

<b>POL</b>	<b>WETLAND CONSERVATION</b>	<b>SEW6</b>
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<b>POLICY CODE:</b>	SEW6
<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	Engineering & Works
<b>BUSINESS UNIT:</b>	Parks & Environment
<b>SERVICE UNIT:</b>	Environment
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Manager, Parks & Environment
<b>FILE NO.:</b>	182/001
<b>DATE FIRST ADOPTED:</b>	21 March 2000
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<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	N/A
<b>DELEGATED AUTHORITY REF.:</b>	N/A
<b>VERSION NO.</b>	6

<b>Dates of Amendments / Reviews:</b>		
DAPPS Meeting:	27 September 2012 22 August 2013 26 February 2015	26 November 2015 23 February 2017
OCM:	17 September 2002 11 October 2012 12 September 2013	12 March 2015 10 December 2015

**BACKGROUND:**

The conservation of wetlands within the district is an issue of growing concern to the local community and Council generally. The district is fortunate to have many and varied types of wetlands within it, many of which possess high conservation values. Ongoing development often creates conflict in terms of the conservation and protection of wetlands. It is important that Council develops a clear policy on wetland protection in order to provide a consistent long term approach to wetland protection.

**PURPOSE:**

To provide Council with a clear position and range of strategies for the protection of wetlands within the district.

**POLICY:**

1. Statement of Position

Recognising the important environmental, social, cultural, educational and aesthetic values of the range of wetlands which exist within the district, Council will make every reasonable effort to ensure the conservation, protection and management of all wetlands within the municipality, with the exception of lakes protected under the Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy 1992.

2. Objectives

POL	WETLAND CONSERVATION	SEW6
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The following objectives have been developed in meeting the above goal:-

- 2.1 Ensure that wetlands are adequately assessed and their environmental values determined within the development process.
- 2.2 Ensure that land development which has the potential to adversely impact on wetlands is able to be adequately and appropriately managed.
- 2.3 Provide Council and landowners with clear and consistent guidelines for development within areas adjacent to or within the influence of wetlands within the district.
- 2.4 Overcome conflicts between the need to provide active public open space, drainage and wetland conservation within development areas.
- 2.5 Establish procedures and processes for ensuring the wetlands are adequately protected and managed during construction and development.
- 2.6 Require that development adjacent to wetlands be suitably set back from the wetland boundary to allow for the retention of the wetland dependent vegetation and to maintain its environmental values and functions.
- 2.7 Wetlands and their setback may be included in the POS calculation for subdivision providing that this does not compromise the proper and adequate provision of active and passive public open space areas required within the locality.
- 2.8 Wetlands used for stormwater drainage as approved by the EPA are to be reserved for drainage purposes.
- 2.9 Drainage associated with development and land use is to be managed in line with the following principles:-
  - Discharge of drainage directly into wetlands will not be permitted.
  - Discharge of drainage to wetlands may be acceptable following suitable treatment to remove nutrients and other pollutants, provided that adverse hydrological impacts will not occur.
  - The integrity of wetland and buffer vegetation is to be maintained where drainage facilities are established within the setback to the wetland.
- 2.10 Make recommendations to the WAPC in respect to subdivision conditions to require the subdivider to prepare a Drainage and Pollution

<b>POL</b>	<b>WETLAND CONSERVATION</b>	<b>SEW6</b>
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Management Plan which details the measures required to be taken to maintain the hydrological balance of the wetland and to prevent pollution, for land within 200 metres of the typical high watermark of a wetland which has the potential to pollute.

- 2.11 Where on-site effluent disposal is within 100 metres of the typical high watermark of a wetland, Council will require the use of appropriate alternative on-site effluent disposal systems to prevent the pollution of the wetland.