

Rainwater Tank Rebate Policy

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Policy Number: POL22/133

Adopted: 22/02/2005

Revised: 28/02/2006, 22/08/2006, 25/06/2007, 26/02/2008, 25/11/2008, 21/05/2013,
24/1/2017, 14/03/2022

Minute Number: MIN05.211, MIN06.187, MIN06.1132, MIN07.902, MIN08.179,
MIN08.1534, MIN13.499, MIN17.26, MIN22.182

File: 26581E

Review Date: 1/12/2024

1 PURPOSE

- To help conserve water and reduce stormwater runoff by encouraging the installation of rainwater tanks.
- To provide an incentive for households who might not otherwise install a rainwater tank, by offsetting some of the costs of purchasing and installing a tank. These costs can include the connection of a rainwater tank to a toilet and/or washing machine, offsetting some of the plumbing expenditure and Development Application charges if applicable.

2 STATEMENT

This policy is a Council initiative aimed at helping to reduce the demand on the potable water supply and encouraging the community to conserve water at home and in the garden by installing rainwater tanks. More information about the rebate is provided at Appendix 1.

3 PROVISIONS

3.1 Rebate Schedule

The Rainwater Tank Rebate applies in accordance with the amount as contained within the annual Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Shoalhaven Water will only issue one (1) rebate per property for Rainwater tank(s) regardless of the number of tanks.

3.2 Registration Fee Waiver

If a testable backflow prevention device is required, Council will waive its initial registration fee of the backflow prevention device and inspection charge - review Shoalhaven City Council Fees & Charges for details.

Note: 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 is not waived.

3.3 Eligibility for Rebate

To be eligible for the rebate, the applicant must have installed a rainwater tank that:

- i. has been purchased by the applicant on or after 1 March 2005
- ii. has a minimum total capacity of 2000 litres
- iii. is not required to be installed in order to comply with a BASIX certificate
- iv. is not required to be installed in order to comply with a requirement or a condition within a development consent/subdivision requirement
- v. is in accordance with the current NSW Code of Practice: Plumbing and Drainage
- vi. is on land that has an approved connection to a water main owned by Shoalhaven City Council
- vii. is a new tank
- viii. is covered by a minimum 12 month warranty
- ix. has all associated plumbing work completed by a licensed plumber

- x. is used for the collection and storage of rainwater for use on the site
- xi. meets all relevant standards, building codes, and Shoalhaven City 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
- xii. is to operate on the grounds for a period of five (5) years after installation. Rebate recipients may be asked to participate in research during this time
- xiii. internal plumbing connection to toilet and or washing machine has been inspected by Shoalhaven City Council

4 IMPLEMENTATION

Shoalhaven Water Group has responsibility for implementation of this policy through processing of compliance checklists and applications for the rebate.

5 REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed within one year of the election of every new Council.

6 APPLICATION OF ESD PRINCIPLES

Natural Capital – Conserve water and reduce stormwater runoff.

Appendix 1

Rainwater Tank Rebate

About the rebate

As our population grows, a key challenge for the Shoalhaven is to ensure a sustainable water supply for the future. The NSW Government Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines – August 2007, 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. The tank must comply with Council requirements for installation.

Rainwater tank rebates may be available at the amount resolved within the annual Delivery Program and Operational Plan at the time of application.

Fees and Charges

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.

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 is not waived.

Note: Rural properties are exempt development below 25,000 L

Applying for a rebate

Stage 1: Compliance of Rainwater tank installation.

- 1 Submit online Rainwater Tank Compliance Checklist for Council review.
- 2 Wait for approval from Shoalhaven City Council before proceeding with installation.
- 3 Install tank - engage a licensed plumber if topping-up, cross-connecting or connecting to a toilet or washing machine.
- 4 If tank has been connected to internal plumbing such as toilet or washing machine, arrange for works to be inspected by a Council officer to ensure AS3500 Plumbing & Drainage requirements have been met.

Stage 2: Request Rainwater tank rebate

- 1 Submit online Rainwater Tank Rebate Request.
- 2 Attach copies of receipt(s) for the tank purchase and installation.

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.

1 Compliance

Any installation of a rainwater tank under the rebate program must submit a compliance checklist as this will ensure that the tank installation will meet Council requirements.

2 Application:

Any request for a rebate must be submitted and approved by Shoalhaven Water before a rebate can be issued. The online form must be submitted with copies of receipt(s) for the purchase and installation of the rainwater tank(s). The applicant must be an owner of the property where the tank is installed.

3 Backflow prevention:

See Backflow Prevention fact sheet and for more detail see NSW Code of Plumbing & Drainage.

Note: The requirements of backflow prevention may vary as a result of changes in the NSW code of Plumbing and Drainage.

4 Initial inspection:

Council may need to inspect the rainwater tank at least once prior to any rebate being issued.

5 Sole rebate:

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

6 Program changes:

Shoalhaven Water reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion and 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.

7 Payment:

Payment of approved rebates will be made to the property owner(s) by direct transfer to nominated bank account as submitted on the Rainwater Tank Rebate Request.