



City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters

NAME OF POLICY: Irrigation

POLICY MANUAL: Service

BACKGROUND

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters seeks to ensure that the irrigation of areas which are under its care and control are maintained to standards which are appropriate for the respective use of the facilities, whilst utilising best practice and sound horticultural principles to maximise the efficient use of water.

The Irrigation Policy provides guidelines, which will assist in rating the Council's parks, reserves and landscapes according to their use and/or prominence. The Policy will aid the establishment and justification of standards of presentation, maintenance and identify the most efficient and/or appropriate means of applying the required amount of water to achieve those standards. Additionally, the Policy identifies a process to monitor standards and audit irrigation system performance.

This Policy is to be used in conjunction with the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Irrigation Management Plan (2008).

For the purpose of this Policy the following definitions apply:

Sound Horticultural Principles: proven horticultural techniques, supported by anecdotal or scientific evidence used to achieve desired results.

Sustainable: able to function effectively for an indefinite period without support.

Landscape: area of vegetation, turf or trees maintained by the Council.

Function: the predominant use of a landscaped area.

Fit for purpose: the standard of presentation of a landscape equates to its intended use. Of particular relevance when considering playing surfaces that are often required to meet the standards set by particular sports governing bodies.

Stakeholders: groups or individuals directly impacted by a Council action or proposal.

IPOS: Irrigated Public Open Space (SA Water)

DISCUSSION

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters has a number of irrigated parks, reserves, sports fields and streetscapes.

The recent events such as the drought and climate change have focussed community attention on the use of water and in response individuals and organisations have addressed their levels of water consumption and encouraged a more sustainable level of water use.

The Council recognises its role as a community leader in raising public awareness of the issues surrounding the efficient water use.

Responsible water management requires the Council to determine the appropriateness of landscaped areas and determine the classification of each landscape according to its function and requirements. Subsequently, an appropriate maintenance and irrigation regime has been developed for the Council's irrigated sites. Classifications, maintenance and irrigation levels may be reviewed should reserve use, site conditions, available technologies or water restrictions alter.

Irrigated areas have been allocated one of four landscape classifications (Turf Visual Quality Standards – TVQS) as used in the IPOS Code of Practice (SA Water, 2008). The number of sites in each category within the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters are set out in Table 1 below:

TABLE 1

Category (SA Water Code of Practise – Irrigated Public Open Space)	Number of Sites
Level 1 - elite sports turf	0
Level 2 - premier sports turf	6
Level 3 - local sports turf	12
Level 4 - passive recreation turf	55

*each site within each category is specified within the Councils Irrigation Management Plan 2008

The Council has no Level 1 playing surfaces (elite sports turf).

KEY PRINCIPLES

The Key Principles underpinning this Policy are set out below:

- Landscaped areas under the care and control of the Council, will be irrigated in accordance with the Council's Irrigation Policy & Management Plan (2008) and inline with requirements issued from time-to-time by SA Water.
- Landscaped areas under the care and control of the Council will be maintained to a level, which achieves the 'fit for purpose' requirements as set out in SA Water's IPOS Code of Practice.
- Landscape designs for which the Council is responsible, will achieve the required standard of irrigation whilst ensuring efficient water use.
- Advances in irrigation and soil technology will be used where appropriate to deliver improvements in water management.
- The use of all irrigated reserve and landscaped areas under the care and control of the Council, will be reviewed in line with SA Water's IPOS Code of Practice and fall into the TQVS rating system outlined within this Code, with maintenance standards agreed to and appropriate irrigation regimes initiated.
- Review of existing landscapes and/or irrigation systems will take into account the soil type, soil structure, nutrient availability and moisture infiltration rates for the site.

- Existing irrigation systems will be identified, audited and their appropriateness for the situation assessed. If required, irrigation systems will be redesigned, costed and replaced according to priority.
- Existing landscapes will be reviewed, their water requirements analysed and their appropriateness for the use and purpose assessed. If required, landscapes will be redesigned, costed and replaced according to priority.
- Proposed irrigation system redesigns will be based on a 15 year cost-benefit analysis.
- Appropriate staff training will be undertaken to install, maintain, schedule and monitor systems at peak efficiency.
- Emerging technologies should be investigated, assessed and trialled for suitability – always considering environmental, social and economic factors.
- Water restrictions, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) regulations and legislative requirements will be adhered to at all times.

POLICY

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters will ensure that irrigation systems are installed and water is used in areas under its control using the most efficient and appropriate methods available. New landscapes will employ innovative designs and plant and water usage requirements will be a key consideration.

The objectives below will support the successful implementation of this policy.

Objective: Know and understand what irrigation assets and areas exist.

Ensure that the Council maintains clear and factual assessment and record of all irrigated areas and water usage.

Objective: Consider irrigation and water use a key factor in landscape developments.

Promote landscape designs which incorporate innovative design and the use of appropriate plant species with a view to conserving water. Support landscape designs which achieve the requirements of the site, whilst minimising water use.

Objective: Rank or classify landscapes by use and irrigation needs.

Initiate a flexible reserve classification system with associated irrigation plans, which can be modified should site conditions, site use or water restrictions alter.

Objective: Understand soil characteristics of the site.

Ensure soil analysis which assesses soil type, soil structure, nutrient availability and moisture infiltration rates is undertaken as part of any landscape and irrigation system redesign.

Objective: Best practice.

Maintain an awareness of and embrace emerging technologies, which increase efficiencies through improved irrigation delivery systems and/or altering soil characteristics.

Objective: Develop irrigation system management plans.

Develop irrigation management plans for high water use reserves, using sound asset management techniques.

Objective: Ensure that staff have the skills to achieve the objectives.

Provision of current, appropriate training, monitoring and assessment for relevant Council staff.

Objective: Manage and track water usage by collecting water use and irrigation maintenance data.

Develop a system to assist management decisions and management of costs.

REVIEW PROCESS

The Council will review this Policy within three (3) years of the adoption date of the Policy.

INFORMATION

The contact officer for further information regarding this Policy is the Council's Manager, City Services, telephone 8366 4555.

ADOPTION OF THE POLICY

This Policy was adopted by the Strategy & Policy Committee on 2 August 2004.

This Policy was adopted by Council on 20 January 2009.

This Policy was reviewed and adopted by the Council on 3 June 2019.

TO BE REVIEWED

June 2022