

22.10 DAMS ON WATERWAYS

This policy applies to applications for on-stream water storages

Policy Basis

The water resources of the Shire are finite.

A critical issue is the maintenance and enhancement of the quality and quantity of the Shire's water supplies and waterways.

A Stream Flow Management Plan is fundamental to the consideration of any planning application for on-stream water storage.

The incremental damming of waterways and the capture of overland flow without reference to a stream management plan is unsustainable. The construction of water storages needs to be regulated to catchment capacity to ensure that the quality and quantity of water in the Shire is not jeopardised.

Objectives

To manage the development of dams on waterways to regulate their impact and ensure that flows are maintained and that water is available for:

- Maintaining environmental sustainability
- Downstream users (locally and regionally)
- Domestic purposes
- Sustainable agricultural enterprises.

To apply guidelines adopted by Council and produced in conjunction with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Goulburn Murray Water and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to assist in the assessment of applications for dams on waterways.

Policy

It is policy that:

- Any application for a dam on a waterway must include a Stream Flow Management Plan that demonstrates:
 - Catchment yield.
 - The maintenance of summer flows for downstream users, both locally and regionally.
 - An environmental impact assessment documenting biodiversity values including in-stream aquatic and the riparian environment.
 - The impact new land management practices will have on nutrient runoff and the movement of sediments.
 - When considering an application for the use of land, the responsible authority should consider the comments of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, relevant Water Board or Water Supply Authority and Catchment Management Authority sought under Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
 - When considering an application for the use of land, the responsible authority must consider the relevant section of the VicRoads – North Eastern Region Dams Policy, which relates to large dams adjacent to declared roads.

- Council will formally seek further information under Section 54 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and defer consideration of applications for on-stream water storages until satisfactory information is available regarding stream flow within the relevant catchment.