

Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy (Draft)

The Shire's draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy (WcHS) defines the key issues and threats facing the management of watercourses in the Shire and recommends corresponding strategic, planning based and operational actions.

What is a watercourse?

A watercourse is considered to be:

- 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

Why are watercourses important?

The Shire of Mundaring has an extensive watercourse network, totalling a length of 2307km. Approximately 40% of the watercourses traverse through private land and around 60% through a vast network of public reserves.

Watercourses play a vital role in sustaining life and therefore biodiversity in the shire. Watercourses also define the shire's distinct landscape amenity and sustain a range of social, cultural and economic values. Healthy waterways are therefore integral to delivering on the Shire's vision - a Place for Sustainable Living.

Watercourses and the riparian zones along the banks are under threat. Key threats include changing rainfall patterns due to climate change, land use and development pressures and increasing impervious surfaces causing erosion and sedimentation.

Mismanagement of watercourses 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.



What are we seeking comment on?

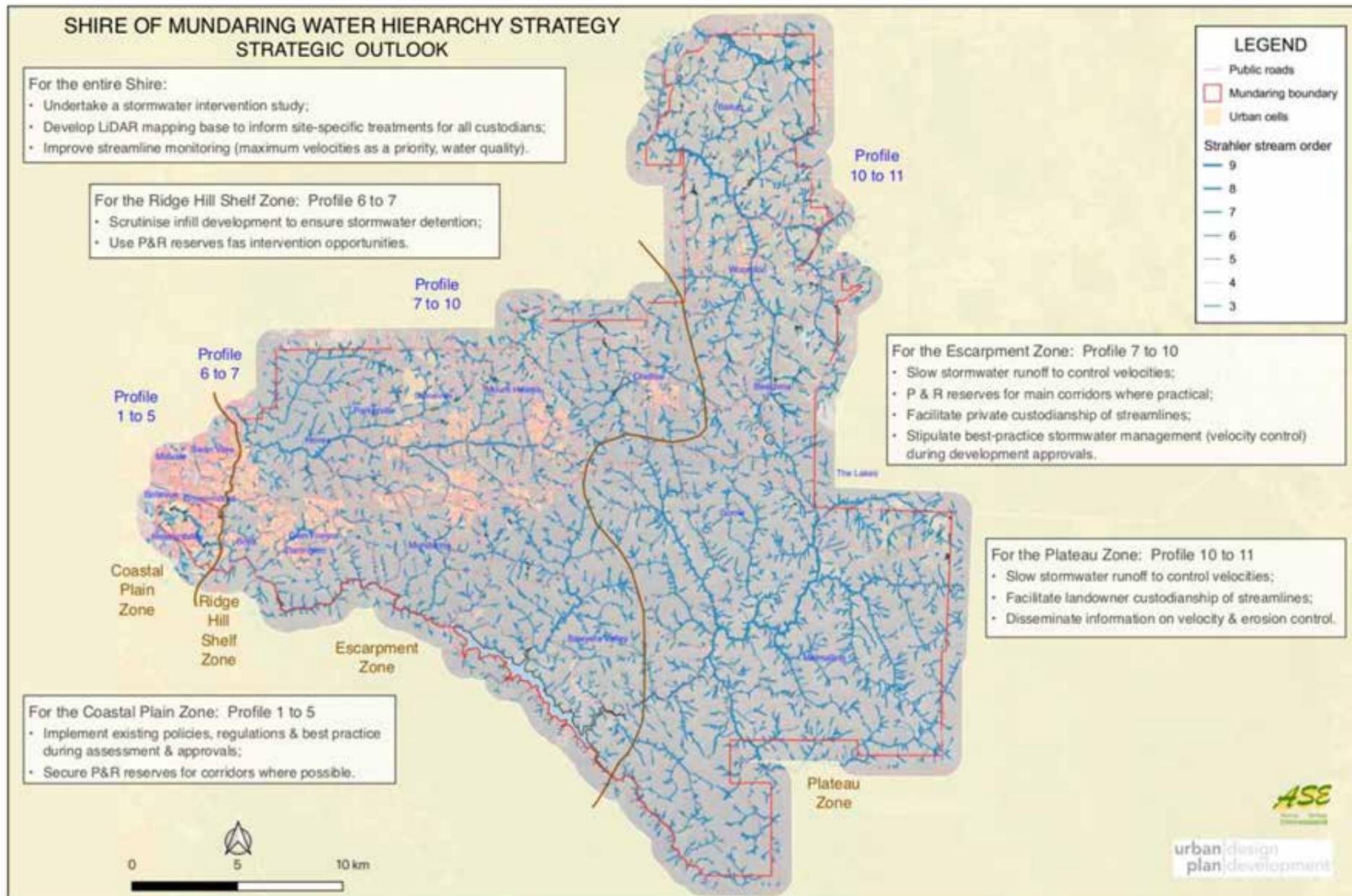
The Shire invites general comment and feedback on the WcHS.

Within the draft WcHS, strategic issues and outlook are illustrated across the different catchments. A new strategic direction is presented which, amongst other more specific actions, includes the following recommendations:

- Better control of storm flow peak-velocities for improved erosion control;
- Greater focus on protecting and rehabilitating ecological function and biodiversity along watercourse corridors, especially through urban and rural residential areas;
- Better coordinate and integrate watercourse corridor protective and restorative efforts between responsible agencies and communities;
- Provide information about watercourse ecology and function so as to inform and help landowners become responsible land managers;

- Improve sharing of information about bushfire mitigation works and ecological restoration efforts along corridors; and
- To facilitate and support a greater level of community and agency awareness and involvement with watercourse corridor protections and enhancements to broaden and strengthen local ownership and appreciation of these valuable ecological systems.

Insights about how the Shire can better support landowners as important stakeholders and custodians are encouraged.



WcHS recommendations were developed by first undertaking a geographically based (GIS) synthesis of issues.

This provided the backdrop for informed targeted stakeholder consultations, exploring and documenting what might be possible currently and into the future.

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How can I provide feedback?

The WcHS will be available for public inspection and comment from 25 November 2022 to 25 January 2023 and can be viewed at the following locations:

- Shire of Mundaring Administration Centre (7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring)
- Mundaring (Albert Facey Memorial Library - 1 Nichol Street, Mundaring)
- Boya (Katharine Susannah Prichard Library - 119-135 Scott Street, Helena Valley)
- Shire's website: www.mundaring.wa.gov.au/consultations/

Written submissions can be provided via post or email (details below).

Post to: Shire of Mundaring, 7000 Great Eastern Highway MUNDARING WA 6073
Email: shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au

The consultation period closes at 4pm on Wednesday 25 January 2023. Please be advised that hard copies are not available for purchase.

What will happen next?

On conclusion of the advertising period stakeholder consultation will be analysed and prepared into a report for Council.

Once the recommended plan is approved by Council, the Strategy will be finalised, released to the public and published on our website.

Where can I get more information?

For more information contact the Shire's Planning Department on 9290 6740 or via shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au

