



# Stormwater Threat to Lake Water Quality

**Accelerated sedimentation and nutrient enrichment from stormwater run-off is the single biggest threat to water quality and marine life in Lake Macquarie. While sedimentation is a natural process occurring all the time, human impacts speed up the process and place the Lake under stress.**



**Concrete drainage lines carry greater volumes of stormwater into the Lake without the same level of filtration as natural systems**

Recent public awareness campaigns such as the EPA's "The Drain Is Just For Rain" look at limiting the types of pollutants that we contribute to our waterways through stormwater. When materials like organic soils, detergents and fertilisers are put down our drains they contain materials that increase nutrient levels and throw natural processes out of balance. When this balance is disturbed, algal blooms, smelly black organic ooze and other associated problems show up in our near shore areas.

Other things such as pet faeces, cigarette butts and automotive greases and oils also cause damage when they enter the Lake. It is important to dispose of these materials responsibly, so that they are not carried into the Lake in stormwater following rain events. The promotion of rainwater tanks

is another way that can greatly improve stormwater management and the quality of the water in Lake Macquarie. Wide-scale use of rainwater tanks in our region will reduce the amount of stormwater that enters the Lake and will make greater use of a valuable natural resource.



**Domestic Rainwater Tanks like this one can reduce the volume of stormwater entering Lake Macquarie and make better use of a valuable natural resource**



**Constructed vegetated swales like this one at Fennell Bay attempt to mimic nature by slowing stormwater down and filtering out harmful sediments and nutrients**