

ANNUAL NUTRIENT SURVEY for Local Government Authorities



Town of Mosman Park 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 turf 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 2022 report (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 2022

Overall BMP: **47% AVERAGE**

The Town of Mosman Park has been average in implementing nutrient Best Management Practices in 2021/22. Further improvements can be made in all areas of nutrient practices. An improved score may be possible if all questions received a response.

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	ABOVE AVERAGE
Is analysis conducted by a lab affiliated with ASPAC?	NO RESPONSE	
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 Town conducts soil tests and leaf tissue analysis on sports fields, golf courses and irrigated parks, and also does moisture testing at golf courses. If dry grass areas are fertilised then nutrient testing should also be undertaken in these areas. Moisture testing should be undertaken in all areas that are fertilised and irrigated. Any analysis undertaken needs to be conducted by a laboratory affiliated with ASPAC.

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 does not apply fertiliser to foreshore areas and it is recommended that this practice continue. It is recommended that the Town continue to implement their current practices in other turf areas, with the exception that fertiliser not be applied during winter when grass is likely to be semi-dormant and not being used and has a greater chance of being leached into groundwater due to heavy rain.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

QUESTION	RESPONSE	SECTION BMP
Are structural BMPs in place to reduce nutrients entering waterbodies?	NO	AVERAGE
Are non-structural measures in place to prevent nutrients from grass clippings entering waterbodies via stormwater drains?	YES	
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 have structural measures in place, such as infiltration, conveyance or detention systems, to reduce nutrients entering waterbodies. 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 enacted.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

QUESTION	RESPONSE	SECTION BMP
Are wetlands regularly monitored for nutrient levels?	N/A	UNSATISFACTORY
Are stormwater drains regularly monitored for nutrient levels?	NO	
Are compensating basins regularly monitored for nutrient levels?	NO	

It is highly recommended that the Town monitor stormwater drains and compensating basins for nutrient levels and report the results to their local community. It is recommended that any monitoring program implemented be ongoing to identify issues as they arise. 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?	NO RESPONSE	UNSATISFACTORY
Do you impose conditions on development which include Nutrient and Irrigation Management Plans (NIMPs)?	NO	
Do you have mechanisms in place to regulate sediment management?	NO	

It is recommended that the Town have provisions in their Town Planning Scheme or Planning Policies to enforce environmental conditions on development, including NIMPs. These plans should be monitored for compliance and developers that are not complying prosecuted. They should also have mechanisms in place to regulate sediment management (refer to main report).

NUTRIENT EDUCATION

QUESTION	RESPONSE	SECTION BMP
Are dog poo bins and bags provided in parks and foreshore reserves?	YES	ABOVE 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?	YES	

It is recommended that the Town implement measures to educate the public about not feeding bread to waterbirds and have more specific advice on best practice in fertiliser management according to soil type. SERCUL has a flyer that can form the basis of a sign educating the public about not feeding waterbirds and 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).