

## Glossary of Terms used in the Stormwater Industry

Term	Code	Definition
Lacunae	Bot	Air space within the cellular tissue of plants. Lacunae are a characteristic feature of non-woody water plants. They provide for the storage and movement of gases and act as non-living support structures reducing metabolic costs.
Lake	Gen	A large open body of water (fresh or saline) surrounded by land.
	Sto	A large open body of water (fresh or saline) primarily surrounded by land where the volume of water greatly exceeds the volume of stormwater runoff from all but extreme storms. It includes the bed and banks, and any other element confining or containing the water.
Laminar flow	Gen	A smooth, steady, uniform, non-turbulent flow of a viscous fluid in which there is little or no mixing of neighbouring layers.
	Hyd	A flow condition characterised by fluid particles moving along smooth paths in laminas or layers, with one layer gliding smoothly over an adjacent layer. The viscous properties of the fluid suppress any random (turbulent) motion of fluid particles thus preventing mixing between adjacent layers. Agitation of fluid particles is of molecular nature only. Random disturbances by wall roughness are rapidly dampened by viscous action.
Land drain	Rur	A drain designed to intercept and collect subsoil water to reduce the moisture content of the subsoil and the height of the water table.
Land drainage	Rur	All aspects of the drainage of undeveloped land.
Land use (development)	Hyd	The particular use or uses of land within a catchment such as central business, commercial, industrial, residential, open space and parks, major and minor roads.
Landslide	Sol	<p>A general term used to describe mass movement where the material is displaced down-slope and along distinct surfaces of separation. The term encompasses a wide variety of materials but relates specifically to slope failures that involve the moving material sliding over the ground surface.</p> <p>Classification of landslides can be based on their constituent materials. A further subdivision is commonly related to whether the material in motion is greatly deformed or not, and to whether the slide is rotational or translational.</p>
Landslip	Sol	A landslide extending over relatively a short distance and composed predominantly of debris and/or earth material.
Langelier Saturation Index	Wat	Index (SI) relating the actual pH of water (pH) to the pH at which water is just saturated with calcium carbonate (pH <sub>s</sub> ). $SI = pH - pH_s$ .
Large dam	Eng	A dam satisfying the minimum requirements for inclusion in the ICOLD World Register of Dams.

Large detention storage		A large detention or retention storage such as a lake, pond, basin or large car park, designed or able to significantly reduce and attenuate the peak discharge from the contributing catchment for those storms with an average recurrence interval of at least 50 years.
Larvivorous	Eco	Relating to larvae-eating predators such as fish, mayflies, and similar.
Lateral connectivity	Wwy	The extent of the connections between the river and its floodplain, that is from the river to the floodplain and back from the floodplain to the river, by overbank flows or through flood runners.
Lateral erosion	Esc	Gully enlargement in a lateral direction due to incision by concentrated runoff entering at the gully sides and/or by undercutting and slumping and/or by sheet, rill and splash erosion of the gully sides.
Lawful point of discharge	Sto	A point of discharge which is either under the control of a local government or statutory authority, or at which discharge rights have been granted by registered easement in favour of the local government or statutory authority, and at which discharge from a development will not create a worse situation for downstream property owners than that which existed prior to the development.
Leachate	Sol	Water that has passed through a soil and that contains soluble material removed from that soil.
Leaching	Sol	The process of the removal in solution of the more soluble minerals and salts by water seeping through a soil, rock, ore body or waste material.
Lean clay	Sol	A soil contains significant amounts of silt and sand particles and a smaller proportion of clay.
Left bank	Wwy	The left bank or the left channel wall when looking downstream.
Legal point of discharge	Sto	A point of discharge which is either under the control of a local government or statutory authority, or at which discharge rights have been granted by registered easement in favour of the local government or statutory authority.
Lentic	Wwy	Relating to standing water.
Lethal	Eco	Causing death by direct action. Death of aquatic organisms is the cessation of all visible signs of biological activity.
Levee	Eng	An embankment built along the banks of a watercourse or around an area of land to prevent or limit flood inundation.
	Lfm	A long linear rise bordering a watercourse, comprising part of the floodplain formed by deposition of sediment from overbank flow during floods. Relief is typically low and the outer slope very gentle.
Level bank	Rur	A bank constructed along the true contour forming a level channel that discharges at either or both ends depending on its design requirements. Typically used on grazing land.  Also known as a CONTOUR BANK.

Level of performance	Eng	The design performance standard of a constructed or managed system.
Level of service	Eng	The actual performance of a constructed or managed system. The term is being replaced by STANDARD OF SERVICE.
Level pool routing	Hyd	A simple numerical procedure for calculating the outflow hydrograph from a reservoir assuming a horizontal water surface.
Level spreader	Esc	Finely contoured end-of-drain profile designed to allow concentrated flow to be released as even sheet flow over a nominated width of stable vegetated (grassed) land.
Life cycle costing	Eng	A process to determine the sum of all expenses associated with a product or project, including acquisition, installation, operation, maintenance, refurbishment, discarding and disposal costs. Life-cycle costs provide an important input into the evaluation of various stormwater management options.
Life-cycle study	Eco	A chronic study in which the significant life stages of an organism are exposed to a test material. Generally, a life-cycle test involves an entire reproductive cycle of the organism. A partial life-cycle toxicity test includes the part of the life cycle observed to be especially sensitive to chemical exposure.
Light clays	Sol	A soil with approximately 35 to 40% clay content. A bolus of a light clay soil can be rolled to a thread 3 to 4mm thick without fracture. Plastic behaviour is evident and the soil has a smooth feel with some resistance to rolling out.
Light rainfall	Hyd	Rainfall with an intensity less than 2mm/hr, and a total rainfall depth less than the equivalent of the 1-hour duration, 1 in 1 year ARI design storm rainfall depth over a 24 hour period.  For example, if the 1 hour duration, 1 in 1 year ARI average rainfall intensity at a given location is 36mm/hr, then light rainfall would be a rainfall depth less than 36mm within any 24-hour period with an intensity not exceeding 2mm/hr at any given time.
Likelihood	Gen	The probability or frequency of an event or outcome.
Limnetic	Wwy	The open water region of a lake. A zone of deep water between surface and compensation depth.
Limnology	Wwy	The study of bodies of fresh water, including biological, geological, physical and chemical aspects.
Lintel	Sto	The upper cover of a side-flow stormwater inlet, such as a roadside kerb inlet.
Lip-in-line gully inlet	Sto	A roadside stormwater inlet recessed into the kerb such that the concrete lip surrounding the grated inlet aligns with the adjacent kerb lip. The kerb inlet and grate do not extend into the trafficable area of the road.
Lipophilic	Eco	Relating to an affinity for fats or other lipids. Substances that concentrate in fatty tissues of organisms.
Liquid	Gen	A substance composed of molecules that move freely among themselves but do not tend to separate like those of gases. A substance neither gaseous or solid.

Litter	Gen	Things discarded and scattered about as rubbish. Primarily manufactured objects made from paper, plastic, cardboard, glass, metal, etc. but not including materials of natural origin such as gravel or vegetation.
	Sol	The uppermost layer of organic material in a soil, consisting of freshly fallen or slightly decomposed organic materials which have accumulated at the ground surface.
Litter bag	Sto	A pollution retention bag placed inside a roadside gully inlet chamber. The bags are either a self-supporting woven geotextile, or non-woven geotextile filter bag enclosed inside a basket. Litter bags trap litter, debris and finer pollutants such as coarse sediment and road grit.
Litter basket	Sto	An in-pipe litter and debris collection basket installed within an inlet or junction pit of a piped drainage system. The basket may either be an open mesh suitable for trapping litter and debris, but not sediment.
Litter collection basket	—	See LITTER BASKET.
Litter rack	Sto	A grill, grate or other barrier located across a channel or pipe to trap litter and debris. The bars may be vertical, horizontal or angled (relative to the direction of inflow) depending on hydraulic and environmental requirements, such as fish passage or exclusion requirements.  Also known as a TRASH RACK.
Littoral	Coa	Pertaining to the shore of a lake, sea or ocean.
Littoral zone	Coa	The area of land pertaining to the shore of a lake, sea or ocean. Normally taken as the zone bounded by high and low tide levels.
Loading	Sto	The total mass of a pollutant discharged during a storm event. The term may also be used to describe the mass of pollutant intercepted (g/squ. metre) by a device during a storm event, or on an annual basis.
Loam	Sol	A medium-textured soil of approximate composition 10 to 25% clay, 25 to 50% silt, and less than 50% sand.  A strip of soil mouldered in the hand can be rolled into a thick thread, but this will break up before it is 3 to 4mm thick. The soil has a smooth spongy feel with no obvious sandiness.
Long orifice	Hyd	An opening in the wall of a tank or in a plate located within a conduit normal to the axis of flow in which the thickness of the wall or plate is greater than the orifice diameter.
Long section	Eng	A vertical section, usually with an exaggerated vertical scale, showing streambed elevations along a channel centre line.  Also known as LONGITUDINAL SECTION.
Longitudinal connectivity	Wwy	The extent of connections within the watercourse channel along its length from headwaters (upstream) to channel mouth (downstream).

Longitudinal section	Eng	A vertical section, usually with an exaggerated vertical scale, showing streambed elevations along a channel centre line.  Also known as LONG SECTION.
Looped network	Eng	A pipe network that includes some closed loop sectors.
Loss	Gen	Any negative consequence or adverse effect, financial or otherwise.
	Hyd	1. Stormwater volume or discharge permanently or temporarily removed from a given surface flow.
	Hyd	2. The difference between the total rainfall on a catchment during a given storm and the total catchment discharge that can be directly related to the storm.
Loss model	Hyd	Numerical simulation of stormwater losses.
Loss rate	Hyd	The rate at which rainfall is lost through processes such as infiltration, evaporation and local storage, and therefore does not contribute to surface runoff.
Losses (rainfall)	Hyd	The volumetric difference between the observed total rainfall hyetograph and the rainfall excess hydrograph.
Lotic	Wwy	Relating to flowing water.
Lower regime flow	Wwy	A state of flow that causes only minor changes (if any) in the surface form of sandy channel beds usually resulting in the formation of small ripples or dunes in the bed.
Lowest astronomical tide (LAT)	Coa	The lowest tide level that can be predicted to occur under average meteorological conditions and under any combination of astronomical conditions.
Lowest observed effect concentration (LOEC)	Eco	The lowest concentration of a material used in a toxicity test that has a statistically significant adverse effect on the exposed population of test organisms as compared with the controls.
Lowest observed effect level (LOEL)	Eco	The lowest concentration that produces an observable effect in a test species. Below this concentration there are no observed effects in the test species.
Low-flow	Wwy	The underlying flow rate that cannot be directly attributed to storm events. It includes any regular, long-term inflows such as environmental flows from regulated lakes or reservoirs. The low-flow is usually not constant, but varies with groundwater levels and long-term weather conditions.  Also known as the DRY WEATHER FLOW.
Low-flow bypass	Eco	The release of minimum flow or base flow from a regulated water body for maintenance of the downstream ecosystem.
	Sto	The bypassing of dry weather base flows around an instream structure in order to aid in the de-watering of that structure, or allow maintenance works to occur within the structure without contamination of the flow.
Low-flow pipe	Sto	A subsurface drainage pipe sized to convey dry weather inflows and minor storm runoff to the principal outlet without storage.

Low-flow system	Sto	Surface and/or subsurface measures that convey low and dry weather inflows to the principal outlet without storage.
Low level basin outlet	Sto	The outlet of a detention/retention storage system sized to convey dry weather inflows and minor storm runoff.