



# WETLAND MANAGEMENT



## **WETLAND MANAGEMENT**

### COMMUNITY GROWTH - CULTURE

#### DEFINITION

A wetland is an area of land which is permanently or temporarily under water or waterlogged. The water may be fresh, brackish or saline and static or flowing. Wetlands are an important component of the landscape providing essential ecosystem services including assimilation of nutrients, trapping of sediments and provision of habitat.

Wetland areas occur in a wide variety of landscapes and include:

- Natural permanent or ephemeral water bodies such as marshes, swamps, fens, lakes, peatlands, bogs, quagmires, backwaters, billabongs, estuarine seagrass beds, mangroves, saltmarshes and mudflats exposed at low tides;
- Sandstone hanging swamps associated with sandstone landscapes in the upper catchment areas;
- Forested areas dominated by Swamp Mahogany, Red Gums, Melaleuca's and Swamp Oak on low lying coastal floodplains including riparian vegetation on estuary and lagoon foreshores, creeks and rivers;
- Natural water bodies that have been modified; and,
- Natural depressions on land liable to flooding.

For the purposes of this policy, wetlands are areas that have been identified in International treaties such as the Ramsar convention, State or Regional Planning Policies and/or in mapping carried out by Council with the specific purpose of defining wetland areas.

This policy objectives and policy statements applies to wetlands under the management of Gosford City Council. Liaison with private and public land owners that includes wetlands is also important in achieving the policy objectives.

This policy was developed in accordance with the principles of the NSW Wetland Management Policy (1996).

#### **POLICY OBJECTIVES**

To protect wetlands in the City of Gosford.

To restore and enhance degraded wetlands within the City of Gosford according to identified priorities.

To allow for the acquisition of privately owned wetlands where the protection of priority wetlands can be best achieved in public ownership.

To educate the community about the environmental, social and economic values of wetlands within the City of Gosford.

#### POLICY STATEMENT

- 1 Wetlands identified in the City of Gosford under this policy are those that have been identified in International treaties such as the Ramsar convention, State or Regional Planning Policies and/or in mapping carried out by Council with the specific purpose of defining wetland areas.
- 2 Wetland Maps are to be available for public viewing.
- 3 Council shall consider the objectives of this policy when amendments to the Local Environmental Plan and/or Zoning maps are proposed.
- 4 Council will investigate educational resources to develop and implement a wetland education program to highlight the importance of wetlands within the City of Gosford.
- 5.1 Council will investigate options for protecting or acquiring wetlands on private land.
- 5.2 Where possible Council will acquire wetlands in accordance with a priority program. Acquisition of wetlands would be in accordance with policy A5.02 Land and Property Transactions.
- 6 Council may offer or provide information on incentives for the management of wetlands on private property.
- 7 Council shall consider the objectives of this policy when developing drainage strategies for urban areas or new developments.
- 8 Council shall consider the objectives of this policy when assessing development applications on public or private land.
- 9 All Council Business units shall consider the objectives of this policy when undertaken Environmental Assessments for activities proposed on their land.
- 10 Council will manage wetlands with reference to Total Catchment Management principles.

## POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Council will develop generic or specific plans of management for wetlands on Council owned or managed land in accordance with relevant legislation including the Local Government Act 1993 and Crown Lands Act 1989.

Where necessary Council will erect notices adjacent to wetland areas on Council owned or managed land, pursuant to s.632 of the Local Government Act, 1993, to notify the public of activities that are prohibited within wetland areas.

The objectives of this policy shall be considered by all Council Business Units undertaking activities which may affect wetlands covered by this policy.

Council shall consider the objectives of this policy when assessing development applications on public or private land that may affect wetlands covered by this policy.

(Minute No 136/2000 – 27 June 2000)

(Minute No 214/2005 - 8 March 2005 - Review of Policies)

(Minute No 311/2009 - 5 May 2009 - Review of Policies)

(Min No 2013/388 - 16 July 2013 - Review of Policies)