Planning our water future

Central Coast Council 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 are discussing with our community as we plan our water future together.

love water use it wisely

Central Coast Council

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.

What is currently in place on the Central Coast?

There are few Council-owned stormwater harvesting schemes of significant size on the Central Coast area which include Central Coast Stadium, Terrigal, and East Gosford (Hilton Moore).

Council has assisted several private organisations to install their own stormwater and roof stormwater harvesting schemes as part of the response to the previous drought in the mid-2000s.

Council will continue working with facility owners and developers 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 relatively small size, supplies can deplete quickly.

How we're considering this option for the Central Coast Integrated Water Resource Plan

Stormwater harvesting schemes will be considered locally based on the demands of specific users.

Council is investigating a subsidised rain water tank program (via rebates), the expansion of existing stormwater harvesting schemes, and will assist developers and facility owners for assessment and delivery of new schemes as opportunities arise.

Releasing harvested stormwater into Mardi Dam

Key results

The table below provides further detail about how this option is being considered in the plan.

	Category	Additional information
Potential additional water available	Low	Dependent on end-user's proximity to potential harvesting sites and their required storage to provide a reliable scheme.
Reliability and resilience	Low	Improves the diversity of sources in our supply system. Relies on rainfall and therefore has low reliability in droughts. Storages are typically small, limiting resilience to low rainfall.

	Impact	Additional information
Indicative cost to build		Require storage, collection and treatment infrastructure.
Indicative cost to operate		Relatively low cost compared to other options.

	Impact	Additional information
Environmental impacts		Less urban stormwater pollution discharged to waterways. Low impacts on natural biodiversity.
Cultural and social impacts		Provides local water sources to maintain green parks and sporting fields.
Timeframe for delivery		Three to seven years.

Key: High Medium Low

Some information contained in this fact sheet was sourced from Hunter Water Corporation