

22.31 DAMS

This policy applies to the use and development of land for dams in the Rural, Rural Living and Low Density Residential Zones.

Policy Basis

Water management and proper siting and design of dams is important in the Shire considering the extensive rural areas and the continued development of rural living and low density residential areas.

Objectives

- To ensure that dams are designed and constructed in such a manner that the likelihood of dam failure is minimised.
- To ensure that dams are only constructed by people familiar with the appropriate dam construction and soil conservation techniques.
- To ensure that dam sizes related to the suitability of the site and to the use intended.
- To minimise tree removal and to maximise retention and use of top soil.
- To ensure appropriate revegetation.
- To prevent construction of dams in environmental sensitive areas, such as bush gullies.

Policy

It is policy that:

- The location of the proposed dam is appropriate to the terrain characteristics of the land and the capacity of the proposed dam is appropriate to the catchment area of the site.
- Spillways are designed to cater for a 1 in 5 year storm level.
- The need to remove trees is minimised.
- Soil types on the site are suitable for water retention and if not suitable, adequate mechanical or chemical means should be employed.
- Top soil stripped from the site should be spread on any exposed batters and exposed soils should be revegetated with perennial grasses and appropriate indigenous vegetation as soon as possible after construction.
- The contractor or the applicant has consulted with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (Land Protection Service), and is familiar with recommended dam construction techniques.
- A landscape plan be required to show the location of the dam (including any mulch) on the allotment, contours and finished levels, extent of vegetation clearing works proposed, dimensions and capacity where necessary.
- To ensure that wherever possible, any overflow is to be diverted back into the natural water flow or course.
- The views of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and any relevant drainage or water authority may be sought and taken into account.