

City Administrative Centre
Bridge Road Nowra NSW Australia 2541
Phone: 02 4429 3214
Fax: 02 4429 3170
water@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

Shoalhaven Water Rainwater Tank Rebate Program

As our population grows, a key challenge for the Shoalhaven is to ensure a sustainable water supply for the future. The Best Practice management guidelines, acknowledges the need for a demand management initiative. This rebate is an initiative to reduce the demand on the potable water supply and gives the community the chance to conserve water at home and in the garden by installing rainwater tanks.

A rebate is available from Council for customers connected to the town water supply system who install a rainwater tank(s) on their property. Tanks must be purchased and installed from 1 March 2005 and subject to terms and conditions. The tank must also comply with Council requirements for installation.

Rainwater tank rebates may be available at the amount resolved within the annual Delivery Program and Operational Plan to customers who install a rainwater tank on their property.

Fees and Charges

Plumbing Inspection Fees: If plumbing is required to supply toilet and/or washing machine or connection to the potable water supply, approval is required under s68 of the Local Government Act 1993. This application, inspection and associated costs are not waived. Approval must be given and plumbing work inspected before Council will issue a rebate.

Development Application Fees: If rainwater tank is greater than 10,000 litres a Development Application may be required.

Backflow Prevention Fees: If a testable backflow prevention device is required Council's initial registration fee of the backflow prevention device and inspection charge is waived. Ongoing costs will still result from the licensed plumbing inspection and registration with Council annually.

Applying for your rebate

Stage 1: Ensure Compliance of Rainwater tank installation

1. Read the terms and conditions of the rebate.
2. Fill in "Rainwater tank compliance checklist" and submit checklist to Shoalhaven Water.
3. Forward to: Rainwater Tank Rebate Program Shoalhaven Water
PO Box 42
NOWRA NSW 2541

4. Wait for approval for location from Shoalhaven City Council. Rainwater tanks must not be installed over sewer lines.
5. After approval has been received install your tank (Engage a licensed plumber if “Topping-up”, cross-connecting or connecting to a toilet or washing machine).

Stage 2: Application for Rainwater tank rebate

1. Fill in Rainwater Tank Rebate Application.
2. Get your plumber (if you had plumbing work done) to fill in the relevant section of the form.
3. To ensure compliance of NSW plumbing regulations, if you have interconnected your tank to the toilet and/or washing machine, you must arrange to have your plumbing inspected by one of Council’s officers, please phone Development Services on 4429 3337 to arrange an inspection time.
4. To receive a rebate for the tank and installation, you must attach copies of receipt(s) to the rebate application and forward to council.

Forward to: Rainwater Tank Rebate Program - Shoalhaven Water
PO Box 42
NOWRA NSW 2541

Development Exclusions

a) BASIX Certificate

The Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) is a NSW Government initiative. It ensures that all new dwellings in NSW meet the target of 40% reduction in water consumption and a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Compliance with these targets is demonstrated through the completion of a BASIX assessment and the issuing of a BASIX Certificate.

Customers who are required to install a rainwater tank(s) to comply with BASIX and have a BASIX Certificate dated after 1 July 2005 are not eligible for a rainwater tank rebate.

b) Development Consent / Subdivision Requirement Exclusions

Customers who are required to install a rainwater tank in order to comply with a requirement or a condition within a development consent/ subdivision requirement are not eligible for a rainwater tank rebate.

Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions apply; the applicant should read them carefully before signing the application form.

1. Compliance

Any installation of a rainwater tank must submit the “Rainwater Tank Compliance Checklist” form to be checked by Council. The applicant will ensure through this process that the Rainwater tank installation will meet Council requirements.

2. Application

Any application for a rebate must be submitted on a “Rainwater Tank Rebate Application” form and must be approved by Shoalhaven Water before a rebate can be issued. The application must be signed and dated, and copies of receipt(s) for the purchase and installation of the rainwater tank(s) attached. To apply for the rebate the applicant must be an owner of the property where the tank is installed. Rebates applications must be submitted within 6 months of tank purchase.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for a rebate the applicant must complete a “Rainwater Tank Rebate Application” form; attach copies of receipt(s) which must be in the applicant’s name. The applicant must have installed rainwater tank(s) that:

1. Is purchased on or after February 2005.
2. Is in accordance with the current NSW Code of Practice: Plumbing and Drainage.
3. Has a minimum total capacity of 2,000 litres.
4. Is on land that has an authorised approved connection to a water main owned by Shoalhaven City Council.
5. Is not required to be installed in order to comply with a BASIX certificate on/or after 1 July 2005.
6. Is not required to be installed in order to comply with a requirement or a condition within a development consent/subdivision requirement.
7. Is a new tank.
8. Is covered by a minimum 12 month warranty.
9. All associated plumbing work has been completed by a licensed plumber.
10. Is used for the collection and storage of rainwater for site use only.
11. Meets all relevant standards, building codes and Council requirements, including periodic inspection of rainwater re-use systems by Council’s staff (or its Agents) to monitor the on-going compliance of the systems installed.
12. Is to operate on the property for a period of five (5) years after installation rebate recipients may be asked to participate in research during this time.

NOTE: Rebates will be payable based on the amount applicable at the time the water tank was purchased.

4. Backflow Prevention

See Backflow Prevention fact sheet and for more detail see NSW Code of Plumbing and Drainage. Note: The requirements of backflow prevention may vary as a result of changes in the NSW Code of Plumbing and Drainage.

5. Ongoing operation of tank

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

6. Research

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

7. Sole rebate

Shoalhaven Water will only issue one (1) rebate cheque per property.

8. Program changes:

Shoalhaven Water reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion to change any or all of the terms and conditions of the rebate program at any time, to change any or all of the terms and conditions of the rebate program. Applications must be received by Shoalhaven Water prior to any published termination date for the rebate program.

9. Payment

Payment of approved rebates will be by cheque only and made payable to the property owner(s).

10. Privacy notice:

The information requested on this form is being collected by Council for administrative purposes associated with the particular information or service request. The information will be used solely by Council Officers for the purpose mentioned or a directly related purpose. The applicant understands this information is provided on a voluntary basis however if you do not provide, or do not wish to provide this information, Council may not be able to provide the service requested. You may apply to Council for access to or amendment of this information at any time.

Receiving your rebate

After receiving your completed application form and copies of receipt(s) and, subject to variation of your application details, Council will send your rebate cheque within 30 days of approval of your rainwater tank rebate.

Further information

If you would like more information about selecting, using and maintaining rainwater tanks, please refer to our brochure “**A Guide to Rainwater Tanks**”, or alternatively phone Shoalhaven Water on 02 4429 3214.