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Action 4: Retrofit stormwater quality improvement measures

5 days ago

CLOSED: This discussion has concluded.

Stormwater drains from the catchment into the western edge of Pearl Beach Lagoon. We are presently looking at different options for treating stormwater before it enters the Lagoon to work out which one would be best. We are interested in understanding the community's desires and preferences for stormwater treatment.



For discussion

1. Which of the following impacts of stormwater pollution most concern you?

- visual (aesthetics – i.e. litter, sediment accumulation, turbid water)
- odour (decaying organic matter)
- environmental/ecological (water quality impacting aquatic habitat and animals)?

2. What would you like considered by the study team as we are evaluating different stormwater treatment options?

Examples might include:

- upstream, decentralised sediment and litter collection (e.g. stormwater pit inserts)
- sediment basins at the end of pipes
- plant out flow paths at pipe outlets to formalise a vegetated treatment system, along the lines of a swale or shallow wetland.

It's important to remember the space available for installing stormwater treatment options near the lagoon is limited and contains mature trees. These constraints will affect what can be achieved.



8 comments

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Bruce (Diamond), 6 days ago

We are relative blow-ins as we have only owned our property which is on the western side of the Lagoon for eight years, however, we have been keen appreciators and observers of it and its flora and fauna. It needs to be appreciated that the lagoon is no longer purely a natural feature in that it has been affected by human activities for a century or so. As such the egg has been scrambled and it cannot be unscrambled. All we can do now is to "play God" and try to direct its future in ways that suit the environment and the residents and visitors of Pearl Beach. There is no "right" answer. That is, values have to be determined and actions taken to enhance its qualities both natural and aesthetic. However, this needs to be done very carefully as good intentions can often have unforeseen and undesirable results. We support the reduction of undesirable materials reaching the lagoon. From our observations of the lagoon and its general environs there is very little in the way of litter and so gross pollution traps are probably not warranted. Sediment traps could be valuable but I fear that they might be very difficult to create in a way that would be effective, readily manageable and not visually detract from the area. The land next to the lagoon has very little elevation above the water level. Silt would be coming from a number of sources but if one leaves aside road works, as they can be more easily managed by Council, I suspect that the primary source of sediment now would be from building works. Therefore, perhaps the best management method would be to be more stringent in monitoring building activity to ensure that on-site sediment control is established and maintained. This would need to include conditions on approvals, education of contractors and random inspections to ensure that the sediment control systems are being maintained and adhered to. Another probable significant pollutant would be phosphates from fertilisers. Education programs for the residents might be able to reduce these but a localised managed wetland acting as a buffer before stormwater reaches the lagoon might also be a simple and somewhat effective addition. Again it would need to be maintained to be effective. Done carefully it might also be a way to enhance native riparian vegetation.

VnM, 13 days ago

We have lived on the lagoon for nearly 23 years. When we first arrived the lagoon was about knee to waist deep. Now ankle deep. Some years ago the council did road works and realigned the drains above Pearl Beach. This directed the storm water into 3 drains into the lagoon effectively silting up the lagoon. The lagoon

now has regular algal blooms, particularly in warm weather. Nutrients are carried into the lagoon via the drains, adding to the algal bloom problem. Bird life on the lagoon has suffered. Silt traps are desperately needed.

BH, 16 days ago

The areas that need to be addressed are all that are mentioned. The fauna that has gone, the water quality, the lagoon natural banks and finally the smell of the lagoon that can be smelt in the next street by those that don't even bank the lagoon. This is especially prevalent after rain and when storm water appears to not drain and it over flowing and over summer when completely dry it had a bad odour.

Taras - Coral Crescent, 17 days ago

Upstream decentralised sediment and litter collection as close to the sediment/litter source is the best option. The sediment/litter load is not natural and therefore would probably inundate a natural wetland system unless the majority of the load was captured and removed prior to entering the lagoon vicinity.

GRM, 18 days ago

There are 2 aspects of the health and preservation of the Pearl Beach lagoon that need Council action; 1. current and increasing sediment build up. Council works and deforestation by land owners has significantly increased the sedimentation in the lagoon. Natural fauna, bird life and water creatures are decreasing as the water level has dropped. The lagoon needs removal of bulk sedimentation in the Western and Northern parts of the lagoon. 2. Erosion and destruction of natural lagoon fauna. Increasing encroachment by landowners has destroyed the reeds on the edges of the lagoon. Many properties have mowed lawns and fences on the Lagoon Council land. When water levels rise, embankments are eroded. A simple Google map view from the Council will confirm this.

TimW, 24 days ago

Water quality is my main interest. We had several birds die in our yard from toxic water over the summer with the drying of the lagoon. Sediment traps seem the best solution given the lack of space for a wetlands.

Joan, 30 days ago

1. Which of the following impacts of stormwater pollution most concern you? • environmental/ecological (water quality impacting aquatic habitat and animals)? 2. What would you like considered by the study team as we are evaluating different stormwater treatment options? • upstream, decentralised sediment and litter

collection (e.g. stormwater pit inserts). Treatment before the water enters the lagoon. The photo in Action 9 shows sediment created by roadworks on Pearl Beach Drive which ended up in the lagoon.

Athol, 30 days ago

Agree with these ideas in the main.

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