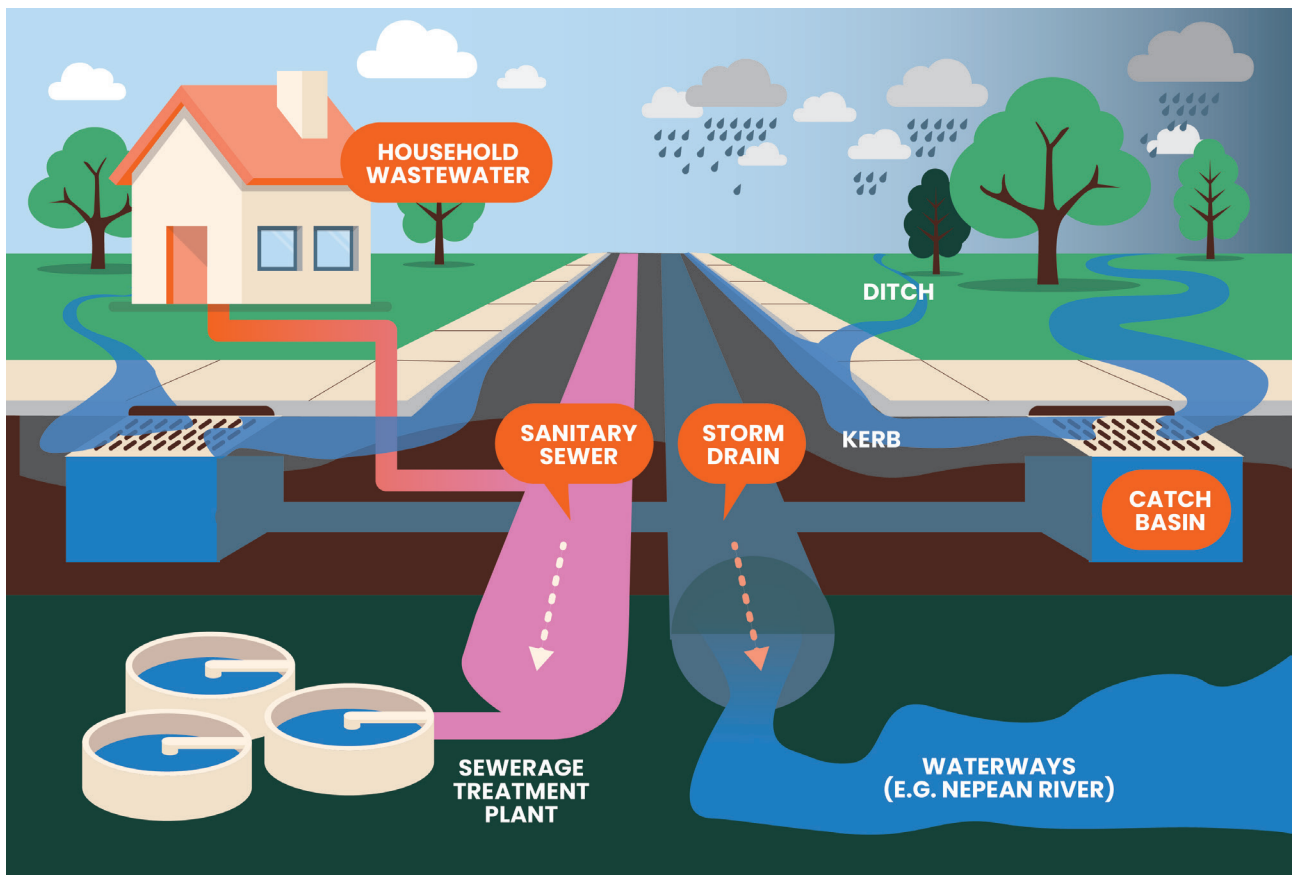


Stormwater drains are different to sewer drains.

The Penrith Local Government Area (LGA) contains the Nepean River, Wianamatta South Creek along with other creeks, lakes, wetlands, and tributaries. To protect these watercourses, it is important to understand the difference between the stormwater drainage system and the sewer system.

Stormwater drainage vs sewer drainage

The image below depicts the difference between the sewer drainage system and the stormwater drainage system.



Stormwater drainage systems collect rainwater that runs off roofs, car parks, roads, and any other impervious surface. As the rainwater runs off these areas it can collect pollutants such as litter, organic waste (grass clippings, animal waste, etc.), and chemicals before discharging these pollutants into our waterways (such as the Nepean River).

Unlike sewage, stormwater drains directly to our local waterways without passing through a treatment plant. Any potential pollutants should not be stored in an area where they can be washed into the drainage system; this includes the roadside kerb.

The sewer system removes contaminated water from your house or business via toilets, showers, internal sinks and drains through a closed drainage system to a sewerage treatment plant where the pollutants are removed and the water is treated before being discharged.

The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 outlines potential fines, environmental protection notices, and other regulatory actions that can be issued should an individual or company be found polluting a waterway.

Examples of pollution



Image 1. Litter accumulating at stormwater drain inlet.



Image 2. Waste dumped in a drainage channel.



Image 3. Chemical spill turned the water pink.

What you can do

Litter prevention

- Dispose of all litter in the appropriate bins, such as the red-lidded residual bin and the yellow-lidded recycling bin.
- Green waste such as grass, plant trimmings and pet excrement are to be disposed of in the green-lidded FOGO bin. Do not wash or blow down the stormwater drain.

Chemical storage

- Store all chemicals in a covered bunded location.
- Ensure containers are not leaking or have potential to spill into a stormwater drain.

- Do not dispose of chemicals (Paints, oils, washing liquids, etc.) in stormwater drains.
- Paints, batteries, motor oil, and other oils can be disposed of at [Community Recycling Centres](#) or at a [Household Chemical Cleanout event](#).
- The Household Chemical Cleanout event accepts certain types of waste. Please refer to the event link above to find out more about waste limits and dates and times of events.

Vehicle washing

Washing any vehicle, car, boat, trailer etc. should be done over an unsealed area, for example grass, or in an appropriate washing facility to prevent chemical laden water from entering the stormwater system.

For more information on this topic, please phone the Waterways team department on **4732 7777**.