

**POLICY NO. CP 6.2.2****RETENTION, REHABILITATION AND REVEGETATION OF NATURAL AREAS****PURPOSE**

To formalise the City of Gosnells position and requirements with regard to the retention, rehabilitation and revegetation of Natural Areas within the City.

POLICY STATEMENT**1. Application**

This policy applies where a proponent is required, by a condition of planning, or other agreement, to identify natural areas for retention, rehabilitation, revegetation and management including bushland, foreshore, and wetland areas including any buffers to those areas.

For the purposes of this policy the term Natural Area describes:

- a) An individual or collective area containing native remnant bushlands, wetlands, waterways and foreshore areas, revegetation zones, outcrops, and living streams.
- b) Any defined buffer area agreed to by the City and relevant State agencies adjacent to a significant bushland (i.e. containing threatened ecological community and/or threatened flora), wetland, waterway or other Natural Area that may or may not contain native vegetation.

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the City's Natural Areas Retention, Rehabilitation and Revegetation Guidelines.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- To identify Natural Areas within the City to be enhanced, conserved and protected;
- To clearly define the City's expectations regarding where the retention, rehabilitation and revegetation of Natural Areas is required;
- To ensure the consistency and acceptability of outcomes from rehabilitation and revegetation initiatives;
- To clearly define the City's expectations in regard to the treatment of stormwater prior to entering Natural Areas;
- To ensure that bushfire planning factors in retention, rehabilitation and revegetation of Natural Areas;
- To ensure that Natural Areas entering the City's management portfolio are of an acceptable condition for ongoing management; and
- To prevent erosion and protect water quality in the catchment.



3. Implementation

Retention of vegetation will be determined based on:

- The quality of vegetation
- The significance of vegetation and
- Connectivity across existing Natural Areas.

Identification of areas to be retained, rehabilitated, and revegetated should occur early in the planning process, ensuring that development works do not encroach into or negatively impact these areas.

A Management Plan is required to be lodged with and approved by the City prior to rehabilitation and revegetation works commencing. It must include a detailed scope of works informed by up-to-date investigations, adequate mapping and design drawings that demonstrate a good understanding of the site, its issues, and potential threats to achieve the objectives of this Policy.

The Management Plan will provide a program for the retention, rehabilitation, and revegetation of Natural Areas within the subject site, completion criteria and a cost and maintenance schedule. The satisfactory completion of works prescribed in the Management Plan and the completion criteria, will inform the City's agreement on Practical Completion and Handover at the conclusion of the maintenance period.

Key approaches that are to underpin the Management Plan are:

- a) Remnant vegetation on site is to be retained and protected;
- b) Detailed investigations, methodology, and appropriate timing of works are to meet the completion criteria and industry best practice;
- c) Use of locally native species which naturally occur within the ecosystem being restored with a preference for the use of provenance plants. Industry best practice methods in the ecological restoration field are to be used;
- d) Stormwater quality is treated prior to entering Natural Areas;
- e) Management of bushfire threat is to be done outside of Natural Areas.

The objectives of this policy will be achieved through the application of the City's Natural Areas – Retention, Rehabilitation and Revegetation Guidelines.

**GOVERNANCE REFERENCES**

Statutory Compliance	Nil
Industry Compliance	State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas) (WAPC, 2015) Draft State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water National Standards for the practice of ecological restoration in Australia (Society of Ecological Restoration Australasia 2018) EPA guidance: Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA 2016)
Organisational Compliance	Policy CP2.4.22 Clearance of Conditions of Subdivision and Development Approval – Security Deposits for Outstanding Works
Process Links	City of Gosnells Natural Areas: Retention, Rehabilitation and Revegetation Guidelines.

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer Title		Contact:	
Infrastructure		Manager Parks and Environment		9397 3000	
Risk Rating	Low	Review Cycle	Triennial	Next Due:	2026
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis			
1.	OCM 30/11/02/2014	To formalise the City's position and objectives where rehabilitation and/or revegetation of natural areas is required.			
2.	OCM 320/26/09/2017	Reviewed with no amendments.			
3.	OCM 251/08/09/2020	Reviewed and amended.			
4.	OCM 230/10/10/2023	Reviewed and amended.			