

# ANNUAL NUTRIENT SURVEY for Local Government Authorities

## 2021 Town of Claremont Nutrient Management Score Card

The Swan and Canning River systems, and many wetlands, are suffering from regular, and sometimes toxic, algal blooms. These blooms occur due to excessive inputs of nutrients, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen, combined with low water flows and warm temperatures. Local authorities are responsible for nutrient use and management on turfed areas and in reserves, in drainage systems 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 (LGAs) in Perth are surveyed on their nutrient practices by the Phosphorus Awareness Project of the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL). 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 the questions asked in the survey have been used to provide a Score Card for each LGA that responded and clearly show how the LGA is performing and where and how improvements can be made. LGAs should also refer to the Annual Nutrient Survey for Local Government Authorities Results 2021 report ([www.sercul.org.au/fertilisewise](http://www.sercul.org.au/fertilisewise)) for further recommendations on how to implement nutrient Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Please note that not all of the questions asked in the survey were used to determine the overall best management practice score. Any additional information about nutrient practices provided by an LGA is summarised at the end of this scorecard.



### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE SCORE 2021

Overall BMP: **65% ABOVE AVERAGE**

The Town of Claremont has been above average in implementing nutrient BMPs in 2020/21. Further improvements can be made in the areas of nutrient management, water quality monitoring and nutrient education.

#### RESPONSE KEY:

■ BMP has been achieved ■ BMP has NOT been achieved ■ Not Applicable  Response not assessed

#### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) KEY:

■ Excelling ■ Above Average ■ Average ■ Below Average ■ Unsatisfactory

### NUTRIENT MONITORING

QUESTION	RESPONSE	SECTION BMP
Are regular soil tests &/or leaf tissue analyses conducted in grassed and turf areas?	YES	EXCELLING
Is analysis conducted by a lab affiliated with ASPAC?	YES	
Is plant available phosphorus in the soil measured using an appropriate test?	YES	
Are rates of phosphorus determined by soil testing and Phosphorus Retention Index (PRI) results?	YES	

The nutrient monitoring that the Town does is to a high standard. It completed soil tests in irrigated parks and foreshore areas and leaf tissue analysis in irrigated parks. It did not apply any fertiliser in 2020/21. If fertiliser is applied in future years it is recommended that the Town conduct soil tests and leaf tissue analysis in all areas that are fertilised and moisture testing in irrigated areas .

### FERTILISER APPLICATIONS

QUESTION	RESPONSE	SECTION BMP
Are there foreshore reserves and parks in the LGA?	YES	EXCELLING
Is fertiliser added to foreshore reserves and parks?	NO	
Does the fertiliser contain phosphorus?	N/A	
Is it a controlled release, low water soluble fertiliser?	N/A	

The Town reported that it did not apply fertiliser to any parks in 2020/21.

## NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

QUESTION	RESPONSE	SECTION BMP
Are structural BMPs in place to reduce nutrients entering waterbodies?	YES	AVERAGE
Are non-structural measures in place to prevent nutrients from grass clippings entering waterbodies via stormwater drains?	NO	
Are there deciduous trees in parks and streetscapes?	YES	
Are non-structural measures in place to prevent nutrients from deciduous leaves entering waterbodies via stormwater drains?	YES	
Are there non-structural measures in place to prevent nutrients from sediment entering waterbodies via stormwater drains?	YES	
Is a Nutrient and Irrigation Management Plan (NIMP) implemented for streetscapes?	NO	
Is there a policy to use local native plants as the first choice in public (LGA) and private (developers) landscaping?	NO	

It is recommended that the Town use BMP measures to prevent nutrients from grass clippings entering waterbodies via stormwater drains (refer to main report for measures that can be implemented). It is recommended that no further deciduous trees be planted on road verges or near waterbodies. A NIMP should be implemented for streetscapes and a policy to use local native plants as the first choice in landscaping be enacted.

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING

QUESTION	RESPONSE	SECTION BMP
Are wetlands regularly monitored for nutrient levels?	YES	BELOW AVERAGE
Are stormwater drains regularly monitored for nutrient levels?	NO	
Are compensating basins regularly monitored for nutrient levels?	NO	

The Town regularly monitors wetlands for nutrient levels and reports the results to their local community. It is recommended that they also monitor, and report on the results from, stormwater drains and compensating basins. SERCULs Water Quality Monitoring team can assist LGAs with undertaking this work and can be contacted on 9458 5664.

## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

QUESTION	RESPONSE	SECTION BMP
Are there provisions in the Town Planning Scheme or Planning Policies to enforce environmental conditions on development?	YES	YES
Do you impose conditions on development which include Nutrient and Irrigation Management Plans (NIMPs)?	YES	
Do you have mechanisms in place to regulate sediment management?	YES	

It is recommended that the City continue to implement their current practices, including monitoring developments for compliance. If developers are found not to be in compliance they should be prosecuted.

## NUTRIENT EDUCATION

QUESTION	RESPONSE	SECTION BMP
Are dog poo bins and bags provided in parks and foreshore reserves?	YES	BELOW AVERAGE
Are measures taken to educate the public about not feeding bread to waterbirds in foreshore reserves and parks?	NO	
Are ratepayers provided with advice on best practice in fertiliser management according to soil type?	NO	

It is recommended that the Town implement BMP measures to educate the public about not feeding bread to waterbirds and provide ratepayers with advice on best practice in fertiliser management according to soil type (refer to main report for measures that can be implemented). SERCUL has a flyer that can form the basis of a sign educating the public about not feeding waterbirds. SERCUL also has a Fertilise Wise brochure that can be sourced for free from SERCUL and distributed to ratepayers at LGA locations. The Town can also link its website to the Fertilise Wise page of SERCULs website ([www.sercul.org.au/fertilisewise](http://www.sercul.org.au/fertilisewise)).