

# Works and Assets

## Rural Deep Drainage and Surface Water

---

### Objective

To ensure a procedure is in place for Shire of Koorda (“**Shire**”) landholders planning to use deep drainage as an engineering option for salinity control that directly affects Council controlled land & infrastructure.

To provide recommendations on best practises for managing surface water runoff on land within the Shire through surface water control methods.

---

### Policy

#### Deep Drainage

Prior to the commencement of drainage works within the Shire the proponent or an authorised agent must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to drain to the Department of Agriculture and Food pursuant to the *Soil and Land Conservation Regulations 1992*.

Proponents must provide a copy of the letter of no objection provided by the Department of Agriculture and Food, prior to the contractor commencing drainage excavation work.

As a condition of approval by the Shire, a public notice will be advertised by the Shire within the local newspaper being the “Narkal Notes” advising on which locations drainage excavation works are to be constructed within the Shire and advise which roads, reserves or town site are to be affected.

Once approval has been given for the Notice of Intent (NOI) by the Department of Agriculture and Food to drain the drainage proponent must give Council at least four (4) weeks notice prior to the commencement of any drainage excavation work that directly affects Council controlled lands and infrastructure, to allow for advertising and Council consideration of how drain waters will be allowed to cross Council infrastructure without affecting its integrity and standard.

At Council’s discretion, proposals to move water via the means of deep drainage excavation work must be accompanied by an Engineer certified design, taking into account the impact on Council’s land and/or infrastructure of extra-ordinary events that may cause damage to the integrity of the drainage line. Such a certified design will be undertaken at the proponents cost in reference to drainage within Council Road Reserve.

The proponent shall enter into an agreement with the Shire that future maintenance costs of the drainage system shall be at the proponents cost and may be recorded as an absolute caveat on the affected land. Such remedial works shall be carried out within fourteen (14) days of written advice from the Shire.

Upon the expiry of the fourteen (14) days Council reserves the right to enter upon the land and to carry out the necessary remedial works using appropriate machinery at the proponents cost. The cost will be standard Council cost plus 10%.

All construction and remedial costs, including traffic management, of the drainage conveyance structure shall be at the proponents cost.

If drainage works are crossing Council roads a culvert design with all the relevant supporting information is to be submitted to Council by the proponent for Council consideration.

The culvert design must;

- Adhere to the Australian Standards for Road Design
- Extend the whole length of the road reserve, with the ends positioned inside the proponents boundary (fence)
- Use culvert pipe and headwall material made of HDPE or recycled plastic material to ensure durability and longevity of the culvert in consideration of cost, efficiency and availability
- Be a minimum of 600mm diameter. This larger culvert pipe diameter is stipulated to allow the proposed drain to be extended in the future should volumetric flow increase from upstream drainage systems.

The material and labour associated with installing culverts at Council Road crossing as a part of the drain conveyance are at the proponents cost. Installation and reinstatement works are to be either undertaken or supervised by Council.

### **Surface Water**

The Shire recognises best practise surface water control methods to address surface water runoff on land within the Shire.

Surface water management options include: Grade Banks, WISALT Banks, Broadbased Banks, Level Banks and any other type of bank mentioned in the Western Australian Department of Agriculture's Best Practice earthworks guidelines.

The Shire does not recommend one bank type over another and it is the landholders individual preference to decide what system they implement on their land, to suit their situation.

The Shire recommends that it is best practice to not transfer water from one sub-catchment to another when planning and constructing surface water management options.

Landholders must not unreasonably direct collected waters resultant from a surface water management system onto Council infrastructure or Council controlled land, where it has the potential to cause damage, and if damage does result from a surface water management system then Council has the right to assist/enforce the landholder to alter the system to prevent the problem re-occurring.

---

### **Related Documents (Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure/Delegation)**

*Soil and Land Conservation Regulations 1992*

[DPIRD Guidelines: Deep drainage \(groundwater drains\) for salinity management in WA](#)

[DPIRD Guidelines: Surface water management in WA](#)

---

### **Review History**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Council Resolution</b>	<b>Description of review/amendment</b>
18/06/2025	RES: 040625	V1.0. Merge old policies W15 & W16.
<b>Former Policy No: W15 Deep Drainage &amp; W16 Surface Water Policy Recommendation</b>		
19/10/2005		Adoption of Policy (W15)
19/10/2005		Adoption of Policy (W16)
16/05/2007	RES: 159.1.1-2007	Amendment to Policy