

## Prevent stormwater pollution at North Lakes

The waterways around Ballina are one of our greatest assets, providing tranquil surrounds, and a water playground for residents. They are also home to flora and fauna that rely on a healthy ecosystem. Therefore, living at North Lakes has the added responsibility of helping to keep the waterways healthy.



### What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater that runs off surfaces including roads, roofs, footpaths, and car parks. Unlike sewage, stormwater is not treated and passes directly into our waterways.

Stormwater can pick up pollutants including litter, oil, fertilisers, pesticides, grass cuttings, animal wastes, and soils from backyards and deposits them into receiving waters such as the North Lakes Stormwater system.

### What are the impacts of polluted stormwater?

- **Litter** can be entangled or eaten by wildlife.
- **Herbicides and pesticides** if used incorrectly in gardens can be washed down into the stormwater system where they could potentially cause fish kills.
- **Grass clippings and green waste** are high in nitrogen and other nutrients. Excess nutrients can cause algal blooms. This can lead to fish kills as the water body is deoxygenated.
- **Soil, sand and sediments** can cloud the water and make it difficult for aquatic plants to grow.

### What can we do to prevent pollution?

To help reduce stormwater pollution at North Lakes, remember to:

- pick up animal droppings and put them in the bin
- apply fertilisers to gardens and lawns in moderation and use environmentally friendly products wherever possible
- dispose of grass clippings and green waste responsibly
- sweep your driveway instead of hosing
- dispose of litter and cigarette butts in the bin, not in the lake or on the ground
- take waste engine oil and solvents to the recyclers or authorised collection point
- maintain sediment and erosion control during building and landscaping works.

### Further Information

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