

Port Augusta Stormwater Management Plan (SMP)



FAQs

1. What is the Stormwater Management Plan (SMP)?

The SMP is a draft plan prepared by **Port Augusta City Council** to guide how we could manage stormwater, reduce flood risk, and improve water quality across the city. It provides a long-term vision for safer, cleaner, and more liveable communities.

2. Why has the SMP been prepared?

The SMP was developed to:

- Improve understanding of stormwater and flood risks in Port Augusta.
- Guide future decisions to manage flooding, protect the environment, and make the city more resilient.

The plan was prepared in partnership with the **Stormwater Management Authority** and consultants **Southfront**.

3. What are the goals of the SMP?

The plan aims to:

1. Identify flood-prone areas and opportunities to reduce flooding, considering climate change impacts.
2. Improve stormwater quality entering Spencer Gulf.
3. Explore water conservation and stormwater reuse options.
4. Protect and enhance water-dependent ecosystems.
5. Provide policies and principles to guide future stormwater decisions.

4. Why is Port Augusta at risk of flooding?

Flooding in Port Augusta happens because of our **undulating terrain, coastal location, and steep catchments**. Factors include:

- Low-lying areas with slow drainage.
- Older pipe networks built for smaller rainfall events.
- Tidal conditions that limit coastal drainage.
- Intense, arid-climate storms producing rapid runoff.
- Increased hard surfaces from urban development generating more runoff.

The SMP uses **detailed modelling** to identify the areas most at risk and plan solutions.

5. What measures are proposed over time to manage stormwater?

Key actions include:

- **Pump Station Upgrades:** Improve drainage in low-lying areas.
- **Naturalised Open Channels:** Convert some drains and road central medians to open channels to improve flow and water quality.
- **Install Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs):** Remove litter and debris before water reaches Spencer Gulf.
- **Implement, where appropriate, Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) & Non-Structural Measures:** Update planning controls, share community information, and explore stormwater reuse.

These measures aim to **reduce flooding, improve water quality, and create greener, more resilient public spaces.**

6. How will the SMP benefit the community?

The plan will:

- Mitigate the risk of homes and businesses from flooding.
- Improve road safety and access during storms.
- Reduce pollution entering Spencer Gulf.
- Create green spaces, shaded areas, and multi-use reserves.
- Support future development without increasing flood risks.
- Deliver long-term savings by reducing damage and maintenance costs.

7. How will stormwater upgrades be funded?

Implementing the SMP will require **investment and funding support** from Council, State Government programs, and other funding partners. The SMP will provide a **costed and prioritised plan**, which helps Council **seek external funding** for critical stormwater projects to ensure upgrades can be delivered efficiently and effectively.

8. How to have your say:

- View the draft SMP online at: www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au (search for YOUR SAY) or view hard copies of the plan at the Civic Centre, 4 Mackay Street, Port Augusta.
- Download additional information sheets at: www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au (search for YOUR SAY)
- **Submissions close:** Friday 27th February 2026 @ 5pm