

Howdy, I'm Wilbur  
the Water Warrior.  
EVERY DROP COUNTS!



# IMPACTS OF WATER POLLUTION

## Total Water on Earth

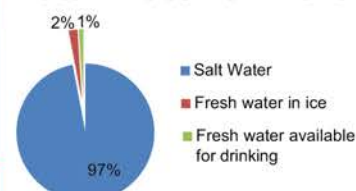


Figure 1: Only 1% of all the water on earth is available for drinking. Another reason to reduce water pollution.



**MOST OF OUR DRINKING WATER COMES FROM THE HUNTER RIVER BEFORE IT IS TREATED BY COUNCIL. THE CLEANER THE WATER IN OUR WATERWAYS THE LESS IT NEEDS TO BE TREATED, SAVING COSTS AND CHEMICALS.**

- Our waterways are also used for recreation such as fishing and picnicking. Reducing water pollution makes our waterways more attractive and safe to use.
- Waterways are an important part of our ecosystem. Reducing water pollution helps protect plants and animals in the water.
- The Council and community volunteers, such as Landcare use resources, time and effort in protecting our waterways. Everyone can help by reducing pollution.

## Small actions you take within our shire can have a large impact on our local waterways.

- Reduce litter. Don't litter either deliberately or accidentally. Report people who litter. Participate in clean-up activities.
- Sweep your gutter and driveway regularly and put the sweepings on the garden, the compost or in the bin. Don't hose anything down the drain.
- Stop soil or mulch being washed or blown off the garden.
- Clean up pet droppings and dispose of them in the rubbish bin.
- Rake up leaves and put them in the compost or green bin, not in the gutter.
- Stabilise and replant areas of disturbed soil.
- Consider natural alternatives to pest control chemicals in the garden.
- Use the minimum amount of detergent for cleaning outside.
- Maintain your car so there are no oil leaks.
- Wash cars on the lawn using minimal detergent and ensure water does not enter drains. Even better, take your car to a car wash where the water is treated and recycled.
- Don't stockpile sand and soil on areas where it can wash into the stormwater system.
- Participate in activities with the Council's Sustainability Hub or your local Landcare group.

## What the Council is doing to help our waterways

- Revegetation and erosion control of waterway banks including tree planting, rock revetment and erosion matting.
- Installing and maintaining pollution traps.
- Undertaking street sweeping.
- Regulating activities that impact on waterways.
- Conducting Council and community clean ups and anti-litter programs.
- Supporting community groups such as Landcare.
- Raising awareness in the community about the impacts of water pollution.



Please contact Muswellbrook Shire Council for further information

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