22.01 DAMS

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This policy applies to the construction of any dam that requires a planning permit.

Policy Basis

The appropriate siting, design and construction of dams is important from a safety, equitable water supply, and sustainable catchment management perspective.

Objectives

- To ensure that dams are designed and constructed to minimise dam failure.
- To ensure that dam sizes relate to site capability, catchment yield and the intended use of the land.
- To prevent the construction of dams in environmentally sensitive areas.
- To prevent construction of dams adjacent to major roads and highways.

Policy

It is policy to:

- Require all applications to submit details plans showing the size, location and capacity of the dam, contours and finished levels, the extent of proposed earth works, trees to be removed and retained and proposed landscaping and planting.
- Refer applications to, and have regard for the policies of the relevant water or catchment management authority.
- Locate dams on land with suitable soil types and terrain characteristics.
- Locate dams to minimise the removal of trees and quality topsoil.
- Maintain environmental flows and facilitate sustainable catchment management.
- Ensure the size and capacity of the proposed dam is appropriate for the catchment area and will achieve an equitable sharing of water supply with downstream users.
- Justify the requirement for and the size of the dam in relation to the intended use of the land.
- Ensure the dam has been designed by a suitably qualified person and constructed in accordance with engineering plans.
- Ensure spillways are designed to cater for a 1 in 5-year storm level.
- Require the retention and reuse of topsoil on exposed batters and revegetation with perennial grasses and appropriate indigenous vegetation as soon as possible after construction.