

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



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
- 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 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 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 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)	

