

<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>10.2</b>
<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>Stormwater (Watercourse) Management</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Public – Council Policy</b>
<b>Adopted:</b>	<b>July 2014</b>
<b>Frequency of Review:</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Last Review:</b>	<b>June 2014</b>
<b>Next Review Due:</b>	<b>June 2015</b>
<b>Responsible Officer(s):</b>	<b>Manager Infrastructure and Engineering Services</b>
<b>Policy and Code of Practice Manual File Ref:</b>	<b>CC10/2601</b>
<b>Council File Reference:</b>	<b>CR14/20436</b>
<b>Legislation Authority:</b>	<b>Local Government Act 1999 &amp; Regulations Natural Resource Management Act 2004 Development Act 1993</b>
<b>Related Policies and Codes:</b>	
<b>Related Procedures:</b>	

## 1. PURPOSE

To set guidelines for implementing consistent management processes for watercourses throughout the Town of Gawler and to clarify the role and responsibilities of council with regard to watercourse management.

## 2. OBJECTIVE

To ensure watercourses are maintained and managed to:

- 2.1 Minimise the risk to life and buildings that may arise from stormwater flowing through or accumulating in watercourses within the Town of Gawler.
- 2.2 Minimise the transport and dispersal of water borne pollutants to downstream receiving waters and the natural environment.
- 2.3 Restore, enhance and maintain the natural environment.

- 2.4 Promote appropriate water conservation and re use strategies.
- 2.5 Comply with legislative requirements for management of watercourses.

### **3. SCOPE**

This policy applies to all Council activities that impact on watercourses. "Watercourse" means a watercourse as defined by the Natural Resource Management Act and includes both natural and manmade watercourses.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Town of Gawler embraces a diverse range of topography and biodiversity that includes numerous natural and manmade watercourses that serve to concentrate and convey stormwater from originating catchments to adjacent rivers and floodplains.
- 4.2 Watercourses include remnant natural channels and waterways and those modified by subsequent development, as well as manmade extensions and diversions to original systems, but excludes existing piped stormwater drains and covered culverts.
- 4.3 Ownership of watercourses is diverse with many of the original natural watercourses in private ownership such that a single watercourse may traverse numerous individual properties.
- 4.4 Watercourse management relates to Strategic Objective 2 – Effective Planning & Development Policies; Provision of appropriate Infrastructure; Sustainable Growth; Heritage preservation; and Enhancement of the Natural and Built Environment In particular:
  - PE10 – Prepare a plan to identify and address stormwater drainage problems;
  - PE11 – Prepare a water sensitive urban design program;
  - PE29 – prepare 10 year priority plan for road, footpath, stormwater, street lighting and building upgrades and renewals, based on objective and measurable criteria; including financing strategy; supported by costed project proposals.
- 4.5 A consistent strategic approach to watercourse management issues is necessary to ensure that;
  - a) Public safety is not compromised due to ownership variations;
  - b) Recognition is given to the Public Amenity provided by watercourses notwithstanding that they pass through private land;
  - c) Provisions of the Natural Resource Management Act are met ;

**5. PRINCIPLES**

- 5.1 A consistent Catchment Management Strategy must exist for implementing systematic stormwater and biodiversity management and appropriate asset management best-practice throughout all watercourses in the town.
- 5.2 All relative legislative requirements and political, social and economic environments are to be taken into account in catchment management.
- 5.3 Council, in consultation with the NRM Board will prepare plans delineating the watercourses and catchments to which this policy applies. Catchment Management plans will be progressively developed for all watercourses in consultation with landowners and the NRM Board.
- 5.4 An inspection regime will be used as part of asset management to ensure agreed service levels are maintained and to identify asset maintenance priorities.
- 5.5 Service levels consistent with the location and function of each particular watercourse will be incorporated into catchment and asset management plans.
- 5.6 Landowner requests for watercourse improvements will be referred to the NRM Board for consideration under its landowner assistance package.
- 5.7 Funding allocation to achieve desired service levels will give preference to watercourses where easements for drainage are granted to council.
- 5.8 Public funding will only be applied to achieving the level of service agreed with NRM Board and to those activities approved by the Board. Additional works where the purpose is to enhance private amenity will not be funded by council.
- 5.9 In emergency situations, council will exercise its authority and obligations in conjunction with other emergency response agencies to safeguard the community.
- 5.10 Future life cycle costs will be reported and considered in all decisions relating to new services and assets and upgrading of existing services and assets.

**6. LEGISLATION**

- 6.1 Local Government Act 1999.
- 6.2 Regulations under the Act.
- 6.3 Natural Resource Management Act 2004
- 6.4 Development Act 1993

**7. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- 7.1 Asset Management Strategy and associated Asset Management Plans.
- 7.2 Catchment Management Plans

**8. RESPONSIBILITY**

- 8.1 Councillors are responsible for adopting the policy and ensuring that sufficient resources are applied to manage those assets under council control.
- 8.2 The Chief Executive Officer has overall responsibility for developing an asset management strategy, plans and procedures and reporting on the status and effectiveness of asset management within Council.
- 8.3 The Manager of Infrastructure and Engineering Services is responsible for the preparation of catchment management plans and for advising the Council and the CEO with respect to resource requirements for implementation of those plans.

**9. REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

The effectiveness of this Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Chief Executive Officer will report to Council on the outcome of the evaluation and if relevant make recommendations for amendments, alteration or substitution of a new Policy.

The Policy will not be altered or substituted so as to affect a process already commenced.

The Policy will be reviewed after each general election of Council.

**10. FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further information about this Policy can be obtained by:-

Telephone: 8522 9211  
Fax: 8522 9212  
Email: [council@gawler.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@gawler.sa.gov.au)  
Appointment: Town Hall, 89 – 91 Murray Street, Gawler  
Letter: PO Box 130, Gawler SA 5118

**11. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY**

The Policy is available for inspection during ordinary business hours at the Council principal office, Gawler Town Hall or Library Council Offices, 89 – 91 Murray Street, Gawler or is available on the Council website at [www.gawler.sa.gov.au](http://www.gawler.sa.gov.au).

A copy of this Policy will be provided to interested parties upon request, for a fee as contained in the Register of Fees and Charges.