



## OUR MACQUARIE RIVER IS UNDER THREAT FROM STORMWATER POLLUTION!

The Dubbo region is located within the Macquarie River catchment which flows from the Great Dividing Range north west to the beautiful Macquarie Marshes and beyond.

Our hard working residents, thriving businesses and unique plants and animals all rely on a strong and healthy river. In fact over 70% of our drinking water comes from the Macquarie River.

The River, which plays an important role for all of us, is currently under threat from stormwater pollution and needs your help!

You see, anything that falls into the gutter, can wash into our street drains and into our waterways inhabited by fish, frogs and other aquatic animals and plants. Grass clippings, fertiliser, chemicals, dog poo, litter, cigarette butts, soil and sediment... that stuff is bad for rivers and for us too!

## WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

It takes more than one person to look after our Macquarie River. But if we stay mindful and all do our part it can make a big difference.

The most effective way to reduce stormwater pollution is to stop it entering the system in the first place.

Read on for Council's tips at home, on the street, and at work or school for reducing the risk of stormwater pollution.



## WHAT IS COUNCIL DOING?

Council continues to play its part in helping to reduce stormwater pollution through:

- Delivering stormwater education campaigns to the local community to ensure residents understand the impacts of stormwater pollution and ways they can help to reduce it.
- Installing stormwater treatment devices in developed areas where practical, such as Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs).
- Requiring new developments to incorporate stormwater treatment measures, such as rainwater harvesting, swales, retention basins, wetlands and GPTs.
- Using asset management guidelines, developed by the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australia, to help manage the stormwater system.
- Undertaking street sweeping programs, rubbish collection and more...

For more information contact  
Dubbo Regional Council  
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# Mr Jones needs your help!



**It takes more than one person to protect our Macquarie River from stormwater pollution.**



# DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT THE MACQUARIE RIVER



## AT HOME

- Sweep, rather than hose, your gutters and driveways regularly and place the sweepings on the garden, in the compost or green lidded organics bin
- Be responsible with chemicals, fertilisers and paints. Use only as directed and store them correctly. Buy only what you need and have the remains picked up by a chemical collection service.
- Wash your car on the grass and not in the street or driveway where detergent, oil and grease may wash into the gutter. Alternatively a better option is to take your car to a car wash, where the water is recycled.
- On bin collection day ensure your bins are not overflowing. On windy days litter can escape from the bins blowing down the street and into our stormwater drains.
- If you have a septic tank, they should always be kept working well to protect your health, and that of the environment.



## ON THE STREET

- Don't drop litter, including cigarette butts, or leave rubbish where bins are already full.
- Say no to single use plastic when visiting food outlets. Take your own reusable bag, keep cup, water bottle, or straw and reduce the risk of these items becoming litter.
- When you are walking your dog, pick up your dog's droppings and put them in the garbage bin. Dog droppings left on footpaths or in parks can wash into our waterways.
- Maintain your car, making sure there are no leaks, but don't work on your car in the street where oil and grease may wash into gutters and stormwater drains. Consider getting your car serviced at a reputable centre that implements best environmental practice.



## AT WORK OR SCHOOL

- Keep your workplace or school clean and free from litter. Make sure all waste and recycling bins have secure lids.
- Be responsible with chemicals, paints, detergents, oils or other harmful fluids. Use only as directed and store them correctly. Wastewater containing any oil or chemicals must be collected by an appropriate regulated waste company.
- Ensure you have a spill prevention and clean-up plan and equipment on hand to help clean up any spills or leaks.
- Keep machinery well maintained to reduce the risk of leaks. Wash vehicles, engines and machinery parts in areas that drain to proper waste facilities.
- On construction or building sites ensure sediment and erosion control measures are in place, including an all-weather vehicle access, a grassed footpath, covers and sediment fences for any piles of sand or soil.
- Clean all outdoor surfaces using a broom, vacuum, blower or shovel (never a hose)
- Ensure all staff and students are aware of their environmental responsibilities e.g. signage, promotion in newsletters, training
- Consider marking business or school stormwater drains with suitable signage e.g. 'This Drain is Only for Rain'.

Follow Mr Jones to find out more about stormwater pollution visit [dubbo.nsw.gov.au](http://dubbo.nsw.gov.au)

