



# Stormwater Drain Blockage Policy

Policy No: 5.4  
 Approved by Council: 12 November 2018  
 Next Review Date: 12 November 2020  
 ECM File No: 12.91  
 Version: 3.0

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| <p><b>POLICY STATEMENT:</b></p>              | <p>1.1 Kingborough Council is committed to a fair and just statutory compliance regime.</p> <p>1.2 Council will adopt best practice governance standards in the delivery of statutory and community responsibilities.</p> <p>1.3 The Stormwater Drain Blockage Policy is a commitment by the Council to ensure that the community understands the responsibilities of property owners for maintenance and repair of stormwater connections in the event of blockages</p>  |
| <p><b>DEFINITIONS:</b></p>                   | <p>2.1 <i>Private stormwater drainage line</i> – all parts of stormwater plumbing installations located upstream of a connection point to Council stormwater infrastructure (including the inspection opening at the connection point).</p> <p>2.2 <i>Council stormwater infrastructure</i> – all stormwater drainage infrastructure owned and/or operated by Council.</p>  |
| <p><b>OBJECTIVE:</b></p>                     | <p>3.1 Inform stakeholders regarding who is responsible for clearing blockages in Council stormwater infrastructure and private stormwater drainage lines; and</p> <p>3.2 Provide a deterrent for unauthorised work to occur on Council stormwater infrastructure.</p>  |
| <p><b>SCOPE:</b></p>                         | <p>4.1 This policy applies to all properties in the Kingborough municipal area.</p>   |
| <p><b>PROCEDURE:<br/>(POLICY DETAIL)</b></p> | <p>5.1 Clearance of blockages in private stormwater drainage lines is to be carried out by licensed Plumbers.</p> <p>5.2 Costs associated with clearing blockages of private stormwater drainage lines are the responsibility of the landowner/occupier.</p> <p>5.3 Council will be responsible for reimbursement of costs incurred by a Landowner for an investigation associated with a blockage in a private stormwater drainage line under the following circumstances:</p> <p>5.3.1 Council has sufficient evidence that a blockage in private stormwater infrastructure has occurred; and</p> <p>5.3.2 Council is satisfied that there is sufficient evidence that the cause of the blockage in the private stormwater line was a result of a blockage in Council stormwater infrastructure; and</p> <p>5.3.3 The blockage occurred during a normal rainfall event for the land (less than 1 in 5 year ARI); and</p> <p>5.3.4 Costs associated with the investigation are deemed by Council to be fair and reasonable.</p> <p>5.4 Only Council or persons authorised by Council, are to clear blockages in Council stormwater infrastructure.</p> <p>5.5 Costs associated with clearing blockages in Council stormwater infrastructure are the responsibility of Council. An exception to this is where Council has identified a person responsible for causing the blockage in Councils stormwater infrastructure, in which case, the person responsible for the blockage will be responsible for payment of all costs associated with clearing the blockage.</p> <p>5.6 Persons undertaking work on Council stormwater infrastructure for the purpose of clearing a blockage without prior authorisation from Council may</p> |

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|                           | be liable for penalties under Council's <i>Roads Parking and Stormwater By-law 4 of 2011</i> .   |
| <b>GUIDELINES:</b>        | 6.1 Customer and Council staff guidelines outlining responsibilities for rectifying stormwater line blockages are available for customers and staff.   |
| <b>COMMUNICATION:</b>     | <p>7.1 Internal stakeholders:<br/>A copy of the Employee Guideline will be provided to all relevant Council officers.</p> <p>7.2 External stakeholders:<br/>A copy of the Customer Guideline will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provided to customers as required;</li> <li>• provided to the Master Plumbers Association for distribution to their members;</li> <li>• displayed on Councils website.</li> </ul> |
| <b>LEGISLATION:</b>       | <p>8.1 Building Act 2016</p> <p>8.2 Urban Drains Act 2013</p> <p>8.3 Roads Parking and Stormwater By-law 4 of 2011</p>   |
| <b>RELATED DOCUMENTS:</b> | <p>9.1 Customer Guideline for Rectifying Stormwater Line Blockages – Kingborough Council.</p> <p>9.2 Staff Guideline for Rectifying Stormwater Line Blockages – Kingborough Council.</p>   |
| <b>AUDIENCE:</b>          | 10.1 This policy is relevant for landowners, occupiers and licensed plumbers within the Kingborough Municipal Area.  |

## Guideline for Rectifying Stormwater Line Blockages Associated with Policy 5.4 – Stormwater Drain Blockage Policy

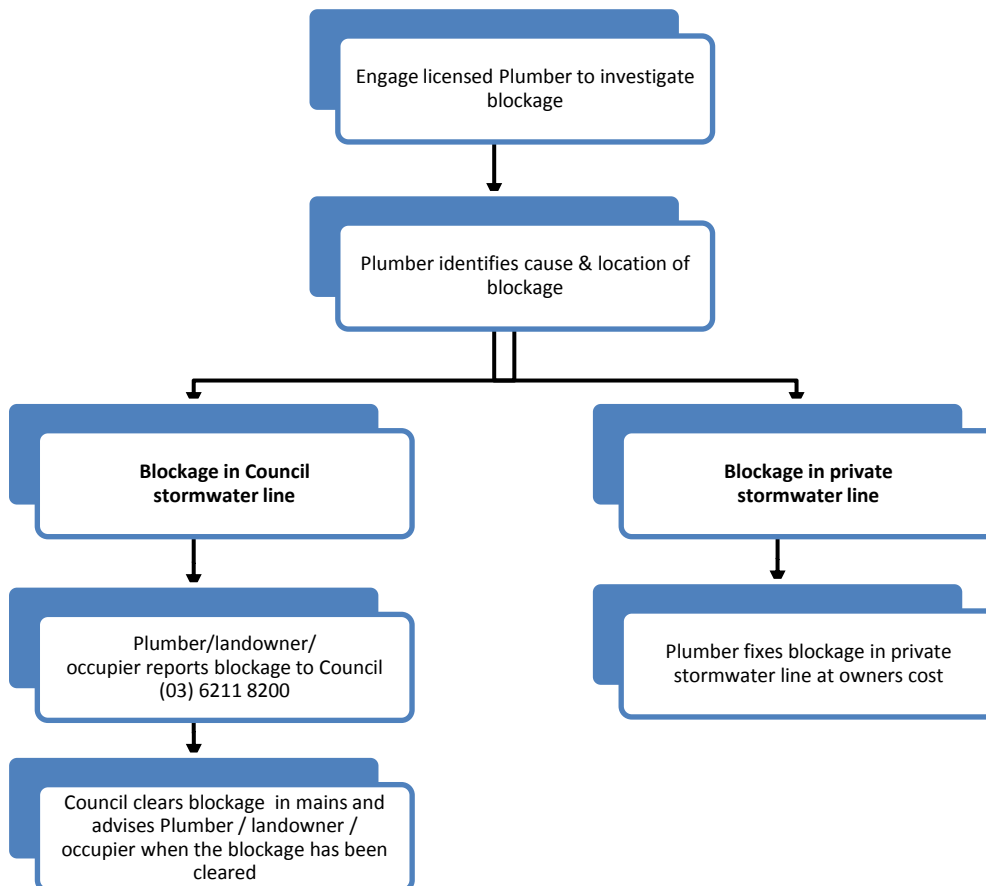
The following information is a guide on how to rectify a blockage in a Council owned stormwater line or a private stormwater line.

### Responsibilities

Council is responsible for unblocking Council stormwater infrastructure. Council stormwater infrastructure begins immediately downstream of the inspection opening (IO) on a private stormwater line located on land. Private stormwater lines include all stormwater infrastructure on private land including the IO at the connection point to Council stormwater infrastructure.

Council is not responsible for costs associated with the unblocking of private stormwater lines.

### Recommended Process to Fix a Stormwater Blockage



**Important:** Licensed Plumbers have the necessary skills to identify and clear blockages in private stormwater drainage lines, as such, we recommend that you secure the services of a licensed Plumber to assist you in identifying the source of the blockage. Undertaking work on a Council stormwater main without prior approval from Council can incur penalties under, but not limited to, Council's *Roads Parking and Stormwater By-law 4 of 2011*.

Diagram Demonstrating Example of Landowner and Council Stormwater Responsibilities

