

PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES POLICY

Objective

The Protection of Environmental Values Policy aims to assist Supervising Officers in ensuring the protection of natural and cultural values from operational activities that may have the potential to significantly disturb or compromise existing environmental or heritage values and is to be applied to all operational disturbance activities occurring on Council managed lands.

Background

The Policy and corresponding Environmental Impact Form and Checklist has been developed to:

- Provide the means by which one of Council's five primary goals (Environmental Management) and existing Environmental Policy can be achieved
- Ensure that all legislative requirements pertaining to environmental and heritage values are met when conducting operations on Shire managed lands
- Ensure continued protection of environmental and heritage values that exist on Shire tenure
- Provide a consistent standard of practical application for environmental and heritage checks across Shire operations
- Simplification of consideration of all environmental and heritage issues when conducting Shire operations
- Improve consultation and communication across directorates as to integrated Shire operations
- Raise awareness and understanding across Shire directorates of environmental and heritage values that exist within Shire Reserves

Guiding Statement

The Protection of Environmental Values Policy is commensurate with one of five primary goals of Council: *"Environmental Management – To help conserve the natural environment of Denmark and promote its responsible use."* The Policy is also in keeping with Council's existing Environmental Policy (P100503) which states that *"Council supports the ethos of ecological sustainability. It will endeavour in all its activities to apply the principles associated with conserving natural resources, integrate environmental accounting procedures into its management decisions..."*. The Protection of Environmental Values Policy and corresponding Environmental Impact Checklist is the means by which environmental management, the application of environmental principles and environmental accounting can be achieved across Council operations.

Procedure

All operational disturbance activities that have the potential to have a significantly adverse impact upon existing known environmental and heritage values that are to be carried out on Shire managed lands are to complete the Environmental Impact Form and associated Checklist to ensure that existing environmental and heritage values are not compromised by operational works.

Application of the environmental form and checklist is to be undertaken by the Supervising Officer with assistance from Shire Natural Resource Management staff where required. The Supervising Officer undertaking the works is responsible for ensuring that both Section A Project Details, and Section B Environmental Impact Checklist is completed with outstanding issues identified with

corresponding recommendations . Section C will then be completed by the relevant Director to authorise the project prior to commencement of works. The Shire GIS system has information and datasets that correspond to each environmental and heritage value to assist with completing the checklist.

Definitions

Operational disturbance activity	On-ground works that has the potential to have a significant adverse impact upon an existing natural or cultural value
Significant Adverse Impact	To cause harm to, through either direct disturbance or indirectly, as a consequence of activity
Supervising Officer	Officer responsible for authorising project and associated works
Environmental Value	A natural resource deemed to have significant value (whether its attribute is that of biodiversity, endemism, threatened status, degree of rarity, resource provision for fauna, provision of habitat, provision as a refuge, situation within the landscape, linkage, remnant value, representativeness across the landscape, assemblage of organisms, or value as an ecosystem or community) Environmental values are listed within the Environmental Impact Checklist

Policy Review

Protection of Environmental Policy Version 2

The Directorate of Planning and Sustainability is the responsible directorate for the development of the Protection of Environmental Values Policy, however whole of Council operations will be required to ensure adherence to the Policy and associated protocol. It is also intended for application on all operations being undertaken on Council managed lands by external parties.

The Policy will be put to Council for adoption on September 2010.

Policy is due for review after a period of 3-5 years.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Environmental Impact Form and Checklist

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FORM

All operational activities that may have the potential to cause a significant adverse impact on environmental or heritage values on Shire managed lands are required to complete the following form.

SECTION A: PROJECT DETAILS

(To be completed by Supervising Officer wishing to undertake operational works)

Supervising Officer Name	
Supervising Officer Title	
Date	

Project Name/Type	
Intended date of proposed project works	
Project Detail	

Project Location (description)	
Is the project to be undertaken on Shire managed lands?	Yes/No If No, what is the land tenure? Has permission been obtained from land owner? Yes/No
Map provided	Yes/No

Supervising Officer signature _____ Date ____/____/____

SECTION B: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CHECKLIST (refer to over page)

Outstanding issues	
Recommendations to the Supervising Officer	

SECTION C: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(To be completed by Director)

Has the Environmental Checklist been completed?	Yes/No Checklist attached? Yes/No
Authority to proceed with works?	Yes/No Subject to compliance with the outstanding issues and corresponding recommendations.

Director Name _____

Director signature _____ Date ____/____/____

SECTION B: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CHECKLIST

All operational activities that may have the potential to cause significant adverse impact on environmental or heritage values on Shire managed lands are required to complete the following checklist:

Supervising Officer Name:

Project Name/Type:

NO.	ITEM	DETAIL	YES/NO	COMMENTS
1	ESA	Does the site contain a designated Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)?		
2	Native vegetation	Does the proposed operational activity involve clearing any existing native vegetation? (Has a clearing permit been obtained?)		
3	Remnant vegetation	Does the site contain any remnant native vegetation?		
4	Vegetation complex	Does the area contain vegetation complexes with less than 30% formally reserved as representative across the landscape?		
5	Riparian zone	Does the proposed operational site contain any riparian zones?		
	Granite outcrops, caves, sand dunes	Does the proposed operational activity impact upon any granite outcrops, caves or sand dune systems?		
6	Waterway	Does the proposed operational activity impact upon any adjacent waterway? (eg. water quality, drainage, sedimentation, stream-flow, eutrophication, acidification)		
7	Acid Sulphate Soils	Does the activity create exposure of potential acid sulphate soils?		
8	TEC	Does the site contain a known threatened ecological community (TEC)?		
9	Threatened flora	Does the proposed operational activity impact upon known population(s) of threatened (declared rare flora (DRF) and/or priority) flora?		
10	Endemic flora	Does the activity impact upon known population(s) of endemic flora?		
11	Threatened fauna	Does the site contain known threatened fauna population(s)?		
12	Fauna habitat	Does the activity impact upon significant fauna habitat?		
13	Wildlife corridors	Does the proposed activity impact upon corridor linkages?		
14	Dieback	Is the activity occurring within a known dieback infested area?		
15	Hygiene management	Is the activity occurring during wet soil conditions? (Are appropriate hygiene management protocols being adhered to? (Please refer to TPS Policy No. 1 Dieback Disease Management)		
16	Invasive Weeds	Does the activity have the potential to spread invasive weeds?		
17	Indigenous heritage	Does the site contain a known Aboriginal heritage value?		
18	European heritage	Does the site contain a known European heritage value ? (Please refer to the Municipal Heritage Inventory (MHI)		
19	Tracks and Trails	Does the activity impact upon a recreational amenity, track or trail?		
20	Visual amenity	Does the activity impact upon the visual amenity of the site?		

Should you have answered 'yes' to any of the above questions please provide recommendations to ensure that the activity can proceed without compromising these identified environmental or heritage values. Assistance can be obtained from Shire NRM staff where required.

NB Supporting data on each value can be obtained through the Shire GIS database.