

22.02 DAMS

27/04/2017
C110(Part 1)

This policy applies to the construction of dams where a permit is required under this scheme.

Policy basis

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

This policy implements the relevant objectives and strategies of Clause 21.07 of the Municipal Strategic Statement to prevent construction of dams in environmentally sensitive areas and obstruction to environmental flows into the water catchment.

Objectives

To maintain environmental flows in streams and waterways.

To ensure that dams are designed and constructed in such a manner that dam failure is minimised.

To ensure that dams are constructed by people familiar with dam construction and soil conservation techniques.

To ensure that dam sizes relate to the suitability and capability of the catchment, the site and the intended use.

To minimise tree removal and to maximise retention and use of top soil.

To minimise land disturbance.

To ensure appropriate revegetation.

To prevent construction of dams in environmentally sensitive areas, such as bush gullies.

To avoid the creation of new dams to serve rural living lots of less than 4 hectares.

Policy

It is policy to assess proposals against the following criteria:

Criterion 1

- The location of the proposed dam is suitable to the terrain and soil characteristics of the land and the proposed dam does not cause land degradation.

Criterion 2

- The capacity of the proposed dam is suitable given the catchment area of the site.

Criterion 3

- The capacity of the proposed dam is adequate to meet the needs of the intended use.

Criterion 4

- The dam is sited so as to minimise the need for vegetation removal.

Criterion 5

- The dam is not of such a size that it removes water that is reasonably required for environmental flows or other users who are dependant on the water from flows in the catchment.

Criterion 6

- Soil types on the site are suitable for water retention and if not suitable, adequate mechanical or chemical means will be employed.

Criterion 7

- Top soil stripped from the site will be spread on any exposed batters, and exposed soils will be revegetated with perennial grasses and appropriate indigenous vegetation as soon as possible after construction.

Criterion 8

- The contractor or the applicant can demonstrate familiarity with recommended dam construction techniques.

Criterion 9

- Spillways are to be designed to cater for a 1 in 5 year storm level.

Criterion 10

- Alternative access to water sources (such as reticulated water or tanks collecting rainwater run off from roofs) is insufficient for existing and proposed uses.

It is policy to:

- Seek advice on an application for a dam from the relevant water authority or catchment management authority where it is considered that the dam is of such a size that it will remove an amount of water from flows in the catchment which may compromise the ability of the catchment to maintain environmental flows or provide water to other users.

Application requirements

An application to construct a dam should be accompanied by the following information, as appropriate:

- A report that demonstrates consideration of and compliance with the above policy objectives.
- A landscape plan indicating the revegetation works proposed (including any mulch) to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
- A plan showing the location of the dam on the lot, contours and finished levels, extent of vegetation clearing works proposed, dimensions and capacity.

Reference documents

Your Farm Dam, 1995

Woodend Land Capability Study, 1992

Romsey Land Capability Study, 1994

Kyneton Land Capability Study, 1996