

Local Planning Policy 18 –

Expenditure of cash-in-lieu for clearing offsets



1. Citation

This is a Local Planning Policy prepared under Schedule 2 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* (Regulations). This Policy may be cited as Local Planning Policy 18 *Expenditure of cash-in-lieu for clearing offsets*.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to guide the requirements for the use of Cash-In-Lieu (CIL) funds for clearing of vegetation, collected under *Local Planning Policy 17 Vegetation* (LPP17). It encourages the use of funds for the provision and betterment of vegetation.

3. Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to improve:

- Ecological linkages;
- Tree canopy in urban areas;
- Habitat for threatened ecological communities; and
- Endemic native vegetation condition and extent.

4. Policy application

This Policy applies to the use, expenditure, allocation, granting or transfer of CIL funds collected under *LPP17 Vegetation*.

5. Policy provisions

Funds collected are currently held in Municipal Bonds Account T432. They shall be held for the purposes outlined in the Objectives of this Policy, consistent with *LPP17 Vegetation*.

5.1 What can CIL funds be spent on

Funds may be used in the following manner:

- In urban areas, for the installation of trees to improve canopy coverage. Other incidental expenses may be covered, including but not limited to: tree protection, mulch, soil conditioner, water, labour, equipment/plant hire or purchase.

- In rural areas, for the installation of endemic native vegetation (trees, shrubs and ground covers). Other incidental expenses may be covered, including but not limited to: plant protection, mulch, soil conditioner, watering, labour, equipment/plant hire or purchase.
- Rehabilitation and/or restoration of endemic native vegetation, natural areas or a threatened ecological community.
- For the purchase of land for rehabilitation and/or restoration projects to occur, including any associated costs and for repaying loans raised by the local government for the purchase of such land.
- Flora and Fauna surveys, ecological assessments, and environmental monitoring programs, where:
 - The study directly supports the objectives of this policy; and
 - The outcomes are used to inform, implement, or evaluate vegetation planting, rehabilitation, or restoration projects; and
 - The study contributes to establishing baseline ecological data, identifying priority areas for offset delivery, or measuring the success of offset outcomes over time.

This may include (but is not limited to):

- Baseline flora fauna surveys of proposed offset sites;
- Monitoring of revegetation or rehabilitation projects (e.g. species richness, vegetation condition, habitat usage);
- Identification of threatened species, ecological communities, or habitat corridors;
- Development of site-specific management plans informed by ecological data.
- Cash-in-lieu contributions may be pooled and applied to strategic shire-wide ecological studies or environmental projects where this is considered to provide a greater environmental benefit than site-specific works.

5.2 Where can CIL funds be spent

In all instances, expenditure must contribute to planting, rehabilitation, restoration, or ecological outcomes, which may include supporting studies and monitoring where directly linked to those outcomes.

Funds shall only be used within the Shire of Waroona local government area and where there is a high degree of certainty in achieving the following:

- The objectives and provisions of this Policy will be met;
- The greatest chance of success and longevity in a project; and
- The project will be maintained and protected in perpetuity.

5.3 Who can use and access CIL funds

Shire of Waroona

The Shire may use the funds collected, however these shall not be used as a substitute to capital works or operational expenditure.

Others

Where more effective or efficient use of funds may occur, or where they may support or compliment an existing project, they may be used by one or more of the following persons or entities:

- Community groups or organisations;
- Natural Resource Management groups or organisations;
- State or Federal Government, where the Government spends an equivalent or greater amount; or
- Individuals (e.g. plant giveaway, verge planting, rehabilitation/restoration of remnant bushland, connection or extension of ecological corridors).

To access funding, any one of the persons or entities listed above must make an application to the Shire, detailing:

- Objectives and purpose of the project;
- Value of funds sought;
- Itemised breakdown of funds;
- Quantifiable completion targets;
- Monitoring and reporting; and
- Any other information the Shire requires.

Applications may be made at any time and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to approve eligible applications for funding (with the exception of major land transactions and major undertakings) as determined by the approved budget. Eligible applications that have not been approved as part of the annual budget are to be referred to Council for determination. In addition to the open application process, the Shire may offer special funding rounds for targeted projects, themes, or locations, subject to available funds and Council priorities.

All ecological data and reports generated through the use of cash-in-lieu funds shall be provided to the Shire of Waroona and may be used to inform future strategic planning, environmental management, and offset delivery.

6. Document Control

Division	Planning		
Policy Number	LPP 18		
Contact Officer	Coordinator Regulatory & Development Services		
Related Legislation	Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015		
Related Shire Documents	LPP17 - Vegetation		
File Number	LP.018		
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