



# CASE STUDY

## The weekend's 180mm of rain we copped ...

Location: Terry Hills, New South Wales

The Challenge: An ordinary "pocket handkerchief" lawn in the backyard where the lawn is dying from waterlogging, even in a dry year.

"The back right corner of grass in front of that ladder is where the main problem is. My feet sink in to the lawn it is so wet.

"... the grass in the back half of the lawn is now all but dead, or hanging on for dear life. The front half is not too bad as it has a very thick layer of soil I built up when building that front retaining wall

The back right is the highest point and there is a gentle ~2% grade so I'll fall it all to the left and down to bottom left exiting beneath a retaining wall in bottom left of photo."



The question to be asked – as always – is "Where is the water coming from?" Three possibilities immediately present themselves:

1. From the adjacent swimming pool and associated plumbing
2. From the next door property through overwatering or some other cause.
3. From the underlying rock structure.

**These suggest installing an intercept drain running along the top of the lawn area, making sure that the trench is deep enough to intercept any flow from next door or through the rocks.**

There is another factor to consider. Note the efflorescence on the brick retaining wall. This might indicate that there has been significant water at depth throughout the area even though the lawn directly above has not been affected. When brought to the owner's attention, he said that he thought it not possible. "I don't think I'll need any Intercept at the front as I installed (*Brand X*) vertically wrapped in geofabric with ag pipe at the bottom when building it in 2017."

When the owner started to dig, the first to note is that the position of the Ag Pipe too high. The second is the amount of water at depth.



From the owner:

"So it certainly works for the surface water, but I'll know in a years time if it is addressing capillary water originating from 500mm depth."

"Anyway here is the silver lining and highlight to the weekend's 180mm of rain we copped through Terry Hills."

(Click on the photo)

