

## 22.03-1 Murray River Management

This policy applies to all land within 250 metres of the Murray River, its associated wetlands and tributaries.

### Policy Basis

The Murray River is an important water supply, tourism, recreational, landscape, cultural and environmental asset. It is considered important to maintain and improve the Murray River environs as a major resource for conservation, leisure and tourist purposes, as the main water supply source and as a significant natural feature enhancing the appeal and environmental quality of the city and the Sunraysia region. The intensity of development on riparian and riverfront land can result in increased flood hazards, conflicts among recreational uses, boating congestion, loss of riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat, visual impacts and declining water quality.

### Objectives

To protect and enhance the natural environmental qualities of the Murray River and its anabranches as a major waterway of local, regional, state, national and international significance.

To ensure that any use, development or works along or adjacent to the Murray River is of a scale, character and form which is compatible with the high environmental quality of this watercourse.

To promote tourist and recreational activities adjacent to the river provided various design and planning considerations are met.

To limit urban development in those areas subject to flooding adjacent to the Murray River.

To enhance the visual amenity of the Murray River and environs by appropriate landscaping based on an overall landscape theme for these areas.

### Policy

It is policy that:

- Alienation or obstruction of the waterway and foreshore of the Murray River and its anabranches is discouraged.
- Use and development of land adjoining the main channel of the Murray River should be for public purposes.
- Disturbance to the shape of the bank and riparian vegetation should be kept to a minimum in any development of riverfront land.
- Use and development should seek to avoid land degradation such as erosion, native vegetation decline, pollution of ground or surface water, ground water accession, salination and soil acidity, and adverse effects on the quality of terrestrial and aquatic habitats.
- Measures should be taken to protect and enhance the riverine landscape by maintaining native vegetation along the riverbank and adjacent land, rehabilitating degraded sites and stabilising and revegetating riverbanks with appropriate species.
- Only use or development which has a demonstrated, essential relationship with the Murray River should be located in or on land adjacent to the Murray River. Other development should be set well back from the bank of the Murray River.

- Use or development which would intensify the use of riverside land should provide public access to the foreshore.
- The use or management of riverine land should seek to reduce pollution caused by salts and nutrients entering the Murray River and otherwise improve the quality of water in the Murray River.
- Land use management decisions affecting wetlands should:
  - Provide for a hydrological regime appropriate for the maintenance or restoration of the productive capacity of the wetland; and
  - Consider the potential impact of surrounding land uses and incorporate measures such as appropriate landscaping or a vegetation buffer which would mitigate any adverse effects.