

2.10 Nutrient and Irrigation Management Policy

The Town of Bassendean is committed to protecting the natural environment and water quality. Good planning and operational practice is vital to ensure that water is used efficiently and effectively.

The Town recognises that the application of artificial fertilisers and irrigated water supply can have unwanted impacts on the natural environment, especially water bodies, if not carefully managed.

Objectives

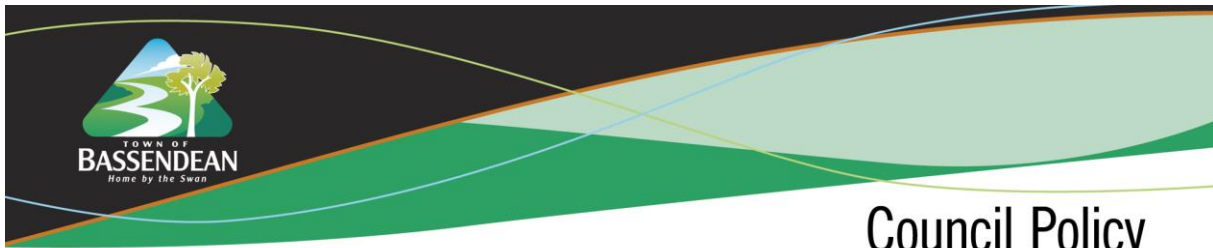
The Town of Bassendean's objectives of the Nutrient and Irrigation Management Policy are:

- To protect water quality in the Town's water courses and drainage systems;
- To contribute to reducing nutrient inputs to water courses and drainage systems to levels that have minimal impact on human health, the environment and associated values;
- To reduce the frequency and intensity of toxic or nuisance algal blooms caused by nutrient pollution.

Strategy

The Town of Bassendean strives to achieve these objectives by:

- Setting appropriate guidelines for irrigation development;
- Strengthening land use controls and planning mechanisms to identify and phase out high nutrient exporting land uses that are unable to meet nutrient reduction targets;
- Reviewing Town Planning Schemes to ensure they minimise nutrient export from various land uses;
- Planting and retaining local native vegetation etc. This will reduce the risks of nutrients and pesticides entering water bodies;
- Using guidelines to determine fertilisation requirements;
- Ensuring irrigations systems are water efficient;
- Investigate, and where practicable apply, the use of subsurface irrigation systems to minimise runoff;



Council Policy

- Where nutrient rich wastewater is used for irrigation, control application rates and establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program to ensure surface runoff and shallow groundwater contamination does not occur;
- Monitor and evaluate the nutrient and irrigation management practices to gauge overall effectiveness.

Detail

- Council adopted Local Planning Policy NO. 3 – Water Sensitive Design, Local Planning Policy NO. 4 – Flood Plain Management & Development and Local Planning Policy NO. 14 – On-Site Stormwater Policy shall apply to all subdivisions, land development and redevelopment proposals;
- This policy applies to all Council parks, reserves and stormwater drainage networks;

Application

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests with the Mayor, Councillors, Council delegates and the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer (ECO) has the authority to administer the requirements of this policy. This policy is to be reviewed every three years

<p>Policy Type: Strategic Policy</p> <p>Link to Strategic Community Plan: Environmental sustainability and adaption to climate change</p>	<p>Responsible Officer: Director Operational Services</p> <p>First Adopted: June 2011</p> <p>Last Reviewed: March 2014</p> <p>Version</p> <p>Next Review due by: December 2016</p>
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