

ANNUAL NUTRIENT SURVEY for Local Government Authorities

City of Canning

Nutrient Management Score Card 2020

The Swan and Canning River systems, and many wetlands, are suffering from regular, sometimes toxic, algal blooms. These blooms occur due to excessive inputs of nutrients, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen, combined with low water flows. Local authorities are responsible for nutrient use on turf areas, reserves and in local planning decisions and thus have the opportunity to lead the community by setting examples in best practice.

Each year Local Government Authorities (LGA's) in Perth are surveyed on their nutrient practices by the Phosphorus Awareness Project of the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL). The results from the questions asked in the survey have been used to provide these Score Cards for each LGA that responded and clearly show where and how improvements can be made. LGA's should also refer to the *Annual Nutrient Survey for Local Government Authorities Results 2020* report (www.sercul.org.au/fertilisewise) for further recommendations on how to improve nutrient Best Management Practices (BMP's).

The survey is broken up into different sections including nutrient monitoring, fertiliser applications, nutrient management, nutrient education, water quality monitoring and development control. The results from these sections are shown below, for the last five years, so that the LGA knows exactly how they responded and where improvements can be made. Recommendations on how to improve practices have been made where needed.

Please note that not all of the questions asked in the survey were used to determine the overall best management practice score. We have provided an overall score based on results provided since 2000, those for the last 5 years and those for this year. This will allow LGA's to see how they are doing over the long-term, short-term and at the current time. Any additional information about nutrient practices provided by an LGA is summarised at the end of this scorecard.



Best Management Practice Scores

Overall (2000 - 2020): 74% - Above Average **Last 5 years: 88% - Excelling** **2020: 82% - Excelling**

The City of Canning has adopted Best Management Practices at an above average level over the past 20 years. Since 2016 the City has excelled, however in the last year it has adopted some practices that are not Best Management Practice and resulted in a lower score. Further improvements can be made in the areas of fertiliser applications and nutrient management.

Key for following tables:

Best management practice has been achieved
 Best management practice has not been achieved
 No response
 Not Applicable

Nutrient Monitoring

Question Number	Question	Year				
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1	Conducted soil tests					
3	ASPAC analysis					
4	Colwell test used					
5	PRI measured					

Over the last 20 years, the City of Canning has excelled in the area of nutrient monitoring and continues those practices to the current date. It is recommended that they continue to implement their current practices, however they could consider monitoring dry grass areas if they are fertilised.

Fertiliser Applications

Question Number	Question	Year				
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
7(b)	Fertiliser used in foreshore areas					

The City has resumed using fertiliser on foreshore reserves and parks. If nutrients are required as determined by monitoring then phosphate free controlled release and low water soluble fertilisers should be used. As is currently the case, fertiliser should not be applied in winter months. A 50 metre buffer zone should be established between fertilised areas and waterways.

Analysis of Question 8 from the 2020 survey indicates that the City is using an in-house custom blend based on laboratory data for its active turf areas and is applying it according to lab data. On its passive turf areas it is using a complete inorganic fertiliser and only applying in spring. It is recommended the City fertilises according to monitoring results, though not in winter and only in summer if nutrient testing indicates that it is required.

City of Canning

Nutrient Management Score Card 2020 *continued*

Nutrient Management

Question Number	Question	Year				
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
10(a)	Grass clipping measures					
11	NIMP for streetscapes					
12	Local plants policy					
13(b)	Deciduous tree leaf removal					
14	Dog poo bins					

Overall and for the past five years, the City has scored above average in nutrient management. However as they no longer have a Nutrient and Irrigation Management Plan (NIMP) for streetscapes, in 2020 this score has dropped to average. It is recommended that the City implements an NIMP and a local plants policy.

Deciduous trees are found in the City's area. It is recommended that no further deciduous trees be planted.

Nutrient Education

Question Number	Question	Year				
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
15(a)	Discourages public waterbird feeding					
16(a)	Provides fertiliser advice to rate payers					

Overall and for the past five years, the City has excelled in nutrient education. It is recommended that they continue to implement their current practices, however, they could improve upon their delivery of fertiliser advice by distributing 'Fertilise Wise' leaflets (available from the Phosphorus Awareness Project) or linking their website to the Fertilise Wise page on the SERCUL website - www.sercul.org.au/our-projects/fertilise-wise/.

Water Quality Monitoring

Question Number	Question	Year				
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
17(a)	Monitors wetlands for nutrients					
17(b)	Monitors stormwater drains for nutrients					
17(c)	Monitors comp basins for nutrients					

Overall, the City is scoring below average in the area of water quality monitoring, however over the past five years they have excelled. It is recommended that they continue to implement their current practices.

Development Control

Question Number	Question	Year				
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
18(a)	NIMP developers conditions imposed					
19	Town Planning env enforcement policies					

Overall, the City has scored above average in the development control area, but has been excelling over the last five years. It is recommended that they continue to implement their current practices, including monitoring developments for compliance. If developers are found not to be in compliance they should be prosecuted as new developments are potentially major sources of nutrients to groundwater and waterways.

