

Water in the Lower Hunter



Planning our water future

Hunter Water is planning for our future now to ensure our region has a sustainable and resilient water system that can adapt and respond to change. We need to consider new sources of water (supply) and find new ways to reduce the water we all use (demand). This series of information sheets provide an overview of the potential water supply and demand option types we're discussing with our community as we plan our water future together.

Demand option: Stormwater harvesting

What is it and how does it work?

Stormwater harvesting refers to the collection, treatment and storage of stormwater for reuse - typically for the irrigation of local parks, playing fields or golf courses.

The scale of this option is small compared to other option types, typically providing up to 20 million litres of water per year per scheme.

What is currently in place in the Lower Hunter?

There are few council or Hunter Water owned stormwater harvesting schemes in the Lower Hunter, however some golf courses have schemes used for irrigation.

Hunter Water has been working with local councils to better understand how stormwater harvesting can be used in our area.

Things we need to consider

The cost effectiveness of stormwater schemes is generally low due to the water treatment and storage requirements relative to the volume of water produced.

Schemes can provide multiple benefits, such as improving public amenity through the provision of green spaces, as well as environmental benefits such as reducing pollutants discharged to downstream waterways.

Stormwater harvesting schemes rely on rainfall and, given their relative small size, supplies can deplete quickly.

Rating of considerations

We've developed a matrix to rate all option types against key considerations based on current industry knowledge. We've considered both positive and negative impacts to come up with a rating out of five for each category. The greater the number of dots, the greater the impact. Reliability has been rated using stars. The greater the number of stars, the more reliability the option type adds to our water system.



Consideration	Rating				
Cost to build	●	●	●		
Cost to operate	●	●			
Environmental impact	●				
Social impact	●				
Reliability	★	★			