



Invercargill City Council Stormwater Bylaw

Invercargill City Council is engaging on a proposed Stormwater Bylaw. The proposed bylaw covers all facets of the stormwater network. The main parts of the bylaw cover use, construction or alteration of the stormwater and drainage network, pollution prevention, offences, breaches, fees, penalties and dispensing powers.

Council engineers will be hosting a webinar, with a business focus at 11am on 23 February 2022. Please RSVP to Amelie.Schuberth@icc.govt.nz if you wish to attend. Below is a list of some questions and answer that may assist with understanding of the bylaw and how it maybe applied.

For further information on the proposed Stormwater Bylaw, please see: <https://icc.govt.nz/public-documents/consultation/>. Alternatively, please get in touch at policy@icc.govt.nz

Submissions close on 07 March 2022 at 5pm.

Questions and Answers

Q: What is the difference between stormwater and wastewater?

A: Stormwater is defined as the result of precipitation (rain/snow/sleet) once it has reached the earth's surface, whether that be rooftops, land in public or private properties, or roadways. Stormwater drains from our roads, roofs and properties into a network of pipes, ditches and ponds all of which discharge, untreated into our rivers, streams and estuary.

Wastewater, also known as sewage, effluent or greywater is the result of human or animal activity. Wastewater is what gets washed down the pipes from our toilets, showers, sinks, washing machines and dishwashers. Wastewater flows through a series of separate underground pipe to a wastewater treatment plant, where the wastewater is treated before being discharged to the environment.

Q: Why do we need a bylaw?

A: The Invercargill City Council needs a bylaw to create a stronger framework to help prevent and mitigate businesses and residents from putting contaminants down the drain that could adversely affect the environment.

Q: How will the bylaw affect me?

A: For the large majority of the residence within the Invercargill City boundary the bylaw will have little to no impact. Residents will be reminded of the new rules, such as not to wash their cars in a way that the detergents flow in to the stormwater system.

The bylaw aims to capture activities from mainly the industrial and commercial sectors that are known to discharge contaminants to the stormwater network and prevent them from doing so.



Businesses should identify where there are risks to the stormwater. The guidance on how to do this is included in the bylaw. We undertake regular inspections with businesses – during these inspections we will discuss any mitigations required with you. Businesses will be required to submit their site management plans to Council. Most sites are not anticipated to require significant work, although for a small number of sites more significant remediation will be required.

Q: Will the bylaw cost me more money as a ratepayer?

A: As the bylaw covers the entire city and all its ratepayers. The cost of implementing and running the bylaw will be absorbed into the stormwater rating units. If Invercargill City Council staff are required to attend contamination events or are needed to return to sites of concern to inspect works being undertaken, the cost of that officer's time and other resources will be recovered as a cost neutral exercise.

Q: Can I wash my car on the side of the road or in my driveway?

A: You will not be able to undertake an activity where it would allow contaminants to make their way to our receiving waters. You may wash your car on the grass or any permeable surface such as gravel where the soapy water and sediments drain into the ground rather than directly into the stormwater network. Alternatively you could take your vehicle to a commercial carwash where all the drains are connected to treatment devices before being discharged to the foulsewer network.

Q: As a business in the industrial and commercial area, will I need to apply for a special stormwater consent?

A: Not for stormwater purposes, though all sites of concern in designated industrial and commercial areas will need to provide a site management plan to the Invercargill City Council, showing the site layout. If it found that there is an activity being undertaken on the site where the discharge cannot be discharged to stormwater and needs to go to the ICC foulsewer network, the site may need to apply for a trade-waste consent.

Q: Who do I contact if I see any type of contamination going into drains around the city?

A: If you happen to see any type of contamination in any of the rivers or streams itself, call the Environment Southland Pollution Hotline on 0800 76 88 45. If you happen to see anything unusual in the city, such as water coming up through a manhole, oil or paints going into drains or large amounts of mud and sediments on the road please call the Invercargill City Council front desk 24/7 on 03 211 1777 and explain to the operator to the best of your ability what you have found and the location of the event.

Q: How will the Invercargill City Council approach compliance and enforcement of the bylaw, if it is adopted?

A: If the Stormwater Bylaw is adopted, the Invercargill City Council plans to take a measured approach for implementation. Council wants to take an educational stance and help commercial sites and private residences understand what they can do to contribute to better water quality in Invercargill.



The bylaw makes provision to grant the Invercargill City Council regulatory powers for offences and breaches. However, it is not anticipated they will need to be used often.

Q. Will this apply retroactively or only to new businesses?

A: Yes this will apply to all locations within the city.

Q. Why are we doing this when Three Waters will take over the stormwater management in the near future?

A: Council acknowledges the intent for Three Waters to take over the management of these assets going forward. Council is focused on being good stewards of the stormwater assets and they are in a good state when the management of network is handed over to the Three Waters entity.

Q. When will the bylaw come into force?

A. Following consultation, Council will consider any changes recommended and intends to have the Bylaw operational by 1 July 2022.

Q. How do I make a submission?

A. The easiest way is to use the survey link that can be found at <https://icc.govt.nz/public-documents/consultation/>. Alternatively, you can mail in a submission form or drop one off to the ICC Civic Administration Building in Esk Street, the Public Library or the Bluff Service Centre. You can also email the Strategy and Policy Team at policy@icc.govt.nz

Post: Submission – Roading and Traffic Bylaw and Speed Review
Invercargill City Council
Private Bag 90104
Invercargill 9840

Q. Can I talk to the Mayor and Councillors about this proposal?

A. Hearings are currently set down for 22 March 2022. While the opportunity to speak to your submission as part of this process is not legally required, Councillors are interested in hearing from you if you would like to share your views orally. Please understand though that our ability to facilitate this may depend upon circumstances.