



## CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL

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### Stormwater Rate Fact Sheet

Circular Head Council has introduced a stormwater rate for the first time in the 2015-2016 financial year to move to a user pays system.

**Q:** Why are you making this change?

**A:** Previously all ratepayers have contributed to the cost of stormwater. This change will mean that only those who are able to access the service are the ones who pay for the service. This is the same approach taken with waste collection.

**Q:** How will the rate be introduced?

**A:** Council will be applying the rate in increments over the next three years, at which time the rate will be recovering the costs of the service.

**Q:** What is the rate used for?

**A:** The rate is to continue to improve, maintain and deliver the stormwater service. The infrastructure is underground and has a long life, but will need to be replaced into the future.

**Q:** How is the rate calculated?

**A:** The stormwater rate is based on the assessed annual value (AAV) of the property, which is the same basis as the general rate.

**Q:** How much will it cost?

**A:** The average cost in the first year will be between \$50 and \$70 per property, subject to the AAV of your property.

**Q:** Which areas are affected?

**A:** The stormwater rate will apply to all rateable land in Smithton and Stanley that is serviced by stormwater.

**Q:** What would happen if the rate wasn't introduced?

**A:** All ratepayers would have seen an additional rate increase of 1.5% in this financial year. The introduction of the stormwater rate means only those who are serviced by stormwater will be paying for it.

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**Q:** What if I don't use the stormwater system?

**A:** If your property is serviced by stormwater and a connection is possible you will be charged the stormwater rate.

**Q:** What if I don't have access to stormwater, but have been charged the rate?

**A:** Council will be identifying gaps as part of this process and ensuring that properties that should have access to stormwater will get access over time.

**Q:** How do I know if I have a stormwater connection?

**A:** First check if you have downpipes that go into the ground, if this is the case you are most likely connected to stormwater. If in doubt please contact a plumber.

**Q:** What if I don't have access to stormwater and there is no stormwater connection available in my area, but have been charged the stormwater rate?

**A:** Please contact Council on 6452 4800.

If you require more information please contact Council on 6452 4800 or go to [www.circularhead.tas.gov.au/stormwater](http://www.circularhead.tas.gov.au/stormwater)