



# MEDIA RELEASE

## REVISED WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN APPROVED

The Norfolk Island Regional Council prepared a revised Water Resources Development Control Plan (DCP) which was approved by the Administrator at the Minister's delegate this week. The revised DCP, known as DCP 2 – Water Resources 2021, is now in effect.

The documents can be found on Council's website under [Services > Local Services > Planning and Development > Planning Instruments](#) or hard copies can be obtained from Customer Care.

The draft DCP was made available for public review and comment in August 2021.

A summary of the revised DCP follows.

### **Aim of the review and amendments**

The changes to the DCP have two main focuses:

- **Water Security:** to increase the water storage requirements for new developments to reduce the dependence on groundwater. The need to increase minimum storage requirements is primarily due to reductions in Norfolk's long term average rainfall and the reduction in the Island's water table.
- **Improve Groundwater Quality:** changes to the siting and type of onsite wastewater management systems for sewage are aimed to protect the groundwater from further contamination. Septic tanks and soakage trenches are significant contributing factors to contamination of groundwater and surface water on Island.

### **What will these changes mean for new development?**

#### **Water Storage and Roof Catchment**

The way the minimum requirements are calculated for water storage and roof catchment has changed, based on the water demand for the proposed development. Once the water demand has been determined, then a minimum tank size and roof catchment will be identified. The minimum requirements are specified in the DCP.

These minimum requirements have been tested using the Norfolk Island Rainwater Tank Simulator from the CSIRO to optimise the tank size based on Norfolk Island's conditions. The simulator app can be downloaded here <https://nawra-river.shinyapps.io/raintank/>.

Although the minimum roof areas are proposed to increase for the majority of development types, the total catchment can be made up of multiple buildings such as outbuildings, carports or even the roof of your water tank where water saver devices are installed.

## **Onsite Wastewater Management**

A rapid evaluation procedure has been developed specifically for Norfolk Island to determine the most effective on-site system for new developments on land outside the area covered by the Water Assurance Scheme. The procedure includes 4 stages to guide applicants through assessing site requirements for the treatment and re-use of domestic wastewater at an early stage of the development process.

The procedure helps determine constraints to achieving ecologically sustainable on-site wastewater management (OSWM) through evaluation of site limitations and minimum assessment and design criteria.

All use and development that generates wastewater that is within 75 metres of the Norfolk Island Gravity Sewer Mains must connect to the sewer.

PJ Wilson

**TEAM LEADER WASTE & ENVIRONMENT**

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