



FOCUS AREA 6:

Sustainable management of water

This section concentrates on Council's water use (urban and rural) and actions that impact on water quality of waterways and wetlands, including stormwater and domestic wastewater management.

Policy position

Moira Shire acknowledges:

- Water is the lifeblood of the region and has economic, environmental and social value;
- It is critical to use and manage potable and raw water appropriately yet differently;
- Urban stormwater outfalls into high value rivers and streams throughout the Shire and may then be re-used for a variety of purposes; and
- Efficient use of water should occur despite climatic conditions.
- The prosperity of irrigated land and environmental features should be protected through effective salinity management.

Moira Shire Council will:

- Endeavour to manage urban stormwater to meet the required standard;
- Require all new developments to meet current standards;
- Manage its own water use and waste water responsibly;
- Play an important role in educating, advocating and responding to statutory requirements regarding sustainable water use and safe disposal of waste water; and
- Support partners in their various roles in water management (see Appendix 2).
- Continue to work in partnership with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority on programs that support the Council Plan.

Policy rationale

Council recognises:

- The environmental, economic and social value of water;
- Climate change will mean Moira Shire will become drier over the long term, with more extreme events like droughts and floods; and
- The need to minimise environmental impacts of developments and urban population growth.

Long-term target

As per Goulburn Broken Catchment water quality strategy target currently being developed.

Performance Indicators (by 2021)

1. Improved Council contributions to instream and wetland water quality.
2. Stormwater management meets State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) minimum requirements.
3. All Council assets have efficient water supplies through technology and governance improvements.

Example actions

- Review management of Council rural water allocations.
- Review and update the 2002 Urban Stormwater Management Plan and implement priority actions.
- Review and update the 2006 Sustainable Water Use Plan and implement priority actions.
- Investigate ways to incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design principles into capital works program.
- Improve monitoring and reporting of water use.