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STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

This policy applies to all land within the Shire.

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Policy basis

Council's Municipal Strategic Statement identifies stormwater drainage as a concern in urban areas where there is inadequate street drainage infrastructure. Consequently, this inadequacy impacts on stormwater quality, which, in turn, affects coastal and inland waterways and flora and fauna habitats. The need for upgraded drainage networks and road infrastructure works is emphasised as a means to improve stormwater quality and reduce sediment and nutrient loads to local waterways. The incorporation of urban stormwater quality management into future, and where practicable, existing urban developments is also recommended.

Currently, urban areas of the Shire have networks of piped drains and small open channels that transport stormwater to the natural waterways and water bodies. Often these drains traverse rural areas. The Bass Coast Stormwater Management Plan (2003) identifies 14 receiving waters including rivers, creeks, wetlands, bays and oceans as direct recipients of urban stormwater runoff in the Shire.

Stormwater quality in the Shire is characterised mainly by residential design and development and by resident and visitor behaviours and attitudes towards the environment. More extreme weather events induced by the climate change phenomenon may also impact on both stormwater quantity and quality.

As the principal catchment manager for urban stormwater, Council aims to protect the environmental, amenity, cultural and economic values of the waters of the Bass Coast Shire. Stormwater will be managed on a sub-catchment basis in accordance with the Shire's Stormwater Management Plan, with development design having regard to the adopted Urban Stormwater Best Management Practice (2005) and other recognised codes and practices.

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Objectives

- To incorporate stormwater management considerations in the decision-making for the use and development of land.
- To maintain and enhance stormwater quality introduced to the drainage and waterway environment of the Shire.
- To address priority stormwater threats facing the urban and non-urban areas of the Shire as documented in the Bass Coast Stormwater Management Plan (2003).
- To promote and improve the contribution the drainage system makes in upholding and where possible improving the values of the waterways across the Shire.
- To maintain stormwater flows and discharges at a maximum of the pre-development flow level.
- To maximise the effectiveness of stormwater infrastructure in protecting the waters of Bass Coast Shire.
- To manage flooding and drainage so as to minimise risks to the community and the environment.

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Policy

It is policy that the following features are taken into consideration when evaluating applications to use and develop land:

Stormwater management plans or reports

A stormwater management plan or report should be submitted for any subdivision with works or any development proposal. The stormwater management plan should form part of an overall Environment Management Plan (EMP). Plans and reports will be assessed against the following criteria, where relevant:

- Extent of disturbed areas and if applicable, the proposed method of revegetation.
- Envisaged timeframe for reducing impacts during staged developments.
- Containment of sediment during the construction phase through the appropriate type and location of storage facilities such as cut off drains, temporary sediment ponds and other structures.
- Proposed method of builders waste collection during construction.
- Location of proposed permanent stormwater treatment structures to be used prior to discharge to receiving waters.
- Overall compliance with the Bass Coast Stormwater Management Plan (2003).
- Compliance with the urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines (CSIRO 1999).
- An emergency response plan detailing the drainage system, location of ecologically sensitive areas, notification protocol for other emergency services, the council role and the appropriate use of equipment.
- Compliance with Publication 960, EPA guideline for Environment Management ‘Doing it Right on Subdivisions’.

Design

- Best Practice Measures such as those contained in the Council’s Urban Stormwater Best Management Practice (2005) should be incorporated into the design of new developments.
- Off site discharge of stormwater should be minimised by considering the application of Water Sensitive Urban Design, where appropriate. For example:
 - Use of porous pavements instead of hard surface and paved areas that will also encourage increased water infiltration.
 - On-site collection or retention of stormwater.
 - Water conservation methods or re-use facilities.
- Appropriate infrastructure should be installed to treat stormwater on site before discharging it.
- Any detrimental impacts or increased flood risk as a result of development in flood-prone areas should be minimised through appropriate consultations with the relevant floodplain manager with regard to design and location.

Infrastructure and maintenance

- Stormwater management infrastructure should be provided at the time of development by the developer and agreements covering contributions may be required where the development detrimentally impacts on existing stormwater infrastructure or receiving waters.
- The proponent of any use or development of land that discharges stormwater should enter into an agreement with the relevant drainage authority for the provision and upgrading of drainage infrastructure to the site.
- Infrastructure for the control of stormwater quality discharge to receiving environments should be installed, including but not limited to:
 - On-site retention systems.

- Gross Pollutant Traps.
- Absorbents or soak pillows installed into existing Gross Pollutant Traps at major outfalls of heavily trafficked commercial catchments.
- Oil and solids separation devices around areas producing high oil/fuel spills and runoff, such as car parks and main streets.
- Development should be connected to reticulated sewage where available.
- Maintenance programs as highlighted in the Bass Coast Stormwater Management Plan (2003) should be implemented.

Discharge and drainage

- Stormwater generated from water falling on the impervious surfaces of a site should be retained on-site where appropriate, or otherwise collected and discharged, via the on-site retention system, to the point of discharge nominated by the responsible authority.
- Direct stormwater discharges to a waterway should be in accordance with the relevant Catchment Management Authority or Melbourne Water licensing requirements.
- The rate of discharge should be limited to the design discharge for the site prior to development or redevelopment.
- Urban Stormwater Best Management Practice (2005) should be used in the design, construction and operation of drainage systems to reduce impacts on surface waters and groundwater.
- No polluted water or sediment should be discharged directly or indirectly into any existing drain or watercourse.
- Apply Melbourne Water's Guidelines for Development in Flood Prone Areas when considering applications.

Environmental conservation

- Opportunities should be created to maximise the potential for the overall drainage system, including all creeks, drains and wetlands to contribute to the environmental and recreational qualities of the Shire.
- Development buffer zones be created along waterways to protect and enhance their potential as habitat corridors and assist the ecological functioning of streams and their sustainability.
- Opportunities for stormwater harvesting for re-use on open space and recreation areas should be considered.

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Decision Guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority will consider, as appropriate:

- Whether the proposed works meet the objectives of this policy;
- Whether the proposed works respond satisfactorily to the requirements outlined under the Section 22.01-3 above;
- Whether the proposed stormwater infrastructure impacts or enhances other environmental and landscape values;
- Whether the application is dependent on actions by other authorities for the provision, or ongoing maintenance of the stormwater system;
- Any requirements of the relevant floodplain management authority;
- Advice and comments from other relevant authorities.

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Policy reference

- *Bass Coast Shire Stormwater Management Plan*, Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd, April 2003
- *Urban Stormwater Best Management Practice*, Bass Coast Shire Council and South Gippsland Shire Council, 2005
- *Bass Coast Shire Council Coastal Township Waterway Impact*, Conceptual Design Report, Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd, December 2004
- *Bass Coast Shire Council Cowes East Drainage Report on Preliminary Designs*, Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd, December 2004
- *WSUD Engineering Procedures: Stormwater*, Melbourne Water, June 2005
- *West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Regional Drainage Plan*, Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd, December 2000
- *West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority Regional Floodplain Management Plan*, Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd, December 2000