

# RAINWATER TANK REBATE APPLICATION

YOU MAY BE  
ELIGIBLE FOR A  
**\$400**  
REBATE

Upper Hunter residents who install a 9,000 litre or larger rainwater tank at home that will receive water from at least 30% of the roof area may be eligible for a **\$400 rebate** from Upper Hunter Shire Council.

Apply for this rebate **BEFORE** installing the tank.

## GUIDELINES

### Eligibility criteria for rebate

1. The property must be currently connected to one of Council's reticulated water supplies (Aberdeen, Cassilis, Merriwa, Murrurundi or Scone).
2. The tank(s) capacity must be at least 9,000 litres.
3. The tank(s) must be connected to external fittings, including pool top up if there is a pool on the property.
4. The property must be residential and have an existing dwelling.
5. If the tank is connected to plumbing fittings, a licensed plumber must carry out the work in accordance with the Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage.
6. If there is an interconnection with / top up from the mains water supply, the tank must have suitable backflow prevention to protect the drinking water quality in the mains supply (see next page). At least 30% of the roof area must drain to the tank.
7. If the installation does not comply with development approval exemption criteria (see next page), formal development approval must be sought from Council.

### Note

- No rebate is available for rainwater tanks required under BASIX (for new houses or extensions/renovations).
- No rebate is available for commercial or industrial users.

- No rebate is available for tanks that are required as per Council's Rural Property Connections to Rising and Trunk Mains policy, or future village connections where tanks may be required for connection to town water.
- Where multiple tanks are installed to achieve 9,000 litre storage, only one rebate is available.

### Property owners considering installing rainwater tanks should consider the following:

- NSW Health supports the use of rainwater tanks for all non-potable uses such as garden watering and car washing but does not recommend the use of rainwater tanks for drinking purposes where a reticulated potable water supply is available.
- It is important to maintain your tank: ensure that roof, gutters, first flush diverters and insect screens remain clear of leaves and debris, and ensure that insect screens stay in place and are not damaged.
- Consider the suitability of the site: slope, access restrictions, potential impact on stability of foundations or retaining walls, overhanging vegetation which may attract vermin.
- Connecting the tank to non-potable indoor uses such as toilet/s and washing machine will allow use of the tank water year round, but will add to the expense of the installation.
- Use of water from rainwater tanks which are connected to the town supply for "top up" will be subject to any water restrictions in place for users of the town supply.

**PRIVACY STATEMENT** The personal information that Council is collecting from you is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998. Any personal information supplied or collected will only be stored and processed for lawful purposes directly related to the functions and activities of Upper Hunter Shire Council.

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Application No.  Date received  Lodgement Officer

Upper Hunter Shire Council

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## Backflow Prevention

The priority for Council must be to protect the community by maintaining drinking water quality in the reticulated water supply system. Where mains water is interconnected with or used to top up domestic rainwater tanks, appropriate steps must be taken to prevent the potential contamination of the mains supply from rainwater tanks. There are two requirements (based on the NSW Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage 3rd Edition 2006):

- An authorised backflow prevention device such as a dual check valve
- A visible air gap between the mains top up and the top water level (minimum 100mm)

## Procedure

- Resident wishing to apply for the rebate will submit to Council the “Rainwater Tank Rebate Application” before installing the tank.
- Council will grant conditional approval to complying applications (conditional on passing inspection after installation).
- Resident may then complete a Creditor Application (non-business) form, available on Council's website, to provide bank details where rebate is to be deposited
- Resident will contact Council to request inspection after tank and connections, first flush diverter and any other relevant components are installed.
- After the tank, connections and any other relevant components have passed inspection the rebate will be processed, crediting your nominated bank account.

## Development Approval

### Exemption Criteria

The construction or installation of rainwater tanks (above ground) may be exempt development if it meets all the relevant development standards set out in the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (the State Policy).

#### For exemption criteria go to:

- [www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/approval-pathways/exempt-development/rainwater-tanks](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/approval-pathways/exempt-development/rainwater-tanks)
- [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2008/572/part2/div1/subDiv32](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2008/572/part2/div1/subDiv32)

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## 1. To be completed by applicant

Applicant name

Property owner name  property owner is the applicant

Water tank installation address

Postal address  Same as installation address

Phone

Email

Tank size (litres)

Percentage roof area draining to tank (%)

A site plan has been attached to this application (required)

Will the tank comply with all requirements of Council's Rainwater Tank Rebate Guidelines?  Yes  No

Will the tank be interconnected with or topped up from the mains water supply?  Yes  No

If interconnected/topped up please provide backflow prevention description:

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## 2. To be completed by inspector

Inspection passed  Yes  No

Inspector name  Date

Reason inspection not passed, if required:

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## 3. To be completed by Council

Application approved  Yes  No

Officer name  Date

Applicant advised by  Telephone  In person  Email  Letter

Reason not approved, if required:

Complete this section AFTER inspection passed: Rebate issued date