

# Stormwater Drain Blockage Guidelines

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## 1 DEFINITIONS

### 1.1 Related legislation and applicable laws

- *Building Act 2016*
- *Urban Drainage Act 2013*
- *Roads Parking and Stormwater By-law 4 of 2011*

### 1.2 Scope and application

These guidelines apply to all properties in the Kingborough municipal area connected to the public stormwater system.

### 1.3 Council

Kingborough Council (the organisation)

### 1.4 Private stormwater system

All parts of stormwater plumbing installations located upstream of a connection point to the public stormwater system (including the inspection opening at the connection point).

### 1.5 Public stormwater system

All stormwater drainage infrastructure owned and/or operated by Council.

## 2 PURPOSE

These guidelines are to:

- 2.1 Inform stakeholders who is responsible for clearing blockages in the public stormwater system and private stormwater systems; and
- 2.2 Deter unauthorised work on the public stormwater system.

## 3 GUIDELINES

- 3.1 In private stormwater systems, blockages should only be cleared by licensed Plumbers.
- 3.2 A blockage should always be cleared against the direction of flow. Under no circumstances is a blockage allowed to be pushed downstream as this may in turn cause blockages in the public stormwater system.
- 3.3 All costs associated with clearing blockages in private stormwater systems are the responsibility of the landowner/resident.
- 3.4 Council will only reimburse costs incurred by a Landowner for an investigation associated with a blockage in a private stormwater system under the following circumstances:
  - i. Council has sufficient evidence that a blockage in private stormwater infrastructure has occurred; and

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- ii. Council is satisfied that there is sufficient evidence that the cause of the blockage in the private stormwater system was a result of a blockage in the public stormwater system; and
  - iii. The blockage occurred during a normal rainfall event for the land (as per the latest version of the *Tasmanian Subdivision Guidelines, LGAT*); and
  - iv. Costs associated with the investigation are deemed by Council to be fair and reasonable.
- 3.5 Only Council or persons authorised by Council, are to clear blockages in the public stormwater system.
- 3.6 Costs associated with clearing blockages in the public stormwater system are the responsibility of Council. However, if Council identify a person responsible for causing a blockage in the public stormwater system, the person responsible for the blockage will be liable for payment of all costs associated with clearing the blockage.
- 3.7 Persons undertaking work on the public stormwater system for the purpose of clearing a blockage without prior authorisation from Council may be liable for penalties under Council's *Roads Parking and Stormwater By-law 4 of 2011* and / or the *Urban Drainage Act 2013*.

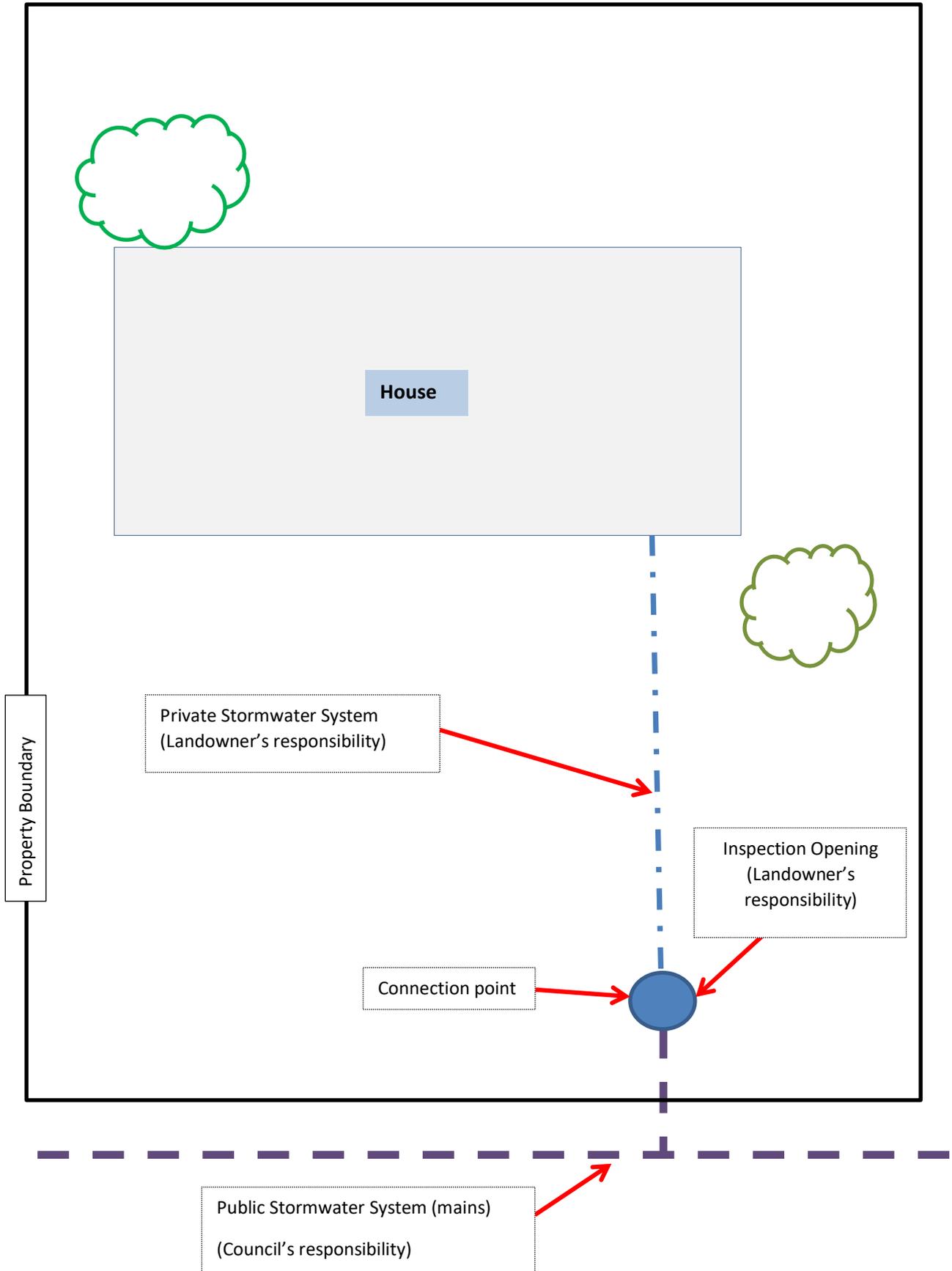
#### 4 RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

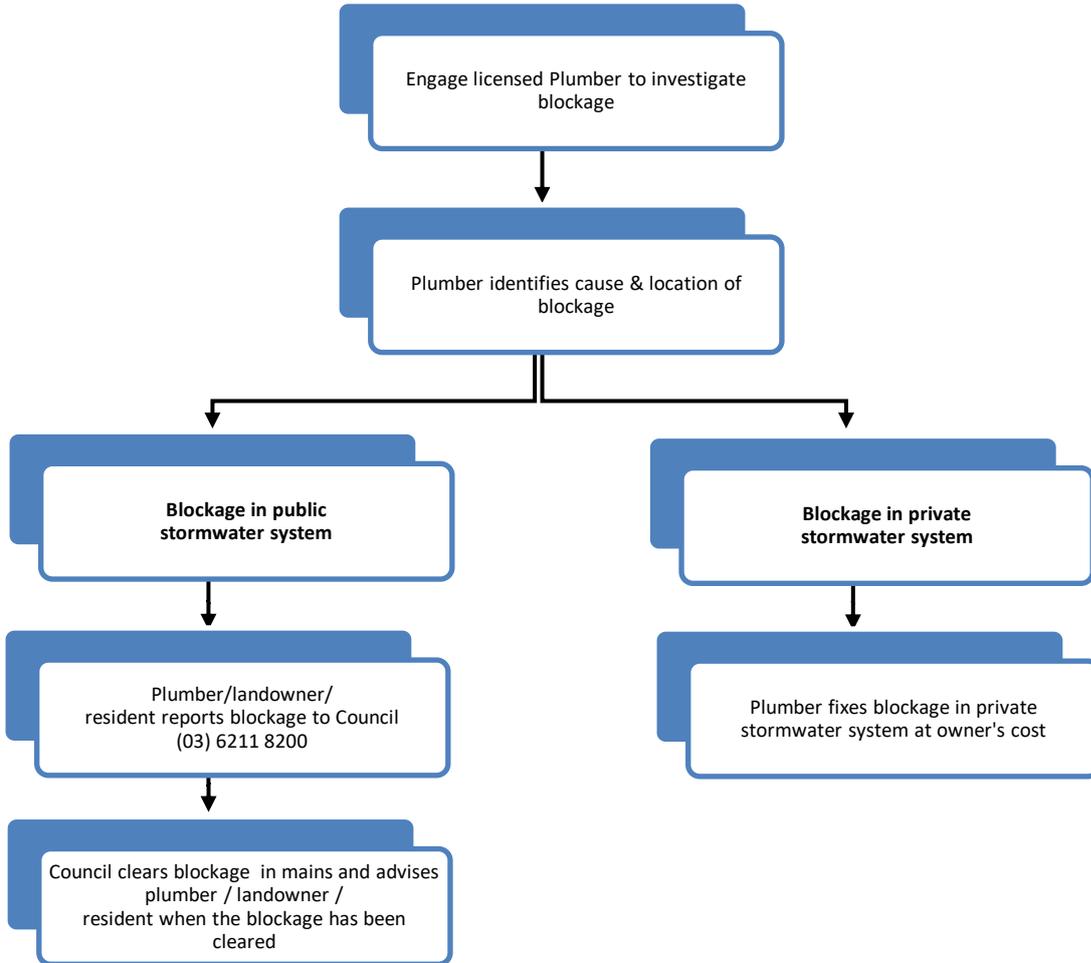
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Diagram demonstrating example of landowner and Council stormwater responsibilities:



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## 5 RECOMMENDED PROCESS TO FIX A STORMWATER BLOCKAGE



**Important:** Licensed Plumbers have the necessary skills to identify and clear blockages in stormwater systems. We strongly advise that you engage a licensed Plumber to identify the source of any blockage in a private stormwater system.

Undertaking work on the public stormwater system without prior approval from Council can incur penalties under, but not limited to, Council’s *Roads Parking and Stormwater By-law 4 of 2011*.