ANNUAL NUTRIENT SURVEY for Local Government Authorities

City of Subiaco

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 (2002 - 2020): 72% - Above Average **Last 5 years: 79% - Above Average** **2020: 88% - Excelling**

The City of Subiaco has been above average in adopting Best Management Practices since it completed it's first survey in 2002 and this year is excelling. Further improvements can be made in the areas of nutrient management 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 and for the last five years, the City of Subiaco has excelled in nutrient monitoring. 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 not using fertiliser on foreshore reserves and parks and it is recommended that this practice continue. From 2016 - 2018, the previous respondent indicated that the City did not have foreshore areas, perhaps mistakenly thinking that wetland/lake foreshore areas were not included in this question.

Analysis of Question 8 from the 2020 survey indicated that the City is using fertilisers with no phosphate and different nitrogen levels for different turf areas which is recommended, however for one fertiliser it is fertilising across all seasons. It is recommended the City not fertilise in winter and only in summer if nutrient testing indicates that it is required.

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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. It is recommended that the City implements a Nutrient and Irrigation Management Plan (NIMP) for their streetscapes.

Deciduous trees are found in the City's area. It is recommended that no further deciduous trees be planted and that street sweeping be increased during months when leaves are falling.

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 been excelling in nutrient education. As well as a native plant subsidy scheme the City could improve upon their delivery of fertiliser advice to rate payers 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/* 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, the City is scoring average in the area of water quality monitoring, however is now excelling. It is recommended that they continue to implement their current practices, but also add reporting of monitoring results to the 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 below average in the development control area, but this has increased to average over the last five years. It is recommended that they continue to impose NIMP conditions on developers, but start monitoring developments for compliance and prosecute those developers found not to be in compliance with conditions as new developments are potentially major sources of nutrients to groundwater and waterways. It is recommended that the City adopts Town Planning environmental enforcement policies.

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*