevention device and/or to install a top up to the tank from mains supply and this has been done in accordance with the applicable plumbing guidelines for the installation of rainwater tanks.

Signature:

Date:

4. PROPERTY OWNER'S DECLARATION (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND CONFIRM BY TICKING [✓] THE FOLLOWING)

I declare that:

I am the owner of the residential property where the rainwater tank(s) is/are installed

my tank(s) is/are already installed

the information contained in this application is truthful and correct

I have checked with my local council and my rainwater tank complies with requirements

I was not required to install this rainwater tank to comply with BASIX requirements

I have read, understood and accept the terms and conditions of the rebate program

I have attached the original receipts for the purchase and installation of my rainwater tank*

I have attached the Certificate of Compliance signed by the installation plumber

I have either attached receipt of payment or payment of the Hunter Water Rainwater Tank Inspection Fee.

*Note: receipts must be in the applicant's name. Invoices which do not clearly demonstrate proof of payment in full are not acceptable.

Signature:

Date:



Terms and conditions

The following Terms and Conditions apply to the NSW Government's Rainwater Tank Rebate Program. The applicant should read them carefully before signing the application form.

APPLICATION

Any application for a rebate must be submitted on an official 'Application for Rainwater Tank Rebate' Application Form and must be approved by Hunter Water and The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) before a rebate can be issued.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a rebate, the applicant must complete an official 'Application for Rainwater Tank Rebate' form and attach the original receipt(s). The receipt(s) must be in the applicant's name. DECC will return the receipts. DECC must receive the application no later than 5:00pm, 30 September 2009. The applicant must have installed a rainwater tank(s) that:

- + was paid for in full and installed on or after 1 July 2007 and before 30 June 2009
- + has a minimum total capacity of 2,000 litres (note: this capacity must be reserved for rainwater only and excludes any capacity reserved for potable top-up)
- + is new
- + is covered by a minimum 12 month warranty
- + is installed in New South Wales
- + is used solely for the collection and storage of rainwater for use on the site (rainwater is water collected from roof guttering and downpipes)
- + is connected to an appropriate roof area
- + has a first flush device
- + meets all relevant standards, the Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage, backflow prevention and Hunter Water requirements
- + has all associated plumbing work completed by a licenced plumber
- + is not a stormwater retention tank(s) that is designed only for stormwater management. This type of tank is not eligible for this rebate. Rainwater tanks which store water solely for firefighting purposes are also ineligible.

BASIX

A rebate will not be paid to any applicant who was required to install a rainwater tank, or make a connection to a toilet and/or washing machine to satisfy a BASIX commitment.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Where a property is also supplied with a reticulated drinking water supply, the NSW Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage requires that all properties with a rainwater tank must have a backflow prevention device on the property's boundary, regardless of whether the tank has a permanent connection to the water supply. To assist residents to comply with this requirement, Hunter Water will provide a new water meter with a backflow prevention device. Note that Hunter Water cannot provide this assistance if reasonable access cannot be obtained to the meter for exchange.

Please note that applicants with properties where the water meter is more than 20mm, regardless of whether the rainwater tank is installed above or below ground, will be responsible for the installation of an appropriate backflow prevention device, which must be fitted by a licenced plumber. This may be the case with some medium density or high rise properties. Contact Hunter Water for further details.

Above ground tanks

- + Where the rainwater tank is installed above ground with no interconnection (or cross connection) between the rainwater tank service and the water service supplied from a reticulated water main, no additional backflow prevention is required.
- + Where the rainwater tank is installed above ground with an interconnection (or cross connection) between the rainwater tank and the water service supplied from a reticulated water main, the applicant is responsible for the installation of an additional appropriate backflow prevention device at their expense. Your licenced plumber should provide advice regarding the type of backflow prevention required. In this case, you are not eligible for a rebate until the backflow prevention device has been installed by a licenced plumber and a permit and Certificate of Compliance have been supplied to Hunter Water.

Below ground tanks

- + Where the rainwater tank is installed below ground the applicant is responsible for the installation of an appropriate testable backflow prevention device at the property boundary, at their expense, which must be fitted by a licenced plumber. In these cases, a rebate will not be paid until the backflow prevention device has been fitted and the plumber has supplied a permit, Certificate of Compliance and Test Report to Hunter Water.
- + Where the rainwater tank is installed below ground with an interconnection (or cross connection) between the rainwater tank service and the water service from a reticulated water main, the applicant is responsible for the installation of an additional backflow prevention device at their expense which must be fitted by a licenced plumber. This may be another testable backflow prevention device

or a visible air gap. Your licenced plumber should provide advice regarding the type of backflow prevention required. In this case, you are not eligible for a rebate until both backflow prevention devices have been installed and the plumber has submitted a permit, Certificate of Compliance and Backflow Prevention Maintenance and Test reports to Hunter Water.

Other applicants with properties on the reticulated supply, but with no water meter (this includes properties that share a water meter with other dwellings), should contact Hunter Water to confirm their requirements.

HUNTER WATER APPROVAL

Hunter Water will need to inspect the rainwater tank at least once prior to any rebate being paid. If the applicant fails the first inspection, any additional inspections will be at the discretion of Hunter Water. DECC may/will not pay the rebate until the tank has been inspected, and approved by Hunter Water.

HUNTER WATER APPROVAL - NON COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE

Hunter Water will notify the licenced contractor by written notice of any non-compliant issues or defects. The notice will specify the non-compliant issues or defects and the time frame for the contractor to correct these.

It will be the licenced contractor's responsibility to correct the work and then rebook a follow-up inspection with Hunter Water and pay the additional inspection fee.

If after the time frame on the Non-Compliant Notice has elapsed and the work remains non-compliant within 7 days the application and a copy of the notice will be returned to the owner.

The owner is then responsible to contact their plumber to have the works rectified or they need to engage another licenced plumber to correct the non-compliant work as per the written notice.

ONGOING OPERATION OF TANK

The rainwater tank must operate on the property for a period of five (5) years after installation. On provision of reasonable notice from DECC, the applicant will allow an inspector access to the rainwater tank to conduct audits to ensure its continued operation.

RESEARCH

For the first five (5) years following installation, rebate recipients may be asked to participate in DECC research about water efficiency and rainwater tanks.

SOLE REBATE

DECC will only issue one (1) rebate per property.

REFUND OF REBATE

Applicants will be required to repay the rebate if any of these terms and conditions are found to have been breached in the first five (5) years after installation of the rainwater tank.

PROGRAM CHANGES

DECC reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion and at any time, to change any or all of the terms and conditions of the rebate program or to cancel the rebate program prior to 30 June 2009. Applications must be received by DECC prior to any published termination date for the rebate program. The terms and conditions are available on DECC's website.

LIABILITY

The applicant acknowledges and agrees that as far as the law permits, DECC (and its successors) accepts no liability in respect to any claim, cause of action or loss or damage arising out of, or in relation to, any rainwater tank, rainwater tank system or the consumption of any water from such rainwater tank or system that is the subject of funding assistance. The applicant agrees that they will indemnify and keep indemnified DECC from any claim or liability arising out of, or in relation to, the rainwater tank system that is the subject of this application to the extent that any claim or liability is not caused by DECC's negligence or breach of this application or any other term implied by law.

PAYMENT OF REBATES

Payment of approved rebates will be by cheque only and made payable to the property owner as identified in the application form.

PRIVACY NOTICE

In accordance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (PPIP Act), DECC collects and manages the personal information you provide. Information collected by DECC may be disclosed to the Department of Planning, Hunter Water, and/or the relevant local council. The provision of this information is voluntary, however DECC will not issue a rebate to an applicant who refuses to provide information or agree to the disclosure of their details to the above agencies. If the information provided by the Department of Planning and/or councils indicates that you are not eligible, then DECC will not pay the rebate or will seek reimbursement of any rebate paid. For further information or enquiries regarding privacy or access to your information, contact an FOI/Privacy Officer on (02) 9995 6080 or write to FOI/Privacy Officer, Department of Environment and Climate Change, PO Box A290, South Sydney, NSW 1232.

For more information about the NSW Rainwater Tank Rebate visit:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/rebates

or call

1300 361 967

For information about connection, installation requirements, inspection fees or Compliance Certificates, call Hunter Water on 1300 657 657 or visit www.hunterwater.com.au