

2.11 Wetlands Policy

The Town of Bassendean is committed to protecting the natural environment and recognises that wetlands are a vital part of a complex link between the landscape, soil, groundwater, rivers, plants and animals and that Wetlands provide a habitat, refuge, breeding ground and food source for fauna.

Objectives

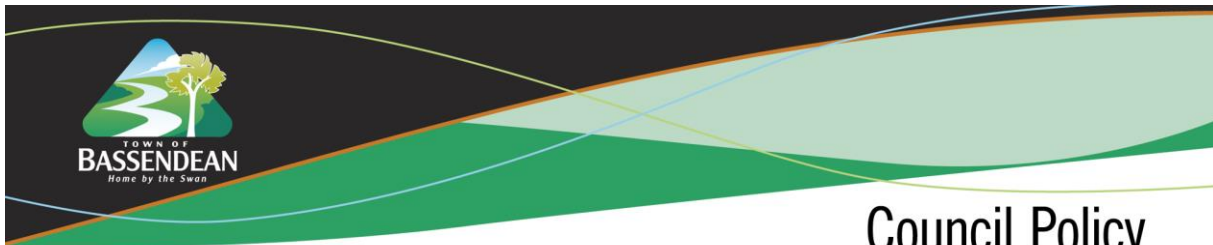
The Town of Bassendean's objectives of the Wetlands Policy are:

- To conserve and manage wetlands in an ecologically sustainable way and within a framework of integrated catchment management, and integration as part of ecological linkage development (in accordance with the Town's Collective Biodiversity Strategy);
- To prevent the further loss or degradation of valuable wetlands and wetland types, and promote wetland conservation, restoration and, in some instances, creation;
- To greatly increase community awareness and appreciation of the many values of wetlands and the importance of sound management of wetlands;
- To increase community involvement in the management of wetlands.

Strategy

The Town of Bassendean strives to achieve these objectives by:

- Identifying all wetlands and prioritising in order of significance. This will allow decision making to be accountable in consideration of the wetland, and for appropriate objectives and management strategies to be determined;
- Ensuring adequate and appropriate buffering and/or setbacks of wetlands to maintain or enhance the environmental attributes, functions and values of the water resource and minimise the adverse impact of nearby land uses both existing and future;
- Implementing measures to manage vegetation cover and dependant ecosystems;
- Introducing measures that ensure implementation of best planning practice and best management;
- Assessing potential impacts the wetland may have on land use i.e. flooding;



- Protecting, managing, conserving and enhancing the environmental attributes, functions and values of wetlands;
- Preparing management plans for wetlands of significance;
- Rehabilitating damaged wetlands.
- 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;
- There are several wetlands within the Town of Bassendean, including:
 - Ashfield Flats Reserve (vested predominately with the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). Department of Planning currently manage the vested land and the Department of Water manage the stormwater drains);
 - Bindaring Park/ Pickering Park;
 - Success Hill Reserve – natural springs;
 - Mary Crescent Reserve; and
 - Broadway Reserve.

Application

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests with all Councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors of the Town of Bassendean. This policy is to be measured and reported upon in the quarterly and annual report. 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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