

Waterways Guidelines No 2 June, 1993

WATERWAYS COMMISSION

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ISSN 1320-2650

ISBN 0730955516

FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLANS

The foreshores are an integral part of the Swan-Canning River System providing a biological unit, a scenic resource and a valuable tourism and recreational asset.

The Swan River Trust is responsible for planning, managing and protecting the Swan River Trust Management Area which comprises the waters of the Swan-Canning River System and adjoining Parks and Recreation Reservation. In the management area itself, decisions on developments are made by the Minister for the Environment. The Trust provides advice to the Department of Planning and Urban Development and other decision making authorities on development and subdivision proposals adjoining the management area.

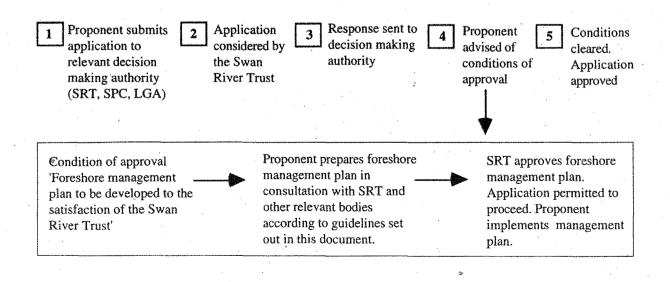
The Trust regularly sees proposals to develop the foreshores and abutting land. One of the best ways of ensuring these developments enhance and maintain the integrity of the river system is to prepare foreshore management plans for these areas. These plans guide future use of the foreshore and outline management strategies to enhance these areas. Consequently the Trust often requires the development of a foreshore management plan as a condition of approval. These guidelines have been prepared to assist proponents in the preparation of foreshore management plans. The guidelines outline what information the proponent should include in a management plan and the process by which a plan should be prepared. The Trust's objective is for foreshore management plans to be brief, addressing only the pertinent issues and outlining solutions. Management plans should not necessarily be a costly exercise for the proponent.

The Trust also requires other management plans to be prepared. These may include nutrient irrigation management plans (NIMP) and landscape plans. Separate guidelines will be available to help prepare these plans.

Responsibility of the proponent

Once a condition is set on a subdivision or development approval it is mandatory to comply with the condition. If the condition relates to the preparation of a foreshore management plan, subdivisional or development works cannot proceed until the plan has been approved by the Swan River Trust.

The Swan River Trust planning process



1

CONTENTS OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN

This section outlines the basic requirements of the Trust for the development of a foreshore management plan. Following these guidelines will ensure that the needs of the Trust are met and that the development can proceed smoothly with no unnecessary delays.

The following sections should be included in the plan.

Study area

- Define the study area.
- Specify co-ordinates and cadastral references.
- Use maps to illustrate location.

Purpose and aim of the plan

• Establish the purpose or aim of the plan.

Tenure and zoning

- Outline the tenure of land being considered including crown reserves, vacant crown land and private land and the town planning scheme and MRS zonings.
- Use maps to illustrate this information.

Description of the environment

• Briefly describe the physical, biological and social elements of the study area. This section should be brief and specific. One page in length is acceptable.

Relevant studies

• Outline plans, policies and recommendations that affect the study area. For example the Department of Planning and Urban Development regional plans, corridor plans, System 6 Report, town planning schemes, local rural strategies and the Swan River Management Strategy.

Issues

• Briefly outline the issues pertaining to the study area including those identified by the checklist supplied by the Trust.

Objectives

• Outline management objectives for the issues identified above. These should be clear, concise and achievable.

Actions

• Outline what the proponent is going to do to achieve the objectives and address the issues.

Management responsibilities

- Identify the overall coordinator who will be responsible for implementation of the management plan.
- Identify who will implement individual actions.
- Identify the future vesting body or manager of the foreshore land.

Funding

• Outline the funding arrangements for management of the foreshore land.

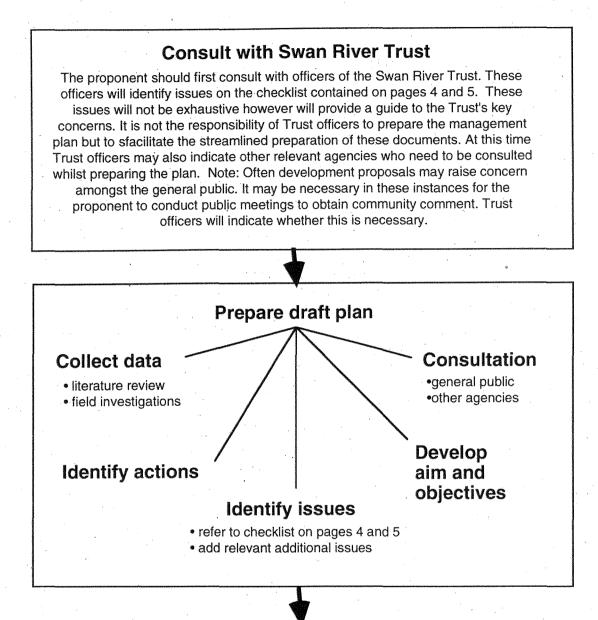
Implementation

• Construct a timetable for implementation of the various actions.

Review

• Determine a suitable period after which the management plan is to be reviewed.

PREPARATION OF A PLAN



Submit draft plan to Swan River Trust

The Swan River Trust will ensure that the draft plan covers all issues adequately. The Trust may advise of changes to the draft plan which are necessary for approval.

Revise draft plan

Concerns of the Swan River Trust should be incorporated into the draft plan and a final plan prepared.

CHECKLISTS

Aboriginal sites

Drainage/hydrology

Reserve boundaries







Erosion

Fauna habitat

Fire management

Flooding

Water features

Foreshore vegetation

Heritage value

Land tenure

Landscape

Mosquitoes

Aboriginal sites are protected by legislation. Such sites need to be identified and protected.

An assessment of any proposed changes to the existing surface and groundwater drainage of the site is required.

The reserve should be physically defined to discourage intrusion from surrounding land uses.

Processes of erosion and accretion need to be determined and if necessary, methods of reducing identified.

Measures should be taken to maintain or enhance native fauna habitats.

Provision should be made to minimise the likelihood of wild fires and provide access in times of fire.

Facilities should be located outside the floodway. Vegetation planting should be designed to withstand inundation by flood waters.

Where water features exist or are proposed an assessment of water quality and landscaping will be required.

Preference should be given to the enhancement and maintenance of native vegetation and protection of fauna habitat.

Strategies should be developed to protect areas of local and regional heritage. Some of these will be protected by legislation.

Wherever possible the whole foreshore should be consolidated into one reserve and vested with one agency.

Natural landscape features should be protected and 'linked' with surrounding areas. Key exotic landscapes may be worthy of protection.

Mosquito control measures should ensure wetland areas are protected.

4

Nutrient export	Measures should be taken to minimise nutrient export from the site into the waterway.
Public access	Access should be restricted to protect important flora and fauna habitats and facilitities designed to minimise alteration to the environment.
Recreation	Recreation should harmonise with the local environment and not involve major alteration to the area.
Soil types	Soil types should be determined to establish suitable vegetation for the area and identify nutrient leaching problems.
Stormwater disposal	This should occur in accordance with the Trust policy.
System 6	Recommendations for areas identified in the Department of Conservation and Environment (1983) System 6 Report should be implemented as far as practicable.
Utility services	Corridors for utility services should be identified.
Water quality	Measures to ensure ongoing satisfactory water quality should be developed.
Weed and feral animal control	Environmentally safe and cost effective measures for control of weed species and feral animals should be identified.

Agencies to be consulted

State Government Agencies

Local government authorities

Community Groups

5

GUIDELINES IN THIS SERIES

- 1. Local government and waterways management considerations in the planning and management of land near waterways. Waterways Commission
- 2. Guidelines for the preparation of foreshore management plans - a guide for proponents. Swan River Trust.
- 3. Guidelines for determining a waterways protection precinct (in preparation). Waterways Commission.
- 4. Guidelines for residential wastewater disposal (in preparation). Waterways Commission.