

**22.03**14/09/2006  
C13**DAMS**

This policy applies to the construction of dams that require a permit pursuant to other elements of the planning scheme.

**Policy Basis**

The construction of dams is often necessary to support the agricultural and / or residential use of land. The siting, design and construction of dams should be undertaken to minimise the impact on land, native vegetation and waterways, with a particular emphasis on maintaining environmental flows in rivers and streams of the catchment.

**Objectives**

To ensure the location and size of dams minimises alterations to natural drainage and natural flows of watercourse.

To ensure the siting and construction of dams minimises the potential for dam failure and leakage into groundwater.

To ensure that dams are constructed following appropriate dam construction and soil conservation techniques.

To ensure that dam size is consistent with site capability and catchment yield.

To ensure that environmental flows are maintained.

To ensure adequate flows for downstream users are maintained

**Policy**

It is local policy that:

- The siting and design of the dam shall be consistent with capability of the land. Council should consider the suitability of the soil for dam construction and water retention and the adequacy of the site area to provide sufficient catchment to fill the dam. If soil types on the site are not suitable for water retention adequate alternative means shall be employed.
- Where appropriate, Council will consult with the relevant Water Authority to assist to assess the capability of the catchment to sustain the dam and provide for environmental flows. The responsible authority will have regard to the comments received from such authorities.
- Spillways will be designed to cater for at least the 1 in 100 year storm level.
- Proposals for dams shall demonstrate consistency with the recommendations of any relevant land or water management plan.
- Top soil stripped from the site will be spread on any exposed batters and exposed soils will be revegetated with grasses and other appropriate vegetation as soon as possible after construction. Where possible Council will require indigenous vegetation to be used.
- Construction of dams in high water table recharge areas and discharge areas is to be avoided unless it can be demonstrated that sealing of the dam will not contribute to ground water recharge, rising watertables or saline groundwater accessions.

- Where the responsible authority considers it necessary a plan will be submitted indicating:
  - the location of the dam;
  - the dimensions and capacity of the dam, wall height and setback from roads;
  - the revegetation works proposed (including any mulch);
  - contours and finished levels; and
  - extent of vegetation clearing works proposed.
- A planning permit application for a dam shall include information about the intended use of the water to be stored.
- All applications for dams on waterways within the Goulburn Murray Water district must be referred to Goulburn Murray Water pursuant to Section 55 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987).
- Notice of applications for dams within the Goulburn Murray Water district must be provided to Goulburn Murray Water pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987).
- All applications for dams on waterways within the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water district must be referred to Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water pursuant to Section 55 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987).
- Notice of applications for dams within the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water district must be provided to Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987).