



Rainwater Tank Rebate Program

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 2021

Applications for Inner West Council's Rainwater Tank Rebate will be accepted for the purchase and installation of rainwater tanks that meet the following terms and conditions.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a rebate, the rainwater tank (or tanks) must:

- be within the Inner West Council local government area;
- be purchased on or after 1 July 2016, or 2008 for former Marrickville Council residents;
- have a combined minimum capacity of 2000 litres and are no larger than required;
- be installed for water collection and use on site;
- be connected to an existing building that does not require a rainwater tank as a condition of development consent or BASIX commitments;
- satisfy all relevant standards, building codes and Inner West Council requirements, such as the [State Environmental Planning Policy \(SEPP\) \(Exempt and Complying Development Codes\) 2008](#);
- be installed on a property that is rateable or on common property that forms part of a strata plan of rateable properties;
- remain installed and connected on the property for at least 5 years; and
- if connected internally for use, then any plumbing works must be completed and signed off by a [licensed plumber](#). Proof supplied to Inner West Council as required in the 'Application Form'.

Applicants

The rebate is available to private landowners, residents and businesses of rateable properties within the Inner West Council area. For multi-unit dwellings (flat, units, apartments) the body corporate is eligible to apply for a rebate for a tank installed on common property.

Rebate

Council's rebate is funded by the Stormwater Management Service Charge as currently applied to the Inner West Council local government area. Its aim is to reduce stormwater entering the Cooks and Parramatta rivers and other local waterways. It will also reduce dependence on drinking quality water. For these reasons, Council's rebate is based on the capacity of the tank(s), with higher rebates available for internal plumbing to the laundry, toilets and hot water service.

Only one rebate is available per property, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per property or \$3,000 per property for low-income households. The total rebate paid cannot exceed the total combined cost of the rainwater tank(s) and its installation and plumbing connections.

Provided the installation meets all requirements and the terms and conditions are met, payment will be made by cheque or electronic funds transfer, payable to the applicant within 60 days.

Plumbing

Internally connected plumbing must be undertaken by a [licensed plumber](#) in accordance with the Plumbing Code of Australia.

Rebate amounts

Installation	Rate per litre	LIH rate per litre
Tank only (for garden use)	10c per litre	15c per litre
Tank internally plumbed to 1 use - toilet(s) or laundry or hot water*	13c per litre	20c per litre
Tank internally plumbed to 2 uses - toilet(s) and/or laundry and/or hot water*	18c per litre	27c per litre
Tank internally plumbed to 3 uses - toilet(s) and laundry and hot water*	20c per litre	30c per litre
Tanks used in common areas of flats, units and apartments	Additional \$500 flat rate to body corporate	

LIH - low-income households

*Plumbing into hot water is not always suitable. Check with your plumber before installing.

Attendance at a workshop

As a condition of receiving a rebate, all applicants must attend a Rainwater Harvesting Workshop ideally prior to ordering and installing the tanks. This is to make sure that all applicants are provided with essential information for ensuring appropriate installation and maintenance of their tanks.

For multi-unit dwellings, at least one member of the Body Corporate or the property manager must attend the workshop. Workshops are listed on Council's [Whats On page](#) and are also promoted in Council's [Environment and Sustainability e-news](#).

Development approval

In most cases, rainwater tanks can be installed without development approval, as per the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Exempt and Complying Development, Part 2, Division 1, subdivisions 32 and 33, however, some requirements must be met. Please see the 'Checklist for Development Applications' form for more information.

If you are unsure about whether a development application is required, you must contact Council's planning advisory officer for guidance.

Willingness to take part in research

Inner West Council is conducting research to monitor the increasing capacity for rainwater storage and water savings. All applicants are encouraged to take part in this research. All this research is confidential.

Special conditions for tenants

If you are a tenant of a rental property, you must get the permission of the property owner to install a rainwater tank(s). Property owner(s) must also sign the application form. If you are a tenant of a multi-unit residential property, then you will also need to get the permission of the body corporate (Owner's Corporation). See 'Application Form' for more details.

Refund of rebate

Applicants may have to repay the rebate if they break any 'Terms and Conditions' within five years of receipt of the rebate.

Required documentation

The following documentation must be provided when applying for the rebate:

- an invoice and **receipt** showing the installation address and all items and costs of the supply and installation of the tank(s). **The receipt must show that the tank(s) have been fully paid for by the applicant**;
- a completed application form signed by the applicant and the plumber, body corporate, or property owner if required;
- a detailed diagram or photos of the property clearly showing location and installation details of the rainwater tank including any internal plumbing; and
- certified copy of a Pensioner Concession Card or Commonwealth Health Card if applying for rebate for low-income households.

Tank Inspection

An inspection will be completed by Council to ensure that the installation complies with the rebate terms and conditions and the [State Environmental Planning Policy \(SEPP\) \(Exempt and Complying Development Codes\) 2008](#). The following compulsory components will be checked:

- first flush diverter;
- tank/s are fitted with screen rainhead/s to ensure self-cleaning and prevent leaf litter entering into the tank;
- tank inlets and outlets screened or designed to prevent mosquitoes breeding in it; and
- overflow connected to an existing stormwater drainage system.

Maintenance

All applicants must maintain their tank(s) to ensure water is being used and the tank is available for the collection of water from the roof and that a reasonable standard of water quality is maintained. Maintenance and operation of the tank and all associated infrastructure, as well as the quality of water supplied from the tank, are the responsibility of the owner, not Inner West Council.

Inner West Council reserves the right to inspect rainwater tanks to check their continued proper operation, provided that reasonable notice is given to the property owner.

Liability

The applicant is responsible to ensure that rainwater tanks are installed and maintained in accordance with Sydney Water guidelines and the NSW Health guidelines and that they pose no risk to the health or welfare of any person or property.

The applicant acknowledges and agrees that Inner West Council accepts no liability in respect of any claim, cause of action or loss or damage arising out of, or in relation to, any device purchased or service procured under this Program, or the consumption or use of any water from such rainwater tank or system that is the subject of the rebate.

The applicant agrees that they will indemnify and keep indemnified Inner West Council from any claim or liability arising out of, or in relation to the rainwater tank or system that is the subject of this application to the extent that any claim or liability is not caused by Councils' negligence or breach of this application or any other term implied by law.

Conclusion of the Program

Funding available for the Rebate Program is capped. Inner West Council reserves the right to suspend the Program within 21 days notice if:

- subscription to the Program exceeds available funding or need;
- Council makes a decision to conclude the Program; and/or
- the NSW State or Australian governments reintroduce rainwater tank rebates.

Notification of the Program's suspension will be through Council's website and local newspapers.

How do I apply for a rebate?

Download the rebate documents from [Council's website](#) including the application form or call 9392500 for copies. You must attend a Rainwater Harvesting Workshop and lodge the application.

How to Lodge your application

Lodging an application requires a completed application form. All information, including proof of tank purchase and relevant permissions, must be provided.

Incomplete and illegible applications will not be accepted and will be returned to you.

Lodge online (preferred): via Council's [customer request management system](#)

Lodge in person: Inner West Council's Customer Service Centres:

- Ashfield – 260 Liverpool Road Ashfield.
- Leichhardt – 7-15 Wetherill Street Leichhardt.
- Petersham – 2-14 Fisher Street Petersham.

Opening hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm

Lodge by mail: Inner West Council, PO Box 14, Petersham NSW 2049.

You will receive a confirmation email within three weeks of lodging the application. If you have not received an email, please get in touch via www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/ContactUs