

Supplementary Rainwater Tank Information

A rebate is available for Gosford City and Wyong Shire Council customers who install a rainwater tank on their property. This offer is available after 1st January 2003 for existing dwellings. The rebate is based on the total capacity of the tank(s). You will receive an additional rebate if you connect your rainwater tank supply to your toilet and/or your washing machine. This work must be performed by a licensed plumber.

The tank must also comply with Council's requirements for installation.

To qualify for the rebate, the new rainwater tank(s) must:

- be installed after 1 January 2003
- have a total capacity of 2,000 litres or more
- be on a property connected to the town water supply

| Tank(s) capacity | Rebate |
|----------------------|--------|
| 2,000 – 3,999 litres | \$150 |
| 4,000 – 6,999 litres | \$400 |
| 7,000 + litres | \$500 |

Information Sheets available

Information sheets available from www.gwcwater.nsw.gov.au

- Save our water...with a rainwater tank (includes rebate application form)
- Save out water ... with your rainwater tank (Level 2a Restrictions)
- Information for Installers
- Information for Plumbers

Applying for your rebate

Once your rainwater tank has been installed and any plumbing work completed by your plumber, you are ready to apply for the rebate.

Rebate forms are available from www.gwcwater.nsw.gov.au or from Council libraries and Customer Service Centres.

You will need to:

- Read the Terms and Conditions of the rebate.
- Fill in your part of the application form.
- Get your plumber (if you had plumbing work done) to fill in the relevant section of the form.
- Attach your official receipt(s) for the tank and installation.
- send it to:

Gosford City Council
Rainwater Tank Rebate Scheme
PO Box 21
Gosford NSW 2250

Wyong Shire Council
Rainwater Tank Rebate Scheme
PO Box 20
Wyong NSW 2259

Receiving your rebate

You will receive your rebate cheque within 60 days of Council receiving your completed application form and receipt(s), subject to verification of your application details.

Further information

If you have further questions about the rebate program, selecting, using and maintaining rainwater tanks and other ways to save water, please contact Gosford City Council on (02) 4325 8222 Wyong Shire Council on (02) 4350 5555.

Information relating to rainwater tanks can be found on the NSW Health website, <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/ehb/water/rainwater.htm>

Internally Connected Rainwater Tank Rebates

Rainwater tanks that are internally connected deliver the highest amount of savings in town water use.

You also receive an **additional rebate of up to \$500** for internally connecting your rainwater tank.

There are seven different ways to connect your rainwater tank, six of which qualify for this additional rebate. Diagrams showing the different internal connections that qualify for the rebate are included below.

The rebates applicable to each of the different connections types are as follows:

| Option | Ranking of internal water saved | Rebate for internal connection | Proposed rebate application to schedule |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 4 | Schedule 2 | \$300 |
| 4 | 3 | Schedule 2 | \$300 |
| 3 | 3 | Schedule 2 | \$300 |
| 5 | 2 | Schedule 1 | \$500 |
| 6 | 1 | Schedule 1 | \$500 |
| 7 | 1 | Schedule 1 | \$500 |

If you wish to internally connect your rainwater tank it must be installed by a licensed plumber. A top up or bypass connection is generally required.

These top up or bypass connections link your rainwater tank to the town water supply to ensure your washing machine and toilets maintain minimum water levels and operate effectively during low rainfall.

If you do connect your rainwater tank internally any water you use externally must comply with the previous level 2a water restrictions.

This means you can only water externally, using water from your rainwater tank, with a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle for half an hour a day on alternate days between 7am and 9am or 5pm and 7pm.

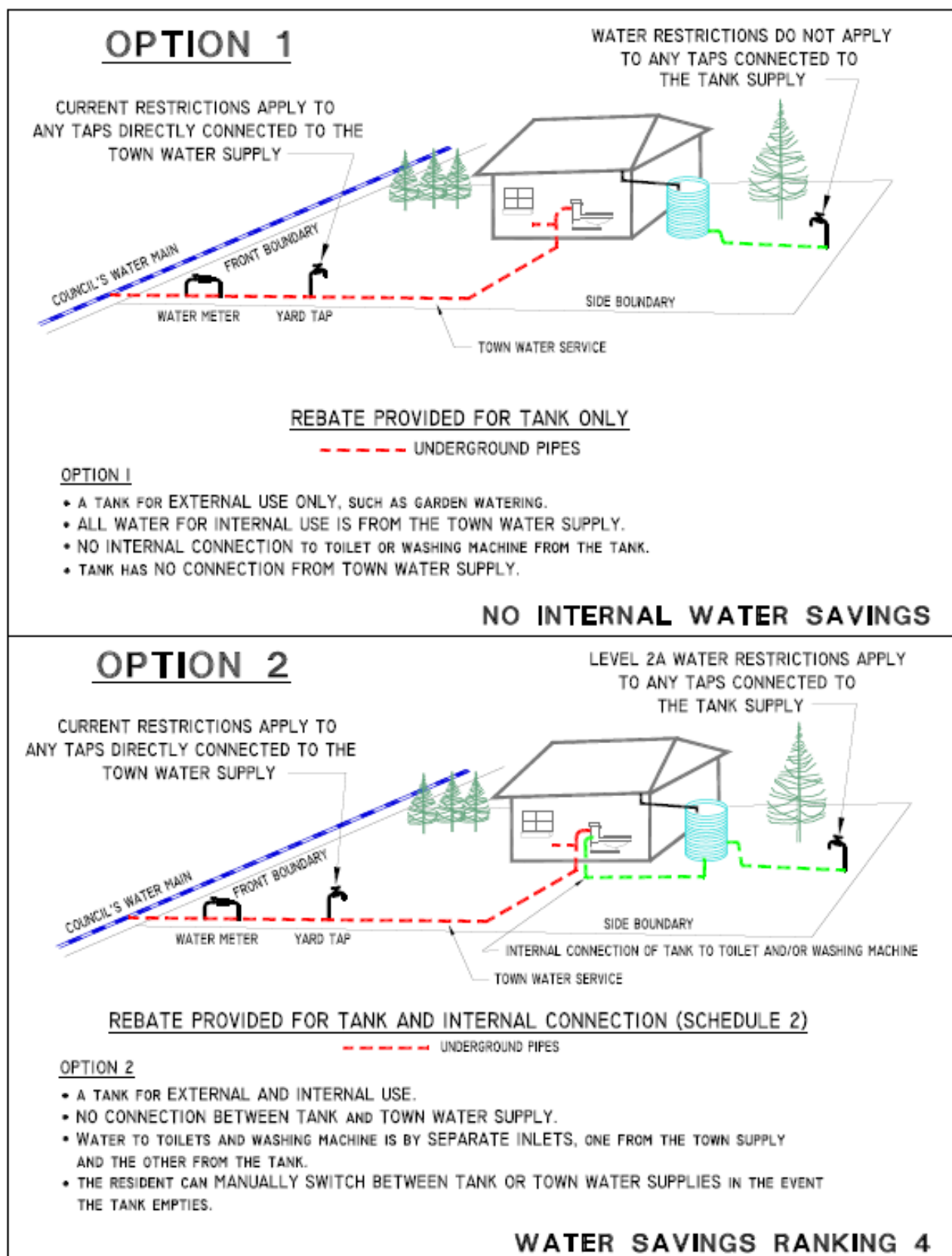
Odd number houses can water on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Saturdays.

Even number houses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Sundays.

No watering with hoses on Fridays.

Pools can be topped up and boat engines can be flushed with a hose for 10 minutes.

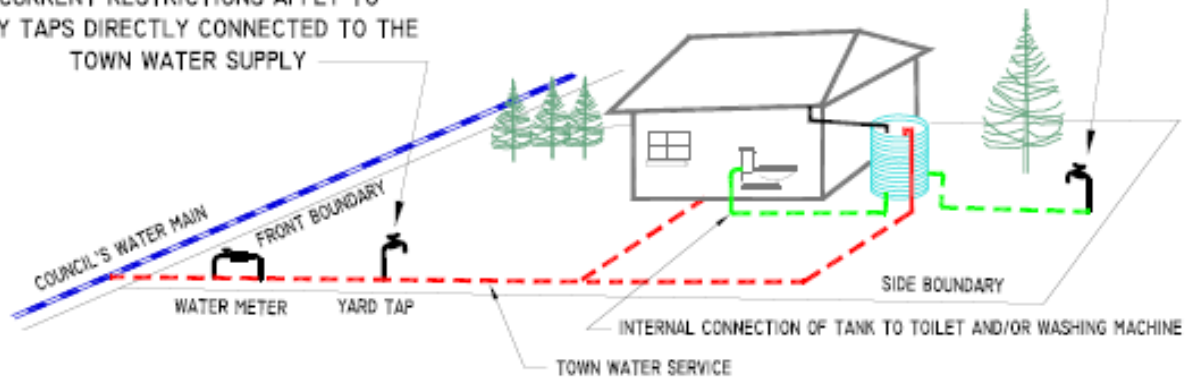
A full list of the requirements under level 2a water restrictions is included below.



OPTION 3

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO ANY TAPS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE TOWN WATER SUPPLY

LEVEL 2A WATER RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO ANY TAPS CONNECTED TO THE TANK SUPPLY



REBATE PROVIDED FOR TANK AND INTERNAL CONNECTION (SCHEDULE 2)

--- UNDERGROUND PIPES

OPTION 3

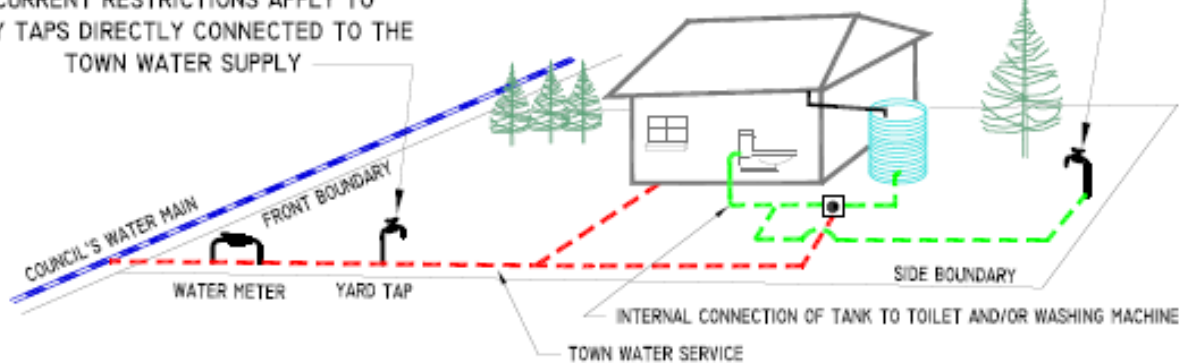
- A TANK FOR EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL USE.
- TANK AUTOMATICALLY TOPPED UP FROM TOWN WATER SUPPLY WHEN ALMOST EMPTY TO MAINTAIN SUPPLY TO TOILET AND WASHING MACHINE. INSTALLED AT 1/3rd TANK STORAGE LEVEL.

WATER SAVINGS RANKING 3

OPTION 4

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO ANY TAPS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE TOWN WATER SUPPLY

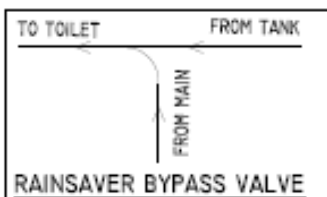
LEVEL 2A WATER RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO ANY TAPS CONNECTED TO THE TANK SUPPLY



REBATE PROVIDED FOR TANK AND INTERNAL CONNECTION (SCHEDULE 2)

--- UNDERGROUND PIPES

■ RAINSAVER BYPASS VALVE



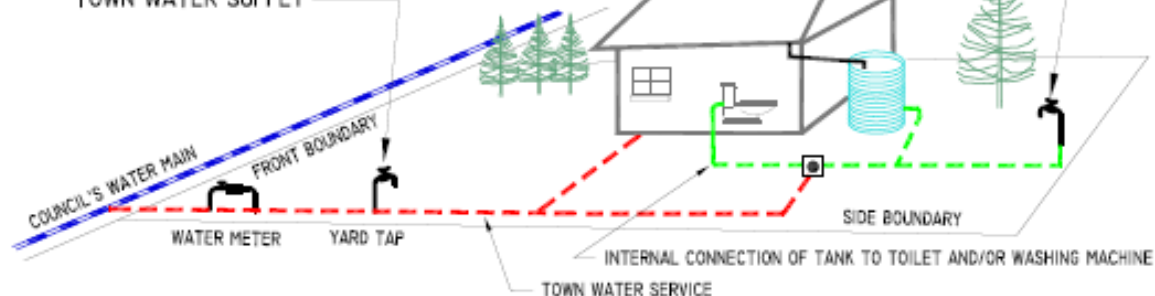
OPTION 4

- A TANK FOR EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL USE.
- A DIVERSION VALVE BETWEEN THE TOWN WATER SUPPLY AND TANK PLUMBING AUTOMATICALLY SWITCHES FROM TANK TO TOWN WATER WHEN TANK IS EMPTY AND RETURNS SUPPLY FROM THE TANK WHEN THE TANK RECOVERS.

WATER SAVINGS RANKING 3

OPTION 5

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO ANY TAPS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE TOWN WATER SUPPLY



REBATE PROVIDED FOR TANK AND INTERNAL CONNECTION (SCHEDULE 1)

- UNDERGROUND PIPES
- RAINSAVER BYPASS VALVE

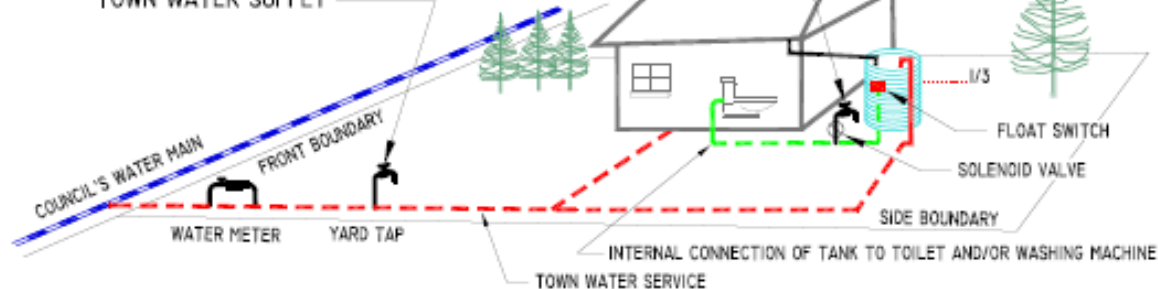
OPTION 5

- AS FOR OPTION 4 BUT REAR OUTSIDE TAP CAN ONLY BE SUPPLIED BY THE TANK.

WATER SAVINGS RANKING 2

OPTION 6

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO ANY TAPS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE TOWN WATER SUPPLY



REBATE PROVIDED FOR TANK AND INTERNAL CONNECTION (SCHEDULE 1)

- UNDERGROUND PIPES

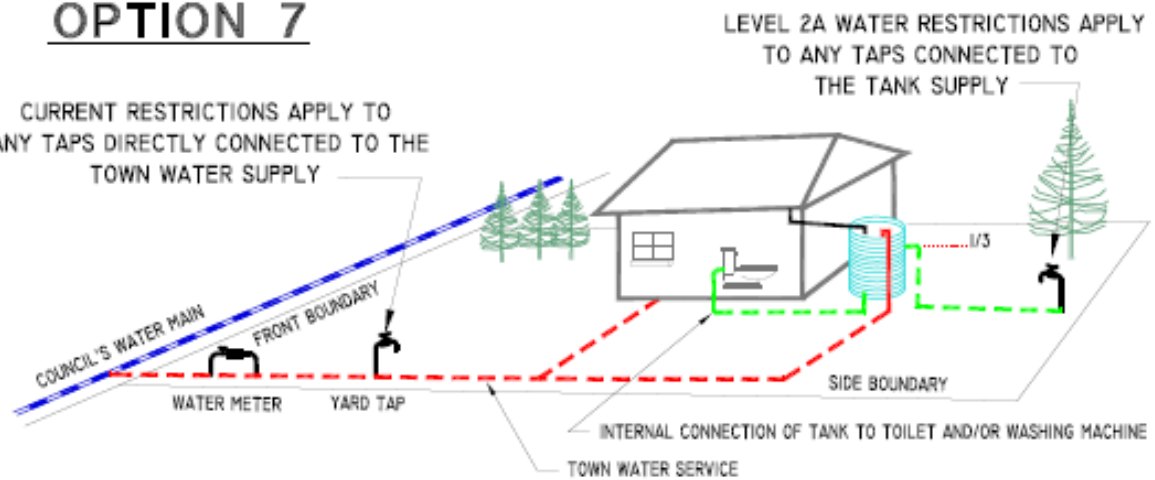
OPTION 6

- A TANK FOR EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL USE.
- A FLOAT SWITCH LIMITS EXTERNAL USE TO TOP 1/3rd OF THE TANK. THE FLOAT SWITCH IS CONNECTED TO A SOLENOID VALVE ON EXTERNAL TAPS WHICH CUTS SUPPLY TO THOSE TAPS WHEN TANK IS 1/3rd EMPTY.
- A TOWN WATER CONNECTION TO THE TANK MAINTAINS TANK WATER LEVEL AT 10% TO MAINTAIN SUPPLY TO THE TOILET AND WASHING MACHINE.

WATER SAVINGS RANKING 1

OPTION 7

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO ANY TAPS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE TOWN WATER SUPPLY



REBATE PROVIDED FOR TANK AND INTERNAL CONNECTION (SCHEDULE 1)

--- UNDERGROUND PIPES

OPTION 7

- A TANK FOR EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL USE.
- A TAKE OFF OUTLET ON THE TANK SERVICES ADJACENT TO OUTSIDE TAP AND LIMITS EXTERNAL USE TO TOP 1/3rd OF TANK.
- A TOWN WATER CONNECTION TO THE TANK MAINTAINS TANK WATER LEVEL AT 10% TO MAINTAIN SUPPLY TO THE TOILET AND WASHING MACHINE.

WATER SAVINGS RANKING 1

Water restrictions for internally connected rainwater tanks

APPLYING FROM WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2006, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Level 2a water restrictions apply to the use of water from internally connected rainwater tanks. Level 4 restrictions apply to all town water use.

| | Level 2a Water Restrictions |
|---|---|
| Lawns and Gardens | - no fixed hoses or sprinklers. |
| | - hand-held hoses with a trigger nozzle, micro spray and drip systems supplied directly from the tank are allowed for up to half an hour a day on alternate days, 7am - 9am and 5pm - 7pm.* |
| | - watering cans may be used to water gardens at any time on any day. |
| Car Washing | - all cars and boats to be washed and rinsed with a bucket, not a hose. Boat engines, bilges, boat trailer brakes and wheels can be washed with a hose for up to 10 minutes. |
| Paths and Driveways | - no hosing down of hard surfaces, including paths, driveways and external surfaces of buildings (incl. windows and roofs), except where required by law and for health and safety reasons. |
| Private Pools | - topping up allowed, filling of new pools allowed. |
| | - no emptying and refilling of existing pools, except where repairs are required and exemptions are granted. |
| Bowling Greens, Golf Clubs and Cricket Pitches | - fixed watering systems allowed for two hours each day from 6pm to 8pm each day. |
| Nurseries and Commercial Gardens | - fixed watering systems allowed for two hours a day, 6am to 8am and 6pm to 8pm. |
| Local Sporting Fields | - fixed watering systems can be used three times a week between 7pm and 9pm . |

* Odd number houses can water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Even number houses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. No watering with hoses on Fridays.

The water used must be supplied directly from the rainwater tank.

Run-off from any watered area is not permitted.

No restrictions apply in the event of, or where there is a risk of, an accident, fire, hazard to health, safety or environment.

All requests for exemption will be dealt with on an individual basis and in accordance with need. Exemptions may be granted for personal health reasons or to reduce any impacts on business operations or jobs.

Any breaches of these restrictions can result in a \$200 fine for an individual and a \$2200 fine for a corporation.

State Environmental Planning Policy No 4—Development without consent and miscellaneous exempt and complying development

Part 4 Exempt development

14 Exempt development

(1) This clause identifies the development and the requirements that must be met in respect of it for the development to be carried out without development consent as exempt development.

Note. The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* states that exempt development:

- (a) must be of minimal environmental impact, and
 - (b) cannot be carried out in critical habitat of an endangered species, population or ecological community (identified under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* or the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*), and
 - (c) cannot be carried out in a wilderness area (identified under the *Wilderness Act 1987*).
- (2) Development specified in clauses 15–19 that meets the requirements for the development contained in those clauses and that complies with the requirements of this clause is exempt development for the purposes of this Policy.
- (3) To be exempt development:
- (a) the development must:
 - (i) meet the relevant provisions of the *Building Code of Australia*, and
 - (ii) be more than 1 metre from any easement or public sewer main, and
 - (b) the development must not:
 - (i) if it relates to an existing building, cause the building to contravene the *Building Code of Australia*, or
 - (ii) require a tree to be removed, or
 - (iii) be designated development.
- (4) Exempt development cannot be carried out on:
- (a) the site of an item of environmental heritage that:
 - (i) is identified as such in an environmental planning instrument applying to the land, or
 - (ii) is listed on the State Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 1977*, or
 - (iii) is subject to an interim heritage order under the *Heritage Act 1977*, or
 - (b) land within a heritage conservation area that is identified as such in an environmental planning instrument applying to the land, or
 - (c) land identified:
 - (i) by the consent authority on a map held in the consent authority's offices, or

- (ii) in an environmental planning instrument, or
- (iii) in a development control plan,
 - as an environmentally sensitive area for exempt development,
- (d) land:
 - (i) that is within 40 metres of a perennial watercourse identified by a 1:50,000 topographic map held by Land and Property Information NSW, or
 - (ii) that is an Aboriginal place identified by the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 or contains an Aboriginal relic, or
 - (iii) that is reserved or dedicated under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, or
 - (iv) that is a State forest dedicated under the Forestry Act 1916, or
 - (v) the surface of which generally has a slope greater than 18 degrees from the horizontal, or
 - (vi) that is mapped as wetland by State Environmental Planning Policy No 14—Coastal Wetlands.

Note. Clause 4 provides that this Policy does not apply to certain land, including land to which State Environmental Planning Policy No 26—Littoral Rainforests or State Environmental Planning Policy No 73—Kosciuszko Ski Resorts applies.

16 When rainwater tanks are exempt development

- (1) For a rainwater tank to be exempt development, it must comply with the following requirements:
 - (a) the capacity of the tank, or the combined capacity of tanks, on a lot must not exceed the maximum capacity,
 - (b) the tank must be designed to capture and store roof water from gutters or downpipes on a building,
 - (c) the tank must not collect water from a source other than gutters or downpipes on a building or a water supply service pipe,
 - (d) the tank must be fitted with a first-flush device, being a device that causes the initial run-off of any rain to bypass the tank to reduce pollutants entering the tank,
 - (e) the tank must be structurally sound,
 - (f) the tank must be prefabricated, or be constructed from prefabricated elements that were designed and manufactured for the purpose of the construction of a rainwater tank,
 - (g) the tank must be assembled and installed in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer or designer of the tank,
 - (h) the tank, and any stand for the tank, must be installed and maintained in accordance with any requirements of the public authority that has responsibility for the supply of water to the premises on which the tank is installed,

- (i) the installation of the tank must not involve the excavation of more than 1 metre from the existing ground level, or the filling of more than 1 metre above the existing ground level,
- (j) the tank must not be installed over or immediately adjacent to a water main or a sewer main, unless it is installed in accordance with any requirements of the public authority that has responsibility for the main,
- (k) the tank must not be installed over any structure or fittings used by a public authority to maintain a water or sewer main,
- (l) no part of the tank or any stand for the tank may rest on a footing of any building or other structure, including a retaining wall,
- (m) the tank must be located behind the front alignment to the street of the building to which the tank is connected (or, in the case of a building on a corner block, the tank must be located behind both the street front and street side alignments of the building),
- (n) the tank must not exceed 3 metres in height above ground level, including any stand for the tank,
- (o) the tank must be located at least 450 millimetres from any property boundary,
- (p) a sign must be affixed to the tank clearly stating that the water in the tank is rainwater,

Note. If water in rainwater tanks is intended for human consumption, the tank should be maintained to ensure that the water is fit for human consumption—see the *Rainwater Tanks* brochure produced by NSW Health and the publication titled *Guidance on the use of rainwater tanks*, Water Series No 3, 1998, published by the National Environmental Health Forum.

- (q) any overflow from the tank must be directed into an existing stormwater system,
- (r) the tank must be enclosed, and any inlet to the tank must be screened or filtered, to prevent the entry of foreign matter or creatures,
- (s) the tank must be maintained at all times so as not to cause a nuisance with respect to mosquito breeding or overland flow of water,
- (t) any plumbing work undertaken on or for the tank that affects a water supply service pipe or a water main must be undertaken:
 - (i) with the consent of the public authority that has responsibility for the water supply service pipe or water main, and
 - (ii) in accordance with any requirements by the public authority for the plumbing work, and
 - (iii) by a licensed plumber in accordance with the *New South Wales Code of Practice—Plumbing and Drainage* produced by the Committee on Uniformity of Plumbing and Drainage Regulations in New South Wales,
- (u) any motorised or electric pump used to draw water from the tank or to transfer water between tanks:
 - (i) must not create an offensive noise, and

- (ii) in the case of a permanent electric pump, must be installed by a licensed electrician.
- (2) Despite subclause (1) (a), a rainwater tank with a capacity exceeding the maximum capacity may be exempt development if another environmental planning instrument applying to the land concerned provides for such a rainwater tank to be exempt development.
- (3) This clause does not apply to land that is a lot within the meaning of the Strata Schemes (Freehold Development) Act 1973 or the Strata Schemes (Leasehold Development) Act 1986.
- (4) In this clause:

educational establishment means a building or place used for education (including teaching) and includes a pre-school, a school, a tertiary institution that provides formal education (such as a university or TAFE establishment) and an art gallery or museum that is not used to sell the items displayed in it (whether or not the building or place is also used for accommodation for staff or students).

maximum capacity means 10,000 litres or, in the case of a tank or tanks installed on a lot used for an educational establishment, 25,000 litres.