

What is Randwick Council doing to improve water quality?

Just as our residents do, Council takes pride in being a coastal area. Our network of 235km of stormwater pipes can move a staggering 2,800,000,000 litres of stormwater every hour. That's the equivalent of 1,120 Olympic-sized swimming pools!

Keeping our beaches clean and pristine is a main priority for us. To keep our beaches clean, we need to keep our drains clean. Every street in Randwick City has stormwater drains. These drains help prevent flooding by moving water quickly away from homes and businesses. Keeping these drains clean and clear of garbage and debris is important to ensure we're keeping our oceans clean.

Here are some ways we're helping to improve water quality.

GROSS POLLUTANT TRAPS

We've installed 35 gross pollutant traps (GPT) in many coastal locations to trap larger items of rubbish that flow via the stormwater drain. These traps are regularly cleaned, especially after major rain events, that can leave them full of rubbish, branches and other materials. They remove about 300 tonnes of pollution each year, preventing it from reaching our beaches and oceans. From that, more than 80% of the pollutants are recycled.

WATER RECYCLING

We capture about 450 million litres of stormwater, filter it and use it for watering parks and reserves each year. This process prevents polluted water from entering our beaches and saves Council around one million dollars in water costs.

STORMWATER DIVERSION

We're working with Sydney water on options for diverting stormwater away from Coogee Beach. In 2013, stormwater was diverted away from Malabar Beach, which led to an improvement in water quality.

CLEANING BEACHES AND STREETS

Our beaches are groomed daily for rubbish removal. We remove 200 tonnes of rubbish and excess seaweed every year. Our sweeper trucks clean streets picking up about 1,000 tonnes of rubbish a year, which reduces pollution from entering our beaches.