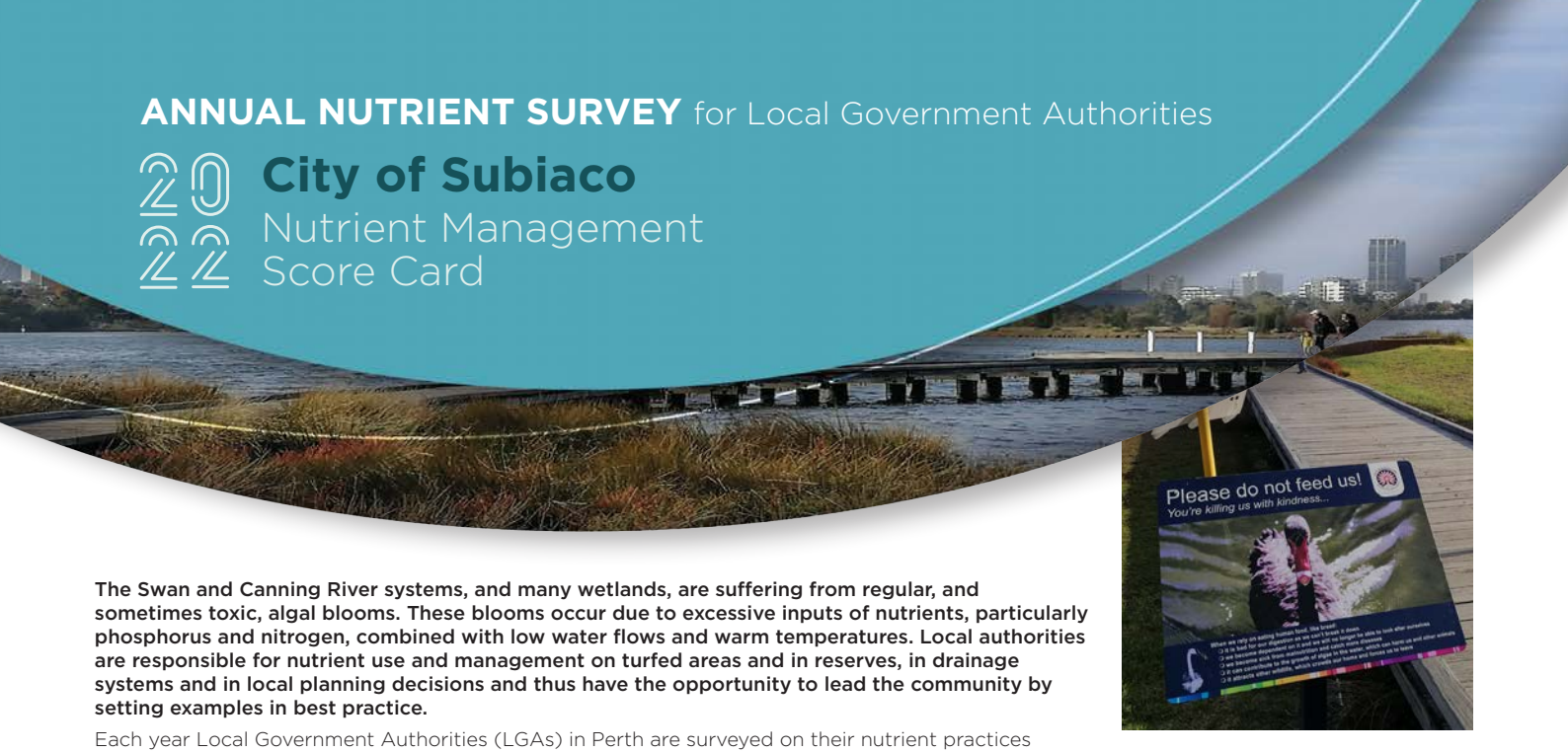
ANNUAL NUTRIENT SURVEY for Local Government Authorities

2022 City of Subiaco 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 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: **67% ABOVE AVERAGE**

The City of Subiaco has been above average in implementing nutrient Best Management Practices in 2021/22. Further improvements can be made in all areas of nutrient practice.

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?	YES	
Is plant available phosphorus in the soil measured using an appropriate test?	UNSURE	
Are rates of phosphorus determined by soil testing and Phosphorus Retention Index (PRI) results?	YES	

The City conducts soil tests, leaf tissue analysis and moisture testing of sports fields, irrigated parks and foreshore areas and it is recommended that this practice continue. It is recommended that if the City fertilises dry grass areas it conducts soil and leaf tissue analysis of these areas. The City should ensure that an appropriate test is being used to measure plant available phosphorus in the soil.

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 City reported that it did not have any foreshore reserves in their boundaries however has Lake Jualbup, which has a sizable grassed area surrounding it. Therefore this response was changed to yes. As they did not provide fertiliser values for foreshore areas I have stated that they do not fertilise foreshore areas. If this is the case, then this practice should continue. Analysis of the amounts of fertiliser applied to active turf indicates that fertiliser is being applied at a rate above the recommended single application rate of 40 kg/ha of nitrogen, however as it is in a controlled release form and soil testing and leaf tissue analysis is being conducted this may be acceptable. Fertiliser is also being applied in winter. It is recommended that the City ensure that each single application of nitrogen be below the recommended amount and fertiliser not be applied in winter when the grass is likely to be semi-dormant and nutrients not being used and fertiliser 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?	YES	ABOVE 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?	YES	
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 City put in place measures to prevent nutrients from grass clippings entering waterbodies via stormwater drains. Many of the same measures put in place to control deciduous leaves and sediment are also effective in controlling grass clippings (see main report). The City should also implement a policy to use local native plants as the first choice when landscaping.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

QUESTION	RESPONSE	SECTION BMP
Are wetlands regularly monitored for nutrient levels?	YES	EXCELLING
Are stormwater drains regularly monitored for nutrient levels?	N/A	
Are compensating basins regularly monitored for nutrient levels?	N/A	

The City has stated that its stormwater is directed to “dry” sumps or soakwells (those that do not intersect the maximum groundwater table) and that it doesn’t have compensating basins. Wetlands are monitored for nutrient levels, however, the results are not reported to the community. It is recommended that the City report the results of wetland water quality monitoring to the community.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

QUESTION	RESPONSE	SECTION BMP
Are there provisions in the Town Planning Scheme or Planning Policies to enforce environmental conditions on development?	NO	BELOW AVERAGE
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?	YES	

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 look to implement more mechanisms 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?	YES	
Are ratepayers provided with advice on best practice in fertiliser management according to soil type?	NO	

It is recommended that the City provide advice on best practice in fertiliser management according to soil type. SERCUL has a Fertilise Wise brochure that can be sourced for free from SERCUL and distributed to ratepayers at LGA locations. The City can also link its website to the Fertilise Wise page of SERCULs website (www.sercul.org.au/fertilisewise).

SERCUL
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ALGAE BUSTER PHOSPHORUS AWARENESS PROJECT

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