

# Technical guidance

## Groundwater policy

South East Water will accept groundwater or stormwater discharge on a temporary and short-term basis during construction activities.

**Groundwater** is defined as any water occurring in or obtained from an aquifer and includes any matter dissolved or suspended in any such water.

**Stormwater** is defined as surface runoff from rain and storm events. It may contain pollutants such as chemicals, leaves and litter.

South East Water does not accept groundwater or stormwater beyond a temporary and short-term discharge during construction to ensure that:

- The hydraulic capacity in South East Water and Melbourne Water sewerage infrastructure is maintained and protected for sewage flows.
- The parameter load limits to the treatment plants are not exceeded.

**Under this policy, all groundwater or stormwater connections:**

- That are directed to sewer must be approved by South East Water prior to discharge and be managed by an active *Trade Waste Consent*.
- Are only approved for discharge to sewer during the construction phase (temporary discharge). The *Trade Waste Consent* will include an end date that corresponds to the completion date of the construction works (if not earlier).
- Must comply with all requirements stipulated within the Consent throughout the duration of discharge.
- Will not be accepted on a permanent basis.

By applying for a one-off discharge *Trade Waste Consent*, you are accepting this policy and the temporary dewatering guidelines listed overleaf.



Settling tank and electromagnetic flow meter

## Groundwater or stormwater Discharge guidelines

### What to do when planning a groundwater or stormwater discharge to sewer.

#### Before:

- [Lodge an application](#) with South East Water for a *Groundwater or Stormwater Discharge Application*, ensuring that all information is provided as requested within the application form
- As a minimum, a suitably sized settling tank must be installed prior to commencement of any discharge – the size will be stipulated in your *Trade Waste Consent*
- Any additional treatment processes eg: neutralisation, carbon filtration, hydrocarbon removal etc. will also be stipulated in the *Trade Waste Consent*
- A verified electromagnetic flow meter to record the volume of groundwater or stormwater discharged to sewer and any additional instrumentation, where stipulated in the *Trade Waste Consent*, must be installed before commencement of any discharge
- A photo of the flow meter totaliser 'START' read must be provided to the Trade Waste Officer or emailed to [tradewaste@sew.com.au](mailto:tradewaste@sew.com.au)



Electromagnetic flow meter and sample point

- Prior to the connection of any treatment apparatus to the sewerage system, a plumbing application must be lodged through PropertyConnect and consent received from our Development Branch. Visit [Property Connect](#) to submit your application.

#### During:

- A discharge logbook must be maintained for the duration of discharge (see an example logbook template over page)

- A copy of the discharge logbook must be emailed monthly to the Trade Waste Officer or [tradewaste@sew.com.au](mailto:tradewaste@sew.com.au)
- A minimum of one daily reading of the flow meter totaliser (kL), including the instantaneous flow rate (L/s) must be recorded for the duration of discharge to sewer
- Ensure discharge is within the daily limits set out in the *Trade Waste Consent*, otherwise advise South East Water within 24 hours at [tradewaste@sew.com.au](mailto:tradewaste@sew.com.au) to enable a sewer assessment to be undertaken to ensure observed flow rates can be accommodated accordingly.

#### General requirements during discharge:

- You must maintain your treatment apparatus in good working order, including de-sludging of settling tanks (Not permitted to be discharged to sewer) as required and servicing of any monitoring instruments
- Advise South East Water at [tradewaste@sew.com.au](mailto:tradewaste@sew.com.au) if:
  - There are any changes in site contact details related to daily trade waste management and monitoring
  - The term (end date) of your trade waste consent needs to be amended
  - There are any changes to the nature or volumes of your discharge to sewer.

#### After:

Once the discharge has ceased, in accordance with the *Trade Waste Consent*, you must provide the Trade Waste Officer via email or [tradewaste@sew.com.au](mailto:tradewaste@sew.com.au) the following information:

- The final date of discharge to sewer
- The final flow meter totaliser read (including a photo of the read)
- A copy of the discharge logbook records
- Evidence of the removal of the treatment apparatus.

**Note – failure to submit the flow meter reads throughout the duration of the discharge will result in South East Water applying Trade Waste Charges at the maximum rates stipulated within the *Trade Waste Consent* for the period of discharge.**

**Important: Ongoing discharge (permanent connection) of groundwater or stormwater to sewer is not permitted.**

Date	Time	Electromagnetic Flow Meter			Comments
		Instantaneous Flow Rate (L/s)	Totaliser Read (kL)	Total Daily Discharge (kL)	