

Policy P211 Water Sensitive Urban Design

Responsible Business Unit/s	Engineering Services, Development Services
Responsible Officer	Manager Engineering Services
Affected Business Unit/s	Infrastructure Services, Development Services

Policy Objectives

The City of South Perth is a progressive local government with a primary objective to deliver quality social, economic and environmental services for the wellbeing of its community now and into the future. This also extends to assisting and facilitating the South Perth community in making more sustainable and environmentally responsible choices, including in the context of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD).

The objective of this policy is to:

- Integrate the management of the total water cycle in the urban environment (typically referred to as Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)). WSUD incorporates all water resources, including surface water, groundwater, urban and roof runoff and wastewater.
- Employ the key principles of WSUD, including:
 - Protecting and enhancing natural systems and ecological processes
 - Protecting water quality of surface and ground waters
 - Mitigating peak flows to natural background rates
 - Integrating stormwater treatment into the landscape
 - Reducing potable water demand
 - Minimising wastewater generation
 - Protecting the built environment from flooding and water logging and
 - Retaining, using and infiltrating stormwater at its source.
- Assist in the protection and/or enhancement of the environmental values of the Swan and Canning Rivers and watercourses, consistent with the requirements of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*.
- Protect, and where possible, restore and enhance the environmental, economic and social (for example recreation and scenic) values of the City's waterways and protected wetlands.
- implement WSUD best management practices for all new development proposals and City operations.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all development within the City of South Perth, including rezoning, structure plans, subdivisions and development proposals. It is also applicable to all activities, works, services and programs conducted by the City, its contractors, consultants and volunteers.

This policy shall not bind the Council regarding any application for planning approval; however, the Council shall give due regard to the provisions of the Policy and the objectives it is designed to achieve before making its decision. The Water Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines for the City of South Perth is the technical document which supports and forms part of this policy and must be read in conjunction with this policy.

Policy Statement

The City acknowledges that urban development disrupts the natural water cycle and significantly impacts the environment in terms of the quantity and quality of water.

The Water Sensitive Urban Development Guidelines for the City of South Perth is the technical document that has been prepared to support this policy and provide information to those proposing to undertake development and works activities within the City of South Perth.

The WSUD principles are derived from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's core goals for water management throughout Western Australia. These goals ensure that:

- the water needs for Perth's population and economic growth are sustainably met
- Western Australia has contemporary and adaptive water management, and

Western Australia exceeds national standards in water efficiency and demand management. To meet the desired WSUD outcomes, the guidelines contain specific water management objectives and targets for all parts of the urban water cycle. Additionally, guidance is provided on how best to incorporate and design WSUD measures into urban developments to achieve these targets dependent on the size, type and complexity of development.

Detail on a range of best management practice WSUD measures that can be adapted for use within the City of South Perth can be found in the Water Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines for the City of South Perth and the Department of Water Stormwater Management Manual for WA.

The City will encourage innovation and creativity in the uptake of WSUD measures and will move toward supporting and recognising best practice (and beyond) initiatives wherever possible.

Structural WSUD Best Management Practices

There are opportunities to incorporate structural best management practice at the structure planning or subdivision stage of development, to integrate WSUD measures into regions and precincts. Many structural measures are scalable and can be easily applied to single lots – refer to the Site Element measures listed in the table below.

The City has developed a list of design criteria for WSUD measures for different types and scales of developments, ranging from single dwelling to subdivision, open spaces and commercial sites. This table outlines potential application of some of these measures for different development types/ elements.

	Regional Elements	Precinct Elements	Site Elements
Element Description	- Public Open Space - Multiple Use	Street Layout and Streetscape	Allotment Density and Layout
WSUD Measure	- Constructed Wetlands - Stormwater Reuse - Hydro zoned parkland	- Road design - Infiltration Systems - Pervious Paving - Pollutant Traps - Sand Filter - Buffer Strip - Swales - Bio-retention System - Urban Forest - Constructed Wetlands - Stormwater Reuse	- Infiltration Systems - Porous Pavement - Sand Filter - Buffer Strip - Swales - Bio-retention System - Rain Garden - Onsite Detention - Rainwater Tank for Stormwater - Reuse - Green Roofs - Landscaping

Non-structural Best Management WSUD Practices

A comprehensive approach to stormwater management also involves the promotion of non-structural best management WSUD practices. These include controls including, but not limited to:

- Education of residents, developers and City Officers on WSUD practices, including design and best management practices, such as appropriate plant species, fertilizer and water use;
- Street sweeping programs;
- Improved waste and storm water management for residential and commercial premises; and
- Monitoring.

Legislation / Local Law Requirements

City of South Perth Local Planning Scheme No. 7

Residential Design Codes (R-Codes)

Relationship to other State documents and Planning Policies (SPPs)

This Water Sensitive Urban Design Policy aligns with and should be read alongside the State Planning Policies. Key policies of particular relevance to this policy include:

- i) State Planning Policy 2.0- Environment and Natural Resources (2003)
- ii) State Planning Policy 2.9 Water Resources (2006)
- iii) State Planning Policy 2.10 Swan-Canning River System (2006)
- iv) *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act (2006)*
- v) State Water Plan (2007)
- vi) State Water Recycling Strategy (2003)
- vii) Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Stormwater Management Manual of Western Australia
- viii) Department of Planning and Infrastructure Better Urban Water Management (2008)

Other legislative documents which should be read in conjunction with this policy include:

- i) *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*
- ii) Directions 2031 and Beyond: Metropolitan Planning Beyond the Horizon (WAPC) 2010

Other Relevant Policies/ Key Documents

The Water Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines for the City of South Perth 2012

City of South Perth Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031

City of South Perth Sustainability Strategy 2012-2015

City of South Perth Green Plan

City of South Perth Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

P203 Ground Water Management

P208 Ecologically Sustainable Building Design

P350.01 Environmentally Sustainable Building Design P351.5 Streetscape Compatibility – Precinct 5 ‘Arlington’ and Precinct 6 ‘Kensington’

P351.14 Cygnia Cove Residential Design Guidelines

M354 Stormwater Drainage Requirements for Proposed Buildings

P357 Right of Way (ROW) Maintenance and Development

P692 Sustainability