

**ITEM 9 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR COX - RAIN GARDENS**

Councillor Cox has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Wollongong City Council develop technical guidelines for the construction of Rain Gardens, so that these can be used in addition to existing stormwater treatments on public and private land in our city.”

**Background provided by Councillor Cox:**

Over the past 15 years, many councils have begun constructing Rain Gardens in place of traditional stormwater treatments.

A Rain Garden is a sunken garden, usually containing plants like reeds and rushes, that can cope with wet soil. The garden captures initial rain water runoff, allowing water to be absorbed by the soil instead of ending up as storm water. There is a stormwater drain in the garden, but about half a meter higher than the lowest point of the depression, so that in most occasions, that water soaks into the soil instead of going into the stormwater system and being wasted. Only in very heavy rain does it overflow into the drain. Rain Gardens reduce flooding and improve water retention in the soil.

In 2016, Marrickville Council developed a Rain Garden design manual for other LGAs, in order to make it easier to adopt this practice. The design manual can be found [here](#).

In addition, useful information on the benefits of utilising Rain Gardens as a complementary system to existing stormwater infrastructure can be found [here](#).