

ANNUAL NUTRIENT SURVEY for Local Government Authorities

City of Vincent

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 (2002 - 2020): 81% - Excelling

Last 5 years: 86% - Excelling

2020: 82% - Excelling

The City of Vincent has excelled in adopting Best Management Practices since it completed its first survey in 2002. Further improvements can be made in the areas of water quality monitoring, as this is the only area in which it is not excelling.

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 Vincent 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 using not fertiliser on foreshore reserves and parks and it is recommended that this practice continue.

Analysis of Question 8 from the 2020 survey indicated that the City is using the same brand of fertiliser for active and passive turf areas, however at different application rates and is fertilising using multiple applications through the seasons of spring, summer and autumn. The average application rate of nitrogen is above the recommended single application rate of 40 kg/ha. It is recommended that the City fertilises according to nutrient monitoring results, not exceed the recommended nutrient application rates and only fertilise in summer if nutrient testing indicates it is required.

City of Vincent

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 excelled in nutrient management. It is recommended that the City continues to implement its current practices. 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 the City continues to implement its 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 scored average in the area of water quality monitoring and in the last five years this has slipped to unsatisfactory. 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 excelled in the development control area. 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.

Additional Information Provided

The City has a Nutrient Stripping drain that reduces the amount of nutrients flowing into both lakes within Hyde Park. The drain also has debris baskets that capture leaves and other debris, these are monitored and regularly emptied.

