



## Protect your home against wet weather sewage overflows

### **Every time it rains, our sewerage network is under threat from sewage overflows caused by incorrect stormwater connections**

Excessive stormwater inflow into the sewerage network can cause sewage to back up and overflow. Stormwater inflow takes up capacity of the network and costs millions of dollars every year on pumping and treatment, impacting ratepayers through rates.

### **Stormwater and sewage do not mix**

The sewerage and stormwater networks are two separate systems.

The sewerage network transports sewage to a sewage treatment plant where contaminants are removed.

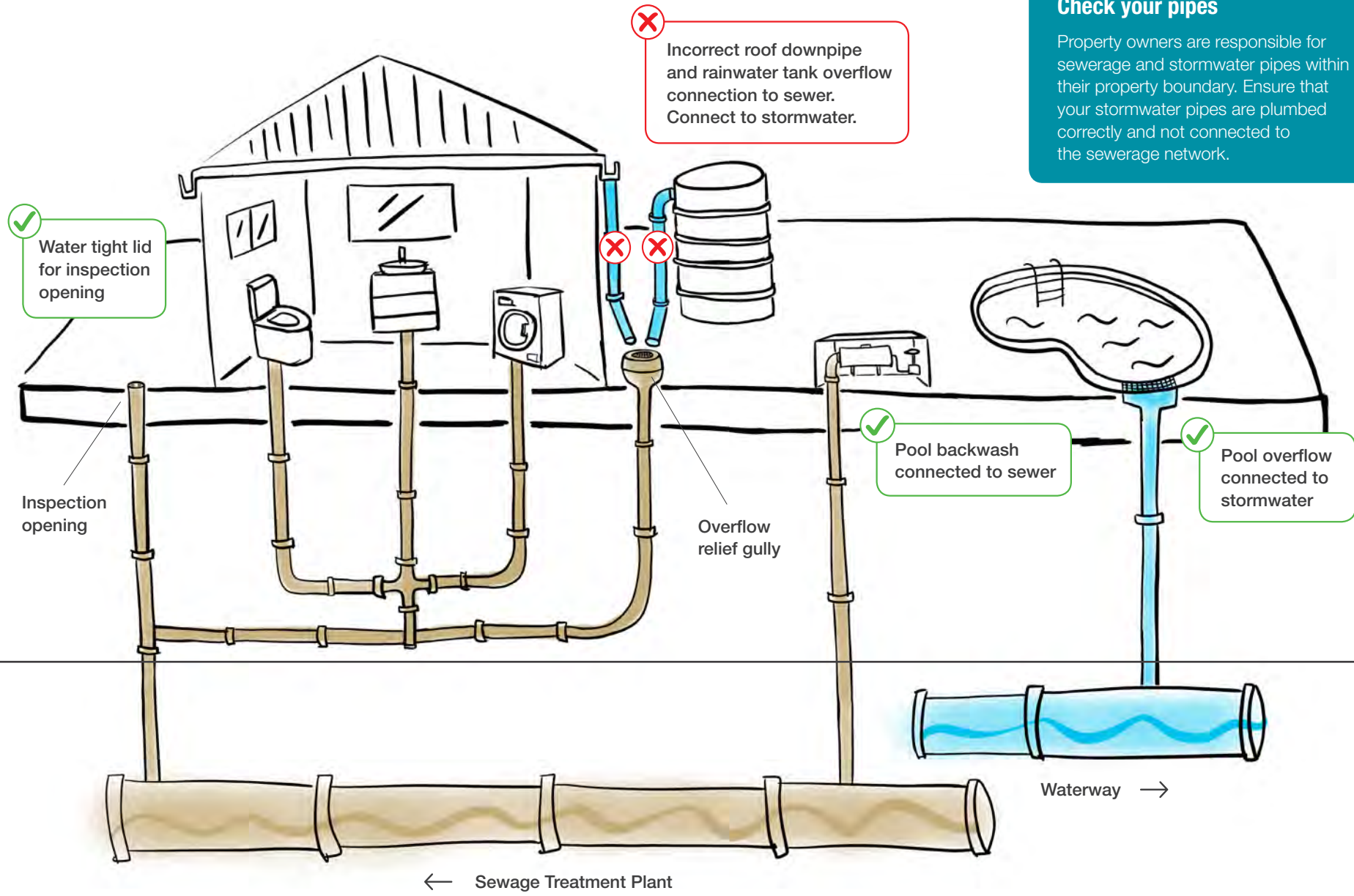
The stormwater network directs stormwater from your roof and backyards to the nearest waterway.

If your roof gutters are incorrectly connected to the sewerage network, it can produce enough stormwater inflow during heavy rain to fill a small swimming pool! This volume can be 20 times more than an average house should be disposing into the sewerage network every day.

With nowhere to go, sewage can back up and overflow from maintenance holes, backyards and toilets.

Your responsibility

City's responsibility



✗ Incorrect roof downpipe and rainwater tank overflow connection to sewer. Connect to stormwater.

**Check your pipes**  
Property owners are responsible for sewerage and stormwater pipes within their property boundary. Ensure that your stormwater pipes are plumbed correctly and not connected to the sewerage network.

## Check your overflow relief gully

In the event of a sewerage pipe blockage, the overflow relief gully (ORG) directs the spill outside your home, rather than inside.

**The ORG is not a stormwater drain.**

It should have a grated opening and can be found close to the external wall of your home.

- Is the grate easily removed?
- Is it clear of obstructions?
- Is it at least 75 mm above the ground to avoid collecting stormwater runoff during rain?



Positioned at least 75 mm above ground.



Not raised to specification and stormwater is directed into ORG.

## Check your pool

Refrain from using the filter backwash system immediately before, during or after a rain event.

## Check your pipes

Roof downpipes must drain into the stormwater network. If your downpipe appears to be connected to an overflow relief gully, an incorrect connection may exist. Have them inspected by a licensed plumber.

## Managing sewage is a partnership

The City takes this problem very seriously. Sewage overflows pose a risk to public health, our waterways and beaches.

The City is responsible for repairing and maintaining city-owned sewers. As a property owner, you are responsible to ensure that the pipes within your property boundary are compliant.

Even though your property may have passed an inspection when it was first built, plumbing and landscaping works over time may render your pipes and drains incorrect or illegal by today's standards.

Use the checklist provided to check your property.

## Supporting legislation

Section 193 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act* prohibits discharge of stormwater into a service provider's infrastructure. The maximum penalty for discharging stormwater into the sewer is \$30,475.

## For more information

P 1300 000 928

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