



1. Intention

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a consistent framework for the assessment and negotiation of proposals seeking to use Shire-managed Land for Environmental Offset Planting. The Policy aims to ensure that the use of public land delivers appropriate environmental outcomes while providing a fair commercial return to the Shire that reflects the value of the land and the benefits derived by the proponent.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all requests from private entities, government agencies and other organisations seeking approval to utilise land owned, managed or controlled by the Shire of Waroona for the purpose of Environmental Offset Planting or associated Offset Management Activities.

This policy does not apply to:

- community revegetation projects undertaken by or on behalf of the Shire;
- land rehabilitation projects initiated by the Shire for its own operational purposes; or
- activities undertaken pursuant to existing leases, licences or management agreements unless otherwise determined by Council.

3. Definitions

Environmental Offset Planting means vegetation establishment or associated environmental management works required to compensate for approved clearing or environmental impacts under State or Commonwealth legislation.

Offset Management Activities means works required to establish, maintain or protect an environmental offset area, including but not limited to revegetation, weed control, pest animal management, fencing, monitoring and reporting.

Proponent means any individual, company, government agency or organisation seeking approval to use Shire-managed land for environmental offset purposes.

Shire-managed Land means any owned land, vested in, managed or controlled by the Shire of Waroona.

4. Statement

4.1 General Principles

The Shire recognises that appropriately managed environmental offset planting projects can contribute to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity while generating a financial return for the use of public land.

The Shire may consider requests for Environmental Offset Planting where the proposal:

- aligns with the Shire's strategic environmental objectives;
- does not unreasonably restrict the future use or management of the land;
- provides an appropriate benefit to the Shire and the broader community; and
- is capable of being secured and managed for the required duration under applicable environmental approval requirements.

4.2 Environmental Offset Planting Proposals

4.2.1 Fee to be negotiated

A fee shall be negotiated on a case-by-case basis for the use of Shire-managed land for Environmental Offset Planting.

In determining an appropriate fee, consideration shall be given to factors including, but not limited to:

- the area of land required (measured hectares);
- current market values and trends;
- availability of suitable offset land;
- market demand suitable offset land;
- the environmental characteristics and ecological value of the land;
- the duration of the proposed offset arrangement;
- anticipated management obligations and associated costs to the Shire; and
- any other matter considered relevant by Council or Chief Executive Officer.

4.2.2 Assessment

Each proposal shall be assessed on its individual merits having regard to:

- environmental outcomes;
- strategic land use considerations;
- financial implications;
- long-term management responsibilities;
- legislative requirements; and
- any risks to the Shire or community.

4.2.3 Approval

The Chief Executive Officer may negotiate and approve to enter into an offset planting agreement within the limits of their delegated authority. Any proposal outside the Chief

Executive Officer's delegated authority, or considered to have significant financial, strategic, environmental or community implications, shall be referred to Council for determination.

4.2.4 Financial considerations

The Shire will seek to ensure that any agreement for the use of Shire-managed land provides an equitable commercial return that reflects the value of the land, the environmental benefits obtained by the proponent and the ongoing responsibilities assumed by the Shire.

5. Legislative and Strategic Context

The *Local Government Act 1995* and the associated subsidiary legislation provide the broad framework within which this policy operates.

The Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan establish the strategic direction that supports this policy by recognising the importance of protecting and enhancing the Shire's natural assets while ensuring the sustainable financial management of Shire resources.

6. Review

This policy is to be reviewed triennially, or earlier if required due to legislative changes, operational requirements, or Council resolution.

7. Associated Documents

Other documents that have an association to this policy and that may be useful reference material are:

- Shire of Waroona's most recent Schedule of Fees and Charges
- SC001 – Strategic Community Plan 2024-2034

8. Document Control

Division	Environmental		
Policy Number	EP003		
Contact Officer	Director Customer & Development Services		
Related Legislation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>		
Related Shire Documents	<i>Shire of Waroona Strategic Community Plan</i>		
File Number	EM.10 – Environmental Management - Planning		
Risk Rating	Low	Review Frequency	Triennially
Next Review	July 29	Date Adopted	28/07/2026
OCM Number	OCM26/07/089		

9. Previous Policy No's.

Policy No.	Title
N/A	

10. Amendments

Date	Details of Amendment	Reference	Record Number
28/07/2026	Policy creation	OCM26/07/089	EM.10