

The approval process – what information will I need?

When lodging your planning application for any creek works or development in close proximity to a watercourse, ensure you have completed the following tasks:

- Complete Form 1 Application for Planning Approval
- Identify environmental features that require protection from your development and explain how they will be protected
- Prepare a scale site plan of the property showing the location of your development in relation to any watercourses
- Detail remediation measures to be used
- Pay the relevant Planning Application fee

Recommended remediation measures include:

- Weed eradication and management
- Planting local native plants, such as sedges to stabilise banks, create habitat and absorb nutrients
- Erosion control measures such as rocks or riffles, which slows water movement reducing erosion
- Fencing to prevent stock access

References and further reading

Water and Rivers Commission - Water notes – *The values of the riparian zone & Protecting riparian vegetation* (2000)

Shire of Mundaring *Town Planning Scheme No. 3* (1995)

Shire of Mundaring *Draft Local Planning Scheme No.4* (2011)

Do other agencies need to be notified of my proposed works?

Yes. Depending on the location of your property, you may need to obtain a Permit to Interfere with Bed and Banks. Contact the Department of Water Swan Avon Regional office on 6250 8000 for further information.

You may also require a clearing permit from the Department of Environment and Conservation if you intend to clear native vegetation. Contact the Department of Environment and Conservation Native Vegetation Conservation Branch on 9219 8744 for further information.

Volunteering Opportunities

There are opportunities for residents to be involved in the protection and rehabilitation of watercourses. There are 4 Catchment and 80 Friends Groups within the Shire who undertake a wide range of bush regeneration projects, including restoring creek lines and streams. Please call the Shire's Bushcare Coordinator on 9290 6666 to find out more about joining a local Friends Group.

Managing Your Watercourse

Shire of Mundaring



This information is available in different formats upon request. Please contact the Shire on 9290 6666



Watercourses in the Shire of Mundaring

Watercourses in the Shire of Mundaring, created by a unique topography and climate, form an important characteristic of the hills environment.

Catchments and their tributaries also contribute to the health of the Swan River and provide clean drinking water to the Goldfields.

However, these inland waters are under threat through loss of fringing vegetation and other degrading factors. It is therefore important that watercourses are protected and managed to minimise environmental impacts and conserve their ecological and social values.

What is considered a watercourse?

The Shire defines a watercourse as:

- Any river, stream or creek in which water flows in a natural channel whether permanently or intermittently
- An artificial aqueduct for the conveyance of water

The importance of watercourses and their riparian areas

- Catch water from the surrounding landscape preventing flooding
- Contains high levels of biodiversity
- Understorey plants help remove excess nutrients and pollutants from stormwater and runoff
- Large woody debris and vegetation offer shelter, protection and habitat for wildlife
- The root systems of shrubs and sedges reinforce stream banks preventing erosion
- Riparian vegetation provides shade which lowers light penetration and water temperature
- Inland waters are culturally significant to indigenous people

Environmental damage

Mismanagement of watercourses and removing vegetation can result in the following issues:

- Loss of habitat
- Bank erosion, sedimentation and turbidity
- Build up of nutrients and pollutants
- Weed intrusion preventing native plants from establishing or growing which results in a lack of plant diversity
- Inappropriate design of development in watercourses, eg dams or vehicle crossings can alter the natural flow of water, which can create localised flooding or erosion problems downstream



Photos taken by Toni Burbidge and Ryan Hepworth

Do I need approval to undertake works near a watercourse?

Yes. Under the Shire's Planning Scheme, planning approval is required for any development or works within or adjacent to a watercourse. This may be obtained by submitting a planning application.

Complying with your planning approval

The Shire's Planning Scheme is a statutory document. Any activity undertaken without the necessary approvals would be considered an offence and penalties apply.