



POLICY NO:-
Infr CP120 – ENVIRONMENT

GOVERNANCE INFORMATION			
Procedure Link:	NA	Administrative Policy Link:	NA

ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION							
Version	1	CP120	SCM	26/07/18	Res: 251-18	Synopsis	Created and Adopted by Council
Version	2	Infr CP120	SCM	30/09/20	Res: 270-20	Synopsis	Reviewed and Adopted by Council
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Version	3	Infr CP120	OCM	23/10/24	Res: 275-24	Synopsis	Reviewed and Adopted by Council

1. RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE

Infrastructure

2. PURPOSE OR OBJECTIVE

- To maintain, protect and enhance the natural environment within the Shire of Dardanup.
- To ensure that policies, strategies and management plans are prepared and implemented for natural reserves, endemic flora and fauna and natural landscape areas in the care, control and management of the Shire.
- Promote community engagement of the environment and encourage responsible environmental behaviour and participation in the management of the environment.
- Effectively manage resource consumption, including water and energy that will assist in achieving a more sustainable environment.
- Create and foster partnerships that will advance the Shire’s environmental objectives.

3. POLICY

3.1 Management of Natural Areas and Ecosystems

- The Shire of Dardanup will preserve, protect and enhance the ecology and biodiversity of natural ecosystems contained within reserves under the care, control and management of the Shire.
- The Shire of Dardanup will prepare and implement strategies and management plans for natural reserves and other naturally vegetated areas in the care, control and management of the Shire.
- All natural reserves created through subdivision and to be handed over to the Shire must be accompanied with an environmental management plan endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer.
- The Shire of Dardanup will actively engage and foster the community to educate and encourage interest and participation in the restoration and management of reserves and natural areas.

3.2 Conservation, Protection and Enhancement of Natural Area Resources Within the Shire.

The Shire of Dardanup currently recognises natural areas within Shire boundaries as assets, which intrinsically provide benefits to the Shire, the environment and the community, via the following means:

- Ecosystem services provided by natural areas such as; water quality improvement and filtration through existing wetlands, drainage; natural vegetation providing services such as shade, air quality improvement, etc.
- General services to the community, including passive recreation, health and wellbeing services and community engagement.
- Built landscape services such as sense of place, aesthetics, landscape enhancement etc.

Recognising these values, the Shire will implement natural area management best practice to:

- Minimise threats to natural environments through consideration of sustainable best practice where possible.
- Protect, conserve and enhance the most valued high conservation areas through sound environmental management
- Utilise opportunities to engage the community through education and engagement practices to help to protect and value natural assets in the Shire.

3.3 Design and Construction of Shire Infrastructure and Built Assets

When undertaking design and construction activities, the Shire of Dardanup will give consideration to, and incorporate the following with the intention of increasing sustainability and reducing the direct and indirect impacts on the environment:

- The use of recycled construction and demolition products in civil construction projects, for example the use of recycled road base and drainage rock.
- Procuring products and materials from renewable and sustainable sources, such as plantation timber.
- Aspire to sourcing end-of-life management of materials at procurement stage to promote sustainable disposal of final products as appropriate.
- Seeking design consultants, builders, suppliers and construction contractors who employ current best practice in environment and sustainability, and systems to minimise the environmental impact resulting from the project, implementation and ongoing processes.
- During the development of project designs, examine water and energy efficiencies and explore possible design and specification changes that can enhance the environmental performance of the asset while achieving both a sustainable and affordable solution and final outcome.

3.4 Shire Operations and Activities

The Shire of Dardanup will review and develop its operations and activities to find opportunities to reduce the impact on the environment, including:

- The implementation of best practice management and monitoring of ground water extraction and usage.
- Reducing irrigation water usage through irrigation efficiency improvements, hydro-zoning and waterwise landscape designs.
- Improve the quality of surface water runoff through Water Sensitive Urban Design and other drainage best practices.
- Where possible, consider the impacts of operations and activities on air quality and possible mitigation methods.
- Prevent and/or manage contamination of land.
- Support and implement the development and implementation of sustainable alternatives for the supply of water and energy.
- Explore opportunities to reduce the environmental impacts of the Shire's plant and vehicle fleet, including consideration of establishing an electric pool vehicle fleet and supporting infrastructure.
- Shire operations staff to be appropriately trained, skilled and equipped to work effectively in and around natural areas to minimise environmental impacts.

3.5 New Developments

When considering new developments, the Shire of Dardanup encourages developers and their consultants to consider the implementation of both sustainable and environmental best practices, including but not limited to:

- Alternative water supplies for both potable water and non-potable uses, including water recycling, grey water usage in irrigation, rain-water tanks, storm water harvesting etc.

- Renewable energy sources including solar and wind energy, as well as battery storage.
- Infrastructure provision to accommodate electric vehicles.
- The integration of smart technology to infrastructure and processes that will improve efficiencies and enable monitoring of performance.
- Implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design principles and total water cycle management.
- Protecting and enhancing existing natural areas and wetlands, and using vegetation types that are endemic to the area.
- Retaining existing endemic vegetation and trees as landscaping assets and protection of these during development.
- Protection and retention of significant areas of endemic vegetation and trees, and the planting of endemic trees and other vegetation throughout development.