

DAM POLICY

This policy applies to the construction of dams.

Objectives

- To ensure that dams are designed and constructed in such a manner that dam failure is minimised.
- To ensure that dams are only constructed by people familiar with the appropriate dam construction and soil conservation techniques.
- To ensure that dam sizes relate to the suitability of the site and to the use intended.
- To minimise tree removal and to maximise retention and use of top soil.
- To ensure appropriate revegetation.
- To prevent construction of dams in environmental sensitive areas, such as bush gullies.
- To prevent the construction of dams on permanent watercourses.

Implementation

It is policy that:

- The location of the proposed dam is appropriate to the terrain characteristics of the land and the capacity of the proposed dam is appropriate to the catchment area of the site.
- The removal of trees is minimised.
- Soil types on the site are suitable for water retention and if not suitable, adequate mechanical or chemical means will be employed.
- Top soil stripped from the site will be spread on any exposed batters and exposed soils will be revegetated with perennial grasses and appropriate indigenous vegetation as soon as possible after construction.
- The contractor or the applicant has consulted with the Department of Sustainability & Environment, and is familiar with recommended dam construction techniques.
- A landscape plan be required to show the location of the dam on the allotment, contours and finished levels, extent of vegetation clearing works proposed, dimensions and capacity.
- Council will not be predisposed to granting a planning permit for a dam to be located on a permanent water course.
- Council may seek the comments of Wimmera Mallee Water for any application for a dam that has a capacity of more than 3 megalitres.