

22.02 DRAINAGE AND FLOODING14/09/2006
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This policy applies to all land within the Loddon Shire.

Policy Basis

There are extensive areas in the north of the Shire that are flood prone. These areas include farmland and homes and it is recognised that there are economic reasons to protect these. The fundamental role of the flood plain to convey and store water can be in conflict with the use and development of land in flood plains. Sound floodplain management is vital to the economic, social and environmental objectives of the Shire.

Objectives

To encourage use of drainage works and schemes that manage surface flows and minimise irrigation runoff to assist in the reduction of the salinisation of land.

To promote on-farm drainage re-use for effective nutrient management.

To ensure that drainage works and schemes are consistent with management plans for wetlands, streams and forests.

To ensure levee banks are constructed and maintained to a standard that provides for the appropriate and equitable flow and distribution of floodwaters.

To ensure that down stream impacts of levee banks are appropriately considered and managed.

To recognise the role of public and community-based organisations in the maintenance and development of existing flood protection levee banks.

To encourage the use of rain where it falls, particularly in groundwater recharge areas.

To ensure appropriate land use and development of flood plains.

Policy

It is policy that:

- Applicants shall demonstrate that proposed drainage works and levee banks complement and are compatible with
 - a whole farm plan developed in consultation with Council, Salinity Management Group, Department of Sustainability and Environment and/or the North Central Catchment Management Authority;
 - Loddon Murray Surface Water Management Strategy, where relevant;
 - the relevant requirements and policies of the North Central Catchment Management Authority Regional Floodplain Management Strategy;
 - flood mitigation schemes approved by the North Central Catchment Management Authority or Council;
 - the objectives and policies of relevant Salinity Management Plans; and
 - the Water Act 1989.
- Council in its consideration of any applications for drainage works or the construction and maintenance of levee banks may seek the comments of the North Central Catchment Management Authority or any other relevant body in relation to the application.
- Council recognises the important role of the flood plain in storing flood waters and preventing excessive flooding downstream. Council also recognises the need to provide

drainage to prevent water sitting for extended periods where it may recharge groundwater.

- Council will discourage levee banks that unreasonably constrict or redirect flood flows or remove inappropriate amounts of land from the flood plain.
- Levee banks must be located and designed to minimise the effect on overland flow and must ensure that water enters and leaves the allotment boundary at its natural location.
- Proposals which provide scope for on-farm re-use systems to assist in the reduction of drainage volumes, and to harvest nutrients in accordance with land and water management plans, will be encouraged.
- Land use and development that would be compromised by flooding, or that would compromise the passage of flood waters or the pursuit of water quality enhancement, will be discouraged from areas documented to be subject to flooding.

Policy Reference

Lower Loddon Flood Plain Management Strategy Serpentine to Kerang, Camp Scott Furphy P/L, December 1992.

Loddon Murray Surface Water Management Strategy, North Central CMA, November 2001.

Loddon Murray Land and Water Management Strategy, North Central CMA, August 2002.

North Central Catchment Management Authority Regional Floodplain Management Strategy, Egis Consulting, December 2000.

Lake Marmal Catchment Floodplain Management Plan, Price Merrett & Associates, June 2000.