

ANNUAL NUTRIENT SURVEY for Local Government Authorities

Town of Claremont

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): 59% - Average Last 5 years: 72% - Above Average 2020: 71% - Above Average

The Town of Claremont has adopted average Best Management Practices since it completed its first survey in 2002, but over the past 5 years has improved to above average. Further improvements can be made in the areas of nutrient monitoring, fertiliser applications, nutrient management, 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 Town of Claremont has scored average results in nutrient monitoring, but were excelling in the last 5 years. This year they achieved an above average result. It is recommended that they measure the Phosphorus Retention Index (PRI) of the soil.

Fertiliser Applications

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

The Town previously applied fertiliser to their foreshore areas, however did not this year. It is recommended that this practice continue.

Analysis of Question 8 from the 2020 survey indicated that the Town is only applying fertiliser to passive turf areas and is conducting soil and leaf tissue analysis in irrigated parks. It is recommended that the Shire adds moisture testing to their monitoring of these areas to ensure nutrients aren't being leached into groundwater due to overwatering and that they only fertilise according to nutrient monitoring results, particularly if they are fertilising in summer.

Town of Claremont

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 last 5 years, the Town has scored above average in nutrient management, however this year it has dropped to an average score. It is recommended that the Town develop a Nutrient and Irrigation Management Plan for its streetscapes and adopt a local plants policy.

Deciduous trees are found in the Town'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 Town has excelled in nutrient education. It is recommended that they continue implementing 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 Town has performed at a below average level in the area of water quality monitoring. It is recommended that they continue to monitor wetlands and report results to the community and implement a similar monitoring and reporting program for stormwater drains and compensation basins.

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 Town has performed below average in development control but is now excelling. It is recommended that they commence monitoring of developments for compliance and 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.

