

Stormwater Management Plan

Let's work together to shape a smarter way to manage
our stormwater.

Consultation closes 11:59pm, Sunday, 21 December 2025.



**Our
Adelaide**



CITY OF
ADELAIDE

Customer Centre
25 Pirie Street, Adelaide
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ouradelaide.sa.gov.au

Project Information

The City of Adelaide is developing its Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) to guide how we plan, invest in and maintain the city's stormwater systems for a changing climate. The plan will help protect people, property and the environment from flooding, while improving water quality, liveability and our connection to the River Torrens / Karra Wirra Pari.

Background

Adelaide's stormwater network has supported the city for generations and continues to play an essential role in keeping our streets, park lands and public spaces functioning well. As the city grows and rainfall patterns change, we are taking the opportunity to better understand how this network performs and how it can continue to serve the community into the future.

The Stormwater Management Plan will set a roadmap for maintaining and enhancing stormwater infrastructure across the city's 9.4 km² catchment, including the River Torrens, Keswick Creek and South Park Lands drainage systems. It will also guide how stormwater can be reused to support greener, cooler and more climate-resilient neighbourhoods.

This work aligns with the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030, which highlights the importance of water in strengthening Adelaide's resilience. By managing stormwater more effectively, we can protect homes and open spaces, improve water quality, and use stormwater as a resource to green and cool the city, supporting a healthier, more sustainable future for everyone.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater that runs off roofs, roads, footpaths, parks and other surfaces. It moves through a network of pipes, drains, kerbs, channels, wetlands and natural waterways.

How stormwater is managed today

Underground systems

- Pipes, pits, culverts and drains
- Used in small to medium rainfall events
- Mostly hidden from view

Above-ground systems

- Kerbs, streets, wetlands, rain gardens
- Used in larger events when water flows on the surface
- Sometimes temporarily collects in roads or open spaces

Managing stormwater effectively helps protect people, property, the environment and public spaces.

Why we need a Stormwater Management Plan



Stronger, more intense rainfall events

Climate change is increasing rainfall intensity across South Australia.



Ageing infrastructure

Much of the city's pipe network is older and reaching the end of its design life



A growing city population

The number of residents, businesses and visitors is rising -- doubling within 10 years in some precincts



Community expectations for liveable, greener spaces

Stormwater can support shade, cooling, biodiversity and recreation through nature-based solutions



Protecting Karrawirra Pari and Gulf St Vincent

Improving stormwater quality reduces pollutants, sediment and nutrients entering rivers and coastal environments

How stormwater impacts our city

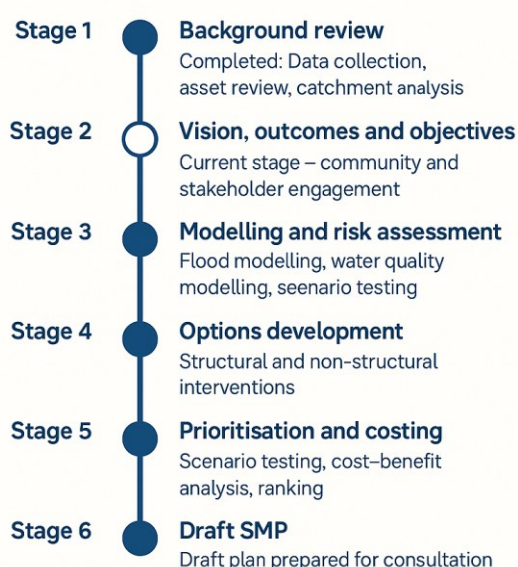
Stormwater plays a major role in how Adelaide functions during and after rainfall. When the network performs well, streets stay accessible, businesses can continue trading, and public spaces drain effectively. When issues occur, even small storms can cause pooling, minor flooding or mobility challenges that affect daily life for residents, workers and visitors. As our climate shifts toward more intense downpours and longer dry spells, stormwater will increasingly influence the comfort, safety and resilience of the city. Beyond drainage, stormwater also has the potential to support greener, cooler neighbourhoods by watering trees, enhancing biodiversity and creating more welcoming public environments. The Stormwater Management Plan will look at how these benefits can be expanded across the city while continuing to protect people, property and essential infrastructure.

Stormwater as a resource for greener, cooler neighbourhoods

Beyond drainage, stormwater can play a valuable role in creating greener and cooler neighbourhoods. When captured or redirected effectively, it can irrigate street trees, support plantings and strengthen local biodiversity, helping to create shaded, comfortable public spaces – especially during hotter months. Using stormwater in this way also reduces pressure on drinking water supplies and supports climate adaptation.

Nature-based features such as rain gardens, wetlands, swales and passive irrigation systems can manage runoff while delivering environmental and community benefits. The Stormwater Management Plan will explore where these opportunities can be expanded across the city, making better use of stormwater as a resource while continuing to protect people, property and essential infrastructure during rainfall events.

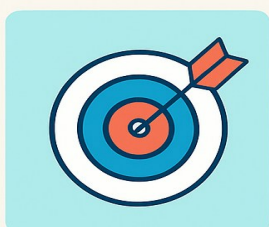
Project timeline



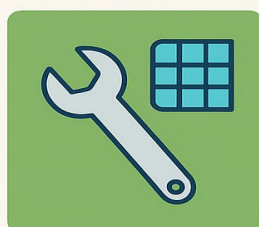
How the plan will benefit the community

Community insight is essential to shaping a Stormwater Management Plan that reflects how the city functions during and after rainfall. While engineering and climate modelling help us understand the technical performance of the network, lived experience highlights the localised issues they can't detect – such as pooling water, blocked drains, mobility challenges or areas that feel unsafe during storms.

What the Stormwater Management Plan will do



✓ Set clear goals
for how
stormwater
is managed



🔧 Identify upgrades and actions
to reduce
flooding and
improve water
quality



\$ Assess costs
and prioritise
where
investment
is needed
most



🤝 Clarify roles
including
how Council
and partners
deliver and
maintain
the system



🌱 Align with State strategies
for climate,
water and
the Park
Lands

Why your feedback is important

Your feedback helps identify opportunities for greener, cooler and more comfortable public spaces. The survey is designed to capture these on-the-ground experiences, so the plan delivers real benefits for residents, workers, businesses and visitors.

Your input will be collected through the online survey. All responses will be reviewed alongside engineering assessments, asset data and climate modelling to help test assumptions, refine priorities and guide decision-making. This combined evidence base will inform the development of the draft Stormwater Management Plan, which will be shared with the community for further feedback before being finalised.

How do I provide my feedback?

There are a number of ways in which you can provide feedback:

Feedback Form (attached to this information pack)

Online

ouradelaide.sa.gov.au

Meet with a staff member

Email your comments to ouradelaide@cityofadelaide.com.au.

Written Submissions

All written submissions must be received by 11:59 pm on the date advertised and should be addressed to:

Community Consultation
Stormwater Management Plan
GPO Box 2252, Adelaide SA 5001

What happens next?

We will acknowledge your feedback either by email or in writing.

Following the close of consultation we will prepare an engagement report.

For enquires please contact:

Scott Cameron

Strategic Project Manager

E: scott.cameron@cityofadelaide.com.au

Or visit ouradelaide.sa.gov.au

Feedback Form

Stormwater management survey

Welcome, and thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on how stormwater can be managed in the City of Adelaide.

Feedback received in this survey will help guide real, long-term improvements that keep our neighbourhoods safer from flooding, make our parks and streets more enjoyable, and use stormwater more wisely to support a greener, cooler city.

Focus Areas of Stormwater Management

There are five focus areas of stormwater management.



Flood protection: Reducing the risk of flooding in our streets, homes and public places by improving how stormwater moves through the city.



Protect receiving environments: Keeping our creeks, rivers and coastal waters healthy by reducing pollution in stormwater.



Stormwater reuse: Capturing and reusing stormwater to irrigate parks, support street trees and reduce reliance on drinking water.



Planning outcomes: Making sure new developments and public spaces are designed to handle stormwater well and support greener, cooler neighbourhoods.



Management: Maintaining and upgrading the city's stormwater drains, pipes and assets so they work well now and into the future.

The next few questions explore what's most important to you when it comes to managing stormwater in the City of Adelaide.

1. Place of residence (required)

Is Adelaide (postcode 5000) or North Adelaide (postcode 5006) where you usually live?

This means this is where you lived or intend to live for at least 6 months.

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. Which of the following neighbourhoods / local area within Adelaide/North Adelaide do you live in?

- ☐ North Adelaide
 - ☐ Adelaide South-West
 - ☐ Adelaide South-East
 - ☐ Adelaide North-West
 - ☐ Adelaide North-East
-

3. What is your relationship to the City of Adelaide?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Resident / ratepayer
 - ☐ Business owner
 - ☐ Work in the city
 - ☐ Visitor for shopping or entertainment
 - ☐ Visit Park Lands for sport or recreation
 - ☐ Other (please specify): _____
-

4. How long have you been a resident / ratepayer of the City of Adelaide?

We want to understand how long you've been connected to the city, as longer-term residents may have experienced more past stormwater or extreme-weather impacts.

- ☐ Less than 1 year
 - ☐ 1–5 years
 - ☐ 6–10 years
 - ☐ More than 10 years
 - ☐ I am not a resident / ratepayer
-

5. What do you use green spaces for within the city?

Green spaces include the Park Lands, city squares and other landscaped areas such as reserves and street gardens. Select all that apply.

- ☐ Recreation (sport, other organised activity)
 - ☐ Relaxation (e.g. lunch break, reading)
 - ☐ Keeping cool
 - ☐ I don't use green spaces within the city
 - ☐ Other (please specify): _____
-

6. How do you move around the City of Adelaide?

We want to understand how stormwater and flooding might affect the way you get around the city. Knowing how people move around helps us understand where stormwater issues make travel harder.

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Private car
- ☐ Share vehicle (e.g. taxi, rideshare)
- ☐ Public transport (bus / tram / train)
- ☐ E-scooter
- ☐ Walk / run
- ☐ Cycle

7. Importance of different environmental outcomes

Stormwater doesn't just stay in the streets – it eventually flows into our rivers, creeks and coastal waters. The way we manage stormwater can affect how clean these places are and how healthy the surrounding land and water ecosystems remain. We'd like to understand what parts of this are most important to you.

Rank these in level of importance

(1 = most important, 4 = least important)

Rank (1–4)	Outcome
	Reducing stormwater entering the River Torrens
	Reducing rubbish and pollution entering rivers and creeks
	Protecting land and creek banks from erosion
	Improving vegetation in waterways and open spaces

8. Protecting the environment from stormwater run-off

Stormwater run-off can carry pollution into rivers and creeks, cause erosion, and affect vegetation and wildlife. Do you have any suggestions on how the environment could be better protected from these impacts?

9. In the event of a major flood, which types of places do you feel should receive the most focus for protection?

All essential services and critical sites (such as hospitals) are always prioritised and protected during flooding. This question is about understanding community views on which types of places should be the focus for long-term stormwater planning and investment

Rank these in level of importance

(1 = most important, 6 = least important)

Rank (1–6)	Type of place
	Public facilities (e.g. hospitals, schools)
	Private businesses
	Private property (e.g. house, apartment, unit)
	Park Lands
	Roads
	Critical services (power, water, gas)

10. In a major flood event, stormwater can be directed both above and below ground. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Use the following scale: **Strongly agree / Agree / Neutral / Disagree / Strongly disagree**

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Water can pool in the Park Lands or public open space as long as I can still use them.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Water can temporarily flow across roads as long as I can still drive on them.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Water should be directed to places like wetlands, low-lying areas where water naturally collects, or creeks.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Water should move quickly into the underground drainage system after rain.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

11. In minor rain events, how would you like to see stormwater managed?

Rank these in level of importance

(1 = most important, 5 = least important)

Rank (1–5)	Stormwater approach
	Through urban design features (e.g. raingardens, permeable paving)
	Wetlands
	Temporary storage (e.g. detention basin)
	Underground infrastructure (e.g. pipes)
	Water sensitive urban design (e.g. infiltration trenches to support tree growth)

12. Stormwater reuse

Stormwater reuse – extent of beneficial use of stormwater run-off

What types of stormwater reuse would you like to see?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Watering of parklands and public open space
- ☐ Watering of street trees to increase greening
- ☐ Water features (e.g. fountains)
- ☐ To reduce demand on drinking water supply
- ☐ Groundwater recharge
- ☐ Business use (e.g. supplying water for cooling systems, toilet flushing, cleaning, or other non-drinking uses)
- ☐ Other (please describe): _____

13. Planning outcomes (development)

Desirable planning outcomes associated with new development, open space, recreation and amenity.

What role do you see new developments having in stormwater management?

New developments (such as housing, commercial buildings and new public spaces) can help manage stormwater by including features like raingardens, permeable surfaces, onsite water storage, green roofs or other water-sensitive design elements.

Open text response:

Stormwater Management Plan



14. Sustainable management of stormwater infrastructure, including maintenance.

Do you have any suggestions for how stormwater management can be improved by the City of Adelaide?

15. Do you have any further feedback you would like us to consider when developing the Stormwater Management Plan (SMP)?

16. Before taking this survey, how much did you know about how stormwater is managed in the City of Adelaide?

Very familiar	Familiar	Somewhat familiar	Unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

17. How important do you think it is for stormwater management to also improve greenery, cooling and biodiversity in the city?

Very important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very unimportant
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Contact Details (optional)

Providing contact details in a feedback form is optional. However, we ask for this information because we want to know a little more about who you are and how you use the city to ensure we get a higher quality of data to go along with your feedback. The data will help us analyse feedback from specific groups (e.g. age, gender, City users), which in-turn will provide a richer and more valuable response to help Council make decisions.

First Name:		Last Name:	
Email Address:			
Address:			
Business/Organisation Name (if applicable):			
Gender:	☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other Identity	Year of Birth:	
Are you a City of Adelaide Ratepayer?		☐ Yes ☐ No	
Please tell us how you participate in city life (tick all that apply):			
☐ Work	☐ Live	☐ Shop	☐ Business Owner/Operator
☐ Study	☐ Tourist	☐ Play (e.g. leisure, recreation, entertainment, dining)	
Please indicate your main areas of interest (tick all that apply):			
☐ Our Community	☐ Our Economy	☐ Our Environment	☐ Our Places
Please indicate the locations that are of interest to you (tick all that apply):			
☐ East End	☐ North Adelaide	☐ South East	
☐ South West		☐ West End	

OurAdelaide.sa.gov.au is Council's online consultation website. It is your chance to be kept up-to-date and provide feedback on areas of the city that interest you. Would you like to sign up to Our Adelaide to receive the monthly newsletter and be notified of new projects that match your interests?

☐ Yes ☐ No **Please provide your email address above*