

ANNUAL NUTRIENT SURVEY for Local Government Authorities

City of Nedlands

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 turfed 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 (2003 - 2020): 49% - Average

Last 5 years: 59% - Average

2020: 59% - Average

The City of Nedlands has maintained an average score in Best Management Practices since it completed its first survey in 2003. Further improvements can be made in the areas of fertiliser applications, nutrient management, nutrient education, water quality monitoring and development control.

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					

Overall, the City of Nedlands has achieved above average results for nutrient monitoring, however they are now excelling. It is recommended that they continue to implement their current practices.

Fertiliser Applications

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

The City is using fertiliser on foreshore reserves and parks. As recommended, soil, leaf tissue and moisture tests are being conducted by the City in foreshore reserves and fertiliser regimes should be based on these results. If nutrients are required then 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 indicated that the City is using custom blend slow release foliar fertilisers on all of their turf areas and is fertilising in spring and autumn. It is recommended that the City uses fertilisers based on the nutrient requirements of the different turf areas as determined by nutrient testing and continues to only fertilise during autumn and spring.

City of Nedlands

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.

Deciduous trees are found in the City's area. Since 2014 it has been stated that the City has measures in place to prevent deciduous leaves entering drains. However, the stated method of all the city drains being independent sumps/soakwells does not prevent leaves from entering the drains and even though the drains are not connected directly to the river the leaves may still contribute nutrients to waterways via their rapid decomposition and entry of the nutrients into groundwater. The results reflect this determination. It is recommended that no further deciduous trees be planted and that measures, such as street sweeping, be adopted to prevent the leaves from entering drains.

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 achieved an average score in nutrient education. Since 2014 it has been stated that the City gives their rate payers fertiliser advice by providing the contact details of Parks Services on their website. Providing these details is not sufficient to classify as providing advice. It is recommended that the City improve upon their delivery of nutrient education by distributing 'Fertilise Wise' leaflets (available for free from the Phosphorus Awareness Project), linking their website to the Fertilise Wise page on the SERCUL website - www.sercul.org.au/our-projects/fertilise-wise/ and/or hosting a 'Great Gardens' or 'Beyond Gardens' workshop. Refer to the 2020 Annual Nutrient Report for more information.

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 and for the last five years, the City has scored unsatisfactory in the area of water quality monitoring. It is recommended that the City monitor wetlands, stormwater drains and compensation basins for nutrients. Each of these locations are influenced by fertiliser applications on surrounding areas and monitoring could help pinpoint the sources from which nutrients and other pollutants are entering waterways. Once monitoring occurs the results should be reported to the local community to reflect the City's commitment to the environment and provide important information to community members and catchment and environment groups.

Development Control

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

Overall and for the last five years, the City has scored average in the area of development control area. It is recommended that the City imposes NIMP conditions on developers, monitors them for compliance and prosecutes developers that are not complying with conditions as new developments are potentially major sources of nutrients to groundwater and waterways.

