



WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

Adopted: 29 June 2016

Trim: 157791.2016



WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Civil Liability Act 2002

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Local Government Act 1993

National Water Quality Management Strategy 1994

Water Management Act 2000

2. PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of the Water Management Policy is to set standards for the management of all aspects of the water cycle in a holistic and coordinated way. The Policy provides clear directions for water management and defines the key principles that will underpin water management in the Liverpool Local Government Area (LGA).

3. OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objective of this policy is to guide Council's water management activities and practices in a way that:

- a) Ensures water management covers the sustainable management of all aspects of the water cycle comprising water conservation, flood management and water quality management;
- b) Ensures a holistic and coordinated catchment based approach across all areas of council in managing water;
- c) Enables achievement of council's water quality targets for its major creeks and rivers;
- d) Enables identification of gaps in current water management initiatives and aids capacity building to facilitate the implementation of industry best practice approach to managing water;
- e) Promotes community participation to encourage source control to reduce pollutants reaching its major creeks and rivers;
- f) Facilitates sustainable occupation of flood prone lands;
- g) Drives water conservation initiatives to reduce demand on potable water.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1 The following definitions apply to this policy:

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- a) Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) - the Building Sustainability Index ensures homes are designed to use less potable water and be responsible for fewer greenhouse gas emissions by setting energy and water reduction targets for house and units. BASIX tools help determine how to meet these targets from a wide range of options such as rainwater tanks, water-saving fixtures, improved insulation, passive solar orientation, natural lighting and native plants for gardens;
- b) Catchment based approach - a catchment based approach is to manage the water environment considering activities and issues in the catchment as a whole, rather than considering different aspects separately in different locations;
- c) Development Control Plan (DCP) - a development control plan provides detailed planning and design guidelines to support the planning controls in the Local Environment Plan;
- d) Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) - gross pollutant traps are structures that use physical processes to capture and retain solid waste such as pollutants, litter and coarse sediment from stormwater runoff;
- e) Local Environmental Plan (LEP) - Local Environmental Plans are statutory documents that guide planning decisions and manage the way land is used within a local government area;
- f) National Water Initiative (NWI) - NWI is an initiative of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) for water reform in Australia based on agreed actions to achieve a more cohesive national approach to the way Australia manages, measures, plans for, prices, and trades water;
- g) Source control - source control is the method to control the pollutants at its source before it reaches into the stormwater system;
- h) Treatment train - treatment train is a sequence of treatment measures designed to effectively manage stormwater and improve water quality while also offering substantial short and long-term ecological, environmental, and economic benefits;
- i) Water Efficiency Plan (WEP) - Water Efficiency Plan is water demand management initiative to reduce water consumption from Council facilities such as community facilities, parks, administrative building and childcare centres as per the National Water Initiative and NSW Sustainability Policy;
- j) Water quality target - water quality target represents standard of water quality parameters for pollutant load reduction in terms of total nitrogen, total phosphorous and suspended solids, to protect the ecological health of waterways;
- k) Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) - WSUD is a land planning and engineering design approach which integrates the urban water cycle, including stormwater,

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groundwater and wastewater management and water supply, into urban design to minimise environmental degradation and improve aesthetic and recreational appeal.

5 POLICY STATEMENT

5.1 Liverpool is traversed by a large number of creeks and river systems making the management of water a key issue for Council. Increasing urbanisation has resulted in a significant increase in impervious surfaces and has significantly increased the volume of stormwater flowing into urban waterways. This leads to the continued physical degradation of natural watercourses in urban environments as evident by creek erosion, siltation and die back of vegetation.

5.2 Activities in urban areas also cause urban contaminants to be deposited and subsequently conveyed by stormwater to surrounding natural water environments, leading to stormwater pollution in these environments.

5.3 The projected further growth forecasted for Liverpool means that these pressures on our waterways will continue to intensify.

5.4 The following policy requirements and provisions provides a proactive response to these pressures and aims to protect the aquatic ecosystems, the water resources and minimise the impacts of urban development on the urban water cycle.

5.5 Flood Prone Lands

5.5.1 Management of all flood prone lands within the LGA are governed by the State Government's Flood Policy and Floodplain Development Manual 2005.

5.5.2 Council will continually update its Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans for all major waterways within the LGA to guide sustainable development of flood prone lands affected by both mainstream and overland flooding.

5.5.3 All developments within flood prone lands must comply with the development controls stipulated in Council's DCP and the LEP.

5.6 Water Demand and Conservation

5.6.1 Council will continue to promote water conservation initiatives as stipulated in the *Water Management Act 2000* and the National Water Initiative.

5.6.2 Council will continue to update its Water Efficiency Plan to ensure council facilities are planned, designed and operated to minimise the demand on potable water.

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- 5.6.3 All developments within the LGA must comply with the requirements of State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004 (the BASIX SEPP) and Water Conservation provisions of Council's DCP.

5.7 Water Quality

- 5.7.1 Council will develop and continually update a Water Quality Management Strategy for implementing best practice water quality improvement actions across the Liverpool LGA.
- 5.7.2 Council will develop a master plan and a priority program for the provision of gross pollutant traps across the established areas of the LGA to ensure pollutants are captured and removed before it reaches the rivers, creeks and waterways.
- 5.7.3 All new developments in urban release areas of the LGA that impact the water cycle must incorporate WSUD principles in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of water related infrastructure in accordance with the DCP and WSUD Guideline.
- 5.7.4 Redevelopments and developments within the infill areas of the LGA must incorporate, to the fullest extent possible, WSUD principles in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of water related infrastructure.
- 5.7.5 Council's major construction activities that impact the water cycle will incorporate WSUD principles in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of water related infrastructure.
- 5.7.6 Council will develop and fund an ongoing program to continually monitor and report on water quality performance of all its major waterways including rural waterways to ensure ongoing measurement of performance against set water quality targets.
- 5.7.7 Council will develop and implement community education and awareness programs to achieve water quality improvement through source control strategies.
- 5.7.8 Council will liaise with the Georges River Combined Councils' Committee (GRCCC).

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AUTHORISED BY

Council resolution

EFFECTIVE FROM

29 June 2016

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE

Infrastructure and Environment (Technical Support)

REVIEW DATE

Two years after the adoption of this policy

VERSIONS

Version	Amended by	Changes made	Date	TRIM Number
1	Council resolution	Not applicable	29 June 2016	157791.2016

THIS POLICY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH

Corporate Services (Governance, Legal and Procurement)
Environmental Advisory Committee
Executive Management Team

REFERENCES

Liverpool City Council: Liverpool Development Control Plan 2008 and subsequent amendments
Liverpool City Council: Water Efficiency Plan
Liverpool City Council: Water Quality Management Strategy
NSW Government Flood Policy and Floodplain Development Manual 2005