



FOCUS AREA 6

Sustainable management of water

Council will work towards a future that has ample clean water for our communities and the environment.



This section discusses Council’s use of water, stormwater, domestic wastewater management, the broader management of surface and groundwater, and the value of water both to the community and environment.

Policy position

Moira Shire acknowledges:

- Water is the lifeblood of the region and has economic, environmental and social (recreational and cultural) values, and these values may compete against one another;
- Open water and green spaces improve the liveability of our communities;
- Urban stormwater outfalls into high value rivers and streams throughout the Shire and may then be re-used for a variety of purposes and therefore needs to be of high quality;
- Efficient use of water should occur despite climatic conditions; and
- The prosperity of irrigated land and environmental features should be protected through effective salinity management and natural drainage courses.

Moira Shire Council will:

- Endeavour to manage urban stormwater to meet the required standard;
- Require all new developments to meet current water sensitive urban design standards;
- Manage our own urban water responsibly and in times of drought in a way that delivers greatest economic and social benefit;
- Manage our own rural water responsibly and in times of drought with respect to other rural water users;

- Manage our 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;
- Support the community to adapt to land use change and water availability and security issues;
- Support partners in their various roles in water management (see Appendix 2); and
- Work with floodplain management partners to improve the flood resilience of the catchment’s people, infrastructure, land, water and biodiversity.

Policy rationale

Council recognises:

- The environmental, economic and social (recreational and cultural) value of water;
- The impact that low water availability has on our agricultural industries,
- Climate change will mean Moira Shire will become hotter and drier over the long term, with more extreme events like droughts, fires and floods; and
- The need to minimise environmental impacts of land use, developments and urban population growth.

Long-term target

Improved management of water to support the community and environment.

Performance Indicators (by 2026)

The following performance indicators will be used to determine the successful implementation of the strategy:

1. Improved Council contributions to instream and wetland water quality;
2. Stormwater management meets State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) minimum requirement;
3. Implemented the Rural Water Review 2019;
4. Implemented the 2020 Review of the 2002 Urban Stormwater Management Plan; and
5. Reviewed and implemented the 2006 sustainable water use plan.

Actions

The following actions will support the implementation of the strategy:

- Develop and implement a rural water use policy.
- Implement the Recreation Reserves Water Use Review.
- Proactively manage Councils rural water to ensure sufficient water across all our sites and to opportunistically trade water or secure future years' allocations.
- Continue to manage Broken Creek user accounts.
- Support the Municipal Catchment Coordinator Reference Group and Regional Water Monitoring Partnership.
- Actively participate in the Wetland Management Group, Goulburn Broken Regional Water Quality Monitoring Working Group and Integrated Water Management North East and Goulburn Broken Forums.
- Support the Goulburn Broken Drainage Management Strategy implementation, including the Salinity Public Asset Control works for surface and subsurface management.
- Increase the number of stormwater wetlands in our urban areas for water quality, fire, biodiversity, recreation and cooling purposes.
- Incorporate water sensitive urban design principles into all works.
- Support environmental watering, salinity and drainage, and water management programs.
- Work with partners to advocate for Sustainable Irrigation Policy to support our agricultural industries and the environment.

