

Glossary of Terms used in the Stormwater Industry

Term	Code	Definition
Nannoplankton	Eco	A type of organism suspended in open water that is too small to be collected by nets but can be recovered by sedimentation or centrifugation.
Nappe	Hyd	The underside surface of a jet of water discharging from a weir.
Natural biological controls	Eco	Naturally occurring bacteria, fungi or microorganisms that are cultured and added to waste materials to break down contaminants.
Natural Channel Design (NCD)	Wwy	A channel design concept based on the planning, design, construction and maintenance of a watercourse channel that is compatible with current and future hydrologic, ecological and social requirements for the catchment.
Natural erosion	Geo	Erosion occurring under natural environmental conditions and over long geological periods, unaffected by human activities Also known as GEOLOGICAL EROSION.
Natural flow regime	Wwy	The pattern of flow prior to any human alteration.
Natural recharge	Gel	The infiltration of water into an aquifer from the surface as a result of rainfall, stream flow, or irrigation.
Natural regeneration	Wwy	The process of re-establishing native vegetation within a disturbed area primarily through the promotion of natural regrowth and assisted regrowth using the local seed source. Usually applied when native plants exist on site in sufficient numbers and diversity to provide propagative material.
Natural system	Gen	A system formed by nature as opposed to an artificial or constructed system.
Natural wetland	Wwy	A wetland originally formed by natural processes.
Nekton	Eco	Free swimming organisms in aquatic ecosystems e.g. fish, swimming insects, cetaceans.
Netting	Esc	A coarse synthetic fabric with a uniform open mesh, most commonly used as a short-term control for loose mulch. Common netting materials include wire, plastic, jute and coir.
Network	Sto	A system of connecting pipes, usually interconnecting pipes supplying water.
Neuston	Eco	The collective term for microscopic components of the pleuston that are adapted to the interface habitat between air and water. The neuston comprises those organisms adapted to living on the upper surface of the interface film (the epineuston) and those living on the underside of the surface film (the hyponeuston).
Nitrification	Sci	The process of microbial conversion of ammonia to nitrite, then to nitrate.

Nitrogen fixation	Bot	The conversion of atmospheric nitrogen into stable compounds useable by plants. The nitrogen is carried out by bacteria that colonise the roots of most legumes.
Nominal diameter	Eng	The diameter of a circle or sphere having the same area or volume as the given pipe or aggregate.
Non-cohesive soil	Sol	A soil without the fine fraction is lacking, resulting in a loss of the cohesive bonds associated with this fraction.
Non-mountable kerb	Eng	A kerb high enough to prevent or discourage vehicles driving off the carriageway. Also known as a BARRIER KERB.
Non-point source pollution	Sol	A diffuse pollution source without a single point of origin or specific discharge point.
Non-structural control	Wwy	A method of controlling the impacts of river flooding without engineering works, e.g. by flood warning or development control.
Non-structural measures	Sto	Stormwater treatment measures that do not involve construction, e.g. education, regulatory instruments and complementary enforcement programs, illicit discharge elimination programs, street sweeping.
Non-uniform flow	Hyd	A state of flow in which the streamlines are not straight, causing a directional change in velocity, or the streamlines are not parallel causing a change in speed along the streamlines.
Non-woven geotextile	Eng	A geotextile formed from fibres arranged in an oriented or random pattern to form a sheet. The fibres are bonded chemically, thermally or mechanically.
Normal depth	Hyd	The depth at which uniform flow occurs at a given discharge in a channel of given cross-section, slope and roughness.
Normal distribution	Hyd	A statistical analysis represented by a normal distribution of variables where the skew coefficient is zero. Also known as the GAUSSIAN DISTRIBUTION.
Normal flow conditions	Hyd	A free-surface flow condition where normal depth and velocity of flow is achieved consistent with the prevailing channel shape, slope and roughness.
Not detectable	Wat	Relating to a state below the limit of detection of a specified method of analysis.
NTU	Wat	The abbreviation for Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
Numerical model	Hyd	A numerical simulation of a system, event or condition, e.g. a model of a river flood. Also known as MATHEMATICAL MODELS.
Nutrients	Sci	Substances that provide nourishment to biota, including aquatic plants such as algae. Nutrients include substances such as phosphorus and nitrogen. Their excessive input into receiving waters can over-stimulate the overfeeding (eutrophication) of aquatic plants. Nutrients in stormwater may be either dissolved or particulate, with particulate

		forms typically being more prevalent.
NWQM Strategy	Sto	The abbreviation for National Water Quality Management Strategy developed by ANZECC and ARMCANZ.