 City of Mount Gambier	COUNCIL POLICY S115 FENCING OF STORMWATER RETENTION BASINS	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 September 2023
		Next Review:	September 2027

1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the policy of the City of Mount Gambier (“Council”) for the fencing of stormwater retention basins within the Council area.

In the established areas of the City, the primary purpose of a retention basin is to assist with the control of localised flooding. In areas of restricted drainage bore capacity and to comply with latest Codes of Practice for stormwater disposal in Mount Gambier, the only option available is to store stormwater above ground (which gives an environmental benefit) and allows the water to discharge over time. Roadways can be used to store stormwater during major rain events, but this has implications for road safety. Retrofitting stormwater retention basins to established areas is usually done when properties experience flooding and Council has to make a judgement call in the works necessary to protect property.


Where practical, retention basins should be constructed to a relatively shallow depth with side slopes generally restricted to 1 vertical to 6 horizontal to allow for mowing. If this can be achieved, then the retention basin is not fenced. It should be noted that mowing can occur on steeper slopes and this does occur on occasions. In this instance professional judgement is required to ascertain the need for fencing.

2. RETENTION BASINS

- (a) Retention basins are an important and necessary asset in controlling both stormwater quality and stormwater quantity.
- (b) Stormwater retention basins are used firstly as an environmental control to improve the quality of stormwater prior to its entry into the underground aquifer (which is the source of the City’s drinking water). A secondary purpose of these basins in new developing areas is to ensure that there are no localised flooding issues due to limited bore drainage capacity.
- (c) Retention basins are to be constructed over a large area to ensure that depth is minimised and that the side slopes are restricted to a maximum grade of 1 vertical to 6 horizontal, to allow for mowing by a ride on mower.
- (d) In circumstances where land area is restricted and it is necessary to construct the basin relatively deep and with side slopes exceeding the safe mowing slope, the retention basin shall be adequately fenced (or barricaded through the planting of suitable vegetation) to provide a physical barrier to prevent people accidentally falling into the basin (noting that the steep side slopes will make exiting the basin extremely difficult).
- (e) Council will fence retention basins in instances where a side slope steeper than 1 vertical to 6 horizontal exists, with such fencing or barricading to form a physical barrier to prevent the accidental entry to the retention basin area by people.

3. REVIEW & EVALUATION

This Policy is scheduled for review by Council in September 2027; however, will be reviewed as required by any legislative changes which may occur.

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4. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

This Policy will be available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and on the Council's website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au. Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

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File Reference:	AF18/47
Applicable Legislation:	
Reference: Strategic Plan – Beyond 2015	Goal 2: Our Location
Related Policies:	L130 Land Divisions
Related Procedures:	
Related Documents:	

DOCUMENT DETAILS

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