

Policy number	Policy 253
Policy title	Water conservation
Strategic outcomes supported	EN1 – protecting and enhancing the natural environment

Policy objective:

To ensure the conservation of water in the activities of the Town, to achieve the best return from the available water entitlement.

Policy scope:

This policy applies to all employees when making decisions associated with the Town’s operations and the various initiatives and activities proposed by the community.

Policy definitions:

Nil.

Policy statement:

1. The Council of the Town of Victoria Park is committed to the conservation of water including optimising the management and reuse of water resources; and
2. The Council of the Town of Victoria Park is committed to the promotion and implementation of water conservation measures, both for the Town’s own operations and that of its community.

Background:

3. The south-west of Western Australia has experienced a decrease in annual rainfall of 15% since the mid-1970s, which has resulted in a greater reduction in stream flow into dams. Conversely, the population has increased in recent years with higher population growth predicted for the future.
4. Factors such as decreasing rainfall and water supply combined with an increasing population and water demand means that efforts to conserve water are needed more now than ever before.
5. With the present potable water scarcity being experienced in Perth, it is necessary for the Town of Victoria Park and its community to reconsider the ways in which water sources are used and managed.

Practice Implications:

6. Protection, conservation and enhancement of the Town’s surface and groundwater resources;
7. Promotion and implementation of water conservation measures and considerations into the Town’s management and operations as well as the various initiatives and activities proposed by the community; and

8. Incorporation of high performance water efficiency measures in future buildings and other infrastructure design and introduction of water efficient retrofits when renewing or upgrading the Town’s buildings and facilities. In accordance with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Policy: Water Conservation/Efficiency Plan, consideration will be given to the water conservation hierarchy:
 - a. avoid: use options not requiring water where possible
 - b. reduce: use suitable equipment, technology and systems to reduce the amount of water used
 - c. recycle: recycle water to minimise the need to use more water
 - d. fit-for-purpose: use lower quality water that is ‘fit-for-purpose’ where possible.

9. Consideration of water use efficiency and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) at all project stages: planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance.

10. The evaluation of this policy should occur with the following considerations:
 - a. Review of Water Action Plan;
 - b. Analysis of the Town’s annual water consumption;
 - c. Identification of high consuming sites;
 - d. Opportunities for water efficiency improvements;
 - e. Review of physical measures taken to improve water efficiency;
 - f. Development of incentive schemes for ratepayers and businesses; and
 - g. Review by the organisational cross-functional Water Team, who is responsible for the development and continual review of the Water Action Plan and reporting via the Strategic Management Team.

Related documents

Practice 253.1 Water Conservation

Response officers	Environment Officer
Policy manager	Manager Technical Services
Approval authority	Council
Next evaluation date	April 2025

Revision history

Version	Action	Date	Authority	Resolution number	Report number
1	Adopted	12/09/2017	Council	-	Item 4.1
2	Reviewed and amended	20/08/2019	Council	148/2019	Item 10.1
3	Reviewed and amended	17/03/2020	Council	352/2020	Item 15.1
4	Reviewed and amended	12/04/2022	Council	73/2022	Item 15.5
5	Administratively amended	24/08/2023	Delegation		