

15. WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENTS

15.1 Explanation

“Water Supply Catchments” refer to the total surface water catchment area for each dam used for the reticulated supply of potable water.

15.2 Key Issues

The key issues dictating the planning strategy within water supply catchment areas located within the Shire include:

- the whole or partial location of the water supply catchments of Lake MacDonald, Wappa Dam and Lake Baroon within Maroochy Shire;
- the paramount importance of protecting these valuable water resources from pollution or risk of pollution or from any circumstances where the quality of the surface or groundwater entering such resources may be compromised;
- the understanding that the preservation and enhancement of a high standard of water quality requires not only an effective treatment of water prior to delivery but management of the total catchment of the water supply storage dam; and
- the need to be able to prevent any proposal which introduces a potential source of contamination to the water supply.

15.3 Water Supply Catchment Strategy

The following elements outline the planning strategy to be employed in the water supply catchment areas located within the Shire.

1. The principal element of the Water Supply Catchment Strategy is the preference shown on the Strategic Plan Map to lower intensity land uses. Preferred Dominant Land Uses have been allocated on the basis of :
 - existing vegetation;
 - land fragmentation; and
 - current land use.
2. Each of the catchment areas has a catchment management plan either completed or in preparation. This may mean planning controls will need to be amended to bring them in line with plans once they are completed.
3. Where development is proposed in the catchment, a high standard of environmental management must be achieved. This will require at least the adoption of a best environmental management

practice approach in all development. Where there is any doubt as to the ability of the proposal to achieve an appropriate standard, Council may not support the application.

4. As a general principle, the number of additional residences within the catchment is not intended to be increased. Council is unlikely to support the creation of new small lots or more than one dwelling unit on a lot.
5. Council has prepared and adopted applicable Planning Scheme code provisions to assist with the regulation of development in water supply catchment areas.

15.4 Objectives and Implementation Measures

15.4.1 To Preserve and Enhance Water Quality through Effective Management of Potable Water Supply Dam Catchments Located Wholly or Partially within the Shire

The importance of preserving and enhancing water quality through appropriate management of water supply dam catchments is critical to securing a supply which minimises any potential health risks, results in a more efficient treatment plant operation, maintains a high aesthetic standard and prolongs the life of the infrastructure.

Implementation

1. Council is unlikely to support development proposals which may result in the loss of water quality within the catchment. Such unacceptable uses include feed lots, piggeries, fuel depots, truck depots or other like uses.
2. Council is unlikely to support small lot rural lot reconfiguration or other like development which would increase housing density.
3. Council shall give due regard to the provisions of any existing or proposed management plans for the water supply catchments.
4. Council will pay particular heed to the provisions relating to:
 - the protection or rehabilitation of vegetation along waterbodies and on steeper and unstable land;
 - the need for a high standard of septic and sullage disposal; and
 - the retardation and control of stormwater run-off.

5. In assessing any proposal Council will give due regard to:
- the scale, character and location of any proposed structures and other activities;
 - whether it is proposed to retain existing vegetation, particularly in those areas close to the ponded area and downstream of the proposal;
 - whether any point or non point sediment or nutrient controls or streambank stabilisation measures are being proposed; and
 - Existing groundwater quality and downstream water quality as well as whether any groundwater and water quality monitoring programs are proposed.
6. If after assessing a proposal, Council is not satisfied that an acceptable proposal can be provided, it may not support an application.