

Background & Issues

Occasionally storms and other events cause topsoil and associated debris to wash from agricultural properties onto road reserves. This policy determines the responsibilities for providing costs to clean up affected road reserves after such an event.

Objectives

To determine the responsibilities for payment for cleaning up after topsoil and associated debris have washed from agricultural properties onto road reserves.

Area of Application

The Shire of Manjimup.

Policy Measures

1. Property owners are responsible for paying all costs for Council to make good and remove any topsoil or associated debris that washes from their property onto roads or related infrastructure.
2. If, by agreement with a Shire Works Supervisor, a property owner elects to arrange rectification works themselves, then they will have seven (7) days from the damage occurring to complete the works. If the works are not completed to Council standards in this timeframe, the Shire may arrange for the completion of the works at the full cost of the property owner.
3. The CEO may reduce or waive the payment requirement of Clause 1 after considering an application from the owner which demonstrates a prior genuine attempt to prevent erosion by¹:
 - a. Ensuring the crops were planted on slopes flatter than 10% - 15% gradient;
 - b. Minimising the number of cultivations and using “soil-friendly” implements;
 - c. Protecting the soil surface by retaining crop residues, planting cover crops or spreading surface mulch;
 - d. Maintaining or improving soil biological health by mulch cropping or adding soil amendments;
 - e. Undertaking surface water control earthworks; or
 - f. Installing windbreaks
4. The CEO may reduce or waive the payment requirement of Clause 1 if the storm was of particularly high intensity (eg. greater than a “5 year ARI” [ie. a “1 in 5 year”] storm).

¹ Taken from Section 2.1 of “Code of Practice for Environmentally Sustainable Vegetable and Potato Production in Western Australia” from the Department of Agriculture and Food.



10 WORKS POLICIES
10.1 WORKS AND SERVICES
10.1.7 Managing Impacts of Cultivated Land Erosion

Administration

Administration of this policy will be by the Manager of Works.

Adoption and Date Due for Revision

ADOPTED 18 AUGUST 2011
REVIEWED 20 OCTOBER 2016
REVIEWED 5 NOVEMBER 2020
NEXT DUE FOR REVIEW 5 NOVEMBER 2024

The Administration of this Policy is by Works and Services.
