

ANNUAL NUTRIENT SURVEY for Local Government Authorities

City of South Perth 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 (2000 - 2020): 78% - Above Average Last 5 years: 78% - Above Average 2020: 82% - Excelling

The City of South Perth has been above average in adopting Best Management Practices since it completed its first survey in 2000. This year the City has excelled. Further improvements can be made in the areas of fertiliser applications, nutrient management and water quality monitoring.

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 and in the last five years, the City of South Perth has excelled in nutrient monitoring. It is recommended that they continue to implement their current practices, however add nutrient monitoring of irrigated parks and dry grass areas to their regime if these areas are fertilised.

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. 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 the same fertiliser on active turf areas and foreshore reserves and is fertilising using multiple applications through the seasons, including in winter. It is recommended that the City uses fertilisers based on the nutrient requirements of the different turf areas as determined by nutrient testing and only fertilises during autumn and spring. They should not fertilise in winter.

City of South Perth

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, the City has scored above average in nutrient management. It is recommended that the City implement a Nutrient and Irrigation Management Plan (NIMP) for streetscapes.

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, the City has excelled in nutrient education. It is recommended that the City continue to implement their current practices.

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 has excelled in the area of water quality monitoring, however over the past five years this score has slipped to above average. It is recommended that the City reinstates a water quality monitoring program for stormwater drains, and reports the results of all monitoring to the local community.

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 average in the development control area, but they are now excelling. It is recommended that they continue to implement their current practices, but should also monitor 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.



For further information please contact Natasha Bowden, South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare on 9458 5664 or email natashabowden@sercul.org.au.

The Annual Nutrient Survey for Local Government Authorities Results 2020 Report is available at www.sercul.org.au/fertilisewise