

Beach Management Activities Policy

Council Policy

Responsible directorate: Corporate Services

Objective: To provide guidance for the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation of the City's coastline and coastal facilities.

1. Application:

This policy applies to land stretching from the City's northern boundary at Burns Beach to its southern boundary at Marmion, ~~and 200m west into the sea~~ from the ~~low waterline mark~~ to where the first sealed road commences in the east.

2. Definitions:

"low intensity recreation zones" are generally those areas where:

- access is almost entirely by pedestrians or cyclists, along pathways or beach fronts and distant from car parks and other facilities;
- there is low demand for access;
- recreational activities are low conflicting and are not concentrated at nodes; and
- vehicular access to the beach is not permitted except by authorised vehicles.

"medium intensity recreation zones" are generally those areas where:

- access is largely by pedestrians or cyclists, along pathways or beach fronts more than a short walk from large car parks and other major infrastructure, or a short walk from small car parks;
- there is moderate demand for access;
- existing recreational activities include low conflicting recreation and more specialised activities such as animal exercising, boating, boat launching, sailing and windsurfing; and
- some of the highly conflicting recreational activities can be localised to specific areas, such as areas for water skiing, jet skiing, ~~windsurfing~~ and kitesurfing.

“high intensity recreation zones” are generally those areas where:

- popular swimming beaches are located (e.g. Mullaloo Beach, Sorrento Beach);
- there are patrols by surf-lifesavers;
- there is associated infrastructure such as large car parks, buildings, toilets and change room facilities;
- there is a large number of access-ways across the dunes to reach the beach;
- boat launching facilities are located;
- high proportion of visitors arrive by car and walk a short distance from a large carpark;
- there is a high demand for access; and
- recreational activities are usually low conflicting.

“low conflicting activities” are activities considered to be passive, predictable and unlikely to pose a risk to others.

“medium conflicting activities” are activities that may pose a risk to others, are relatively predictable by nature or temporarily interrupt other activities during launching or casting processes.

“highly conflicting activities” are activities considered to be unpredictable by nature, involve high-speeds, are likely to pose a risk to others or have potential impact on the surrounding natural environment.

3. **Statement:**

The City recognises the important role the coastline plays in natural amenity, tourism attraction and creating locations that are conducive to a diverse array of recreational activities. The City is responsible for balancing recreational, tourism and conservational needs and ensuring the long-term sustainable use and management of the Joondalup coastline.

4. **Details:**

~~The Beach Management Activities Policy~~ This Policy contains three Key Focus Areas that outline the objectives associated with coastal asset provision and maintenance, activities management, and commercial developments.

4.1. **Infrastructure:**

The City aims to provide quality infrastructure to service the region's needs within designated activity locations and to ensure the preservation of natural areas through effective infrastructure design and location.

4.2. **Management:**

The City's coastline requires effective management to ensure the safe access and enjoyment of natural areas and infrastructure assets for all visitors. The City will facilitate safe environments for the undertaking of recreational activities along the City's coastline and effectively manage coastal commercial opportunities within designated locations.

4.2.1 a. Recreational Activities:

As a regional facility, the City's coastline attracts many recreational user groups on both a casual and organised basis. The City recognises and acknowledges the presence of activity conflicts along the coast as users compete for access to coastal facilities and locations. Activities are classified as highly, medium, or low conflicting activities. Examples are shown in the table below:

Highly conflicting	Medium conflicting	Low conflicting
Kitesurfing Animal exercising Free-style jet skiing Water skiing Fly-boarding Other powered personal watercraft	Fishing Non-powered boat launching Kayaking Surfing Sailing Boating Windsurfing Stand-up paddle boarding	Walking Jogging Picnicking Swimming Snorkelling Diving

Only highly conflicting activities will be subject to exclusion zones, licence requirements or designated areas. Activities that are less conflicting will be permitted to occur along the City's coastline in an unrestricted manner.

It is the City's position that 'rights-of-way' for activities should apply as follows:

- Within designated areas for highly conflicting activities: the activity for which the area has been designated should have right-of-way over other activities that may be undertaken in the same area.
- Within designated surf lifesaving club patrol areas: swimming activities should have right-of-way over other activities undertaken within the area to a distance of 200m seaward from the low water mark.

4.2.2 b. Commercial trading:

The City will manage all commercial trading in accordance with Part 11 – Trading in public places and local government property of the City's Local Government and Public Property Local Law 2014 and any other relevant policy or guidelines adopted by the City.

4.2.3 Vehicle access:

It is the City's position that vehicle access to beaches be minimised as much as possible. Permission to drive vehicles onto the beach will only be gained through the successful completion of an ~~licence~~ application process. ~~where beach vehicle access is requested within the application.~~

Vehicle access will only be considered if there are no alternate solutions for transporting ~~trading~~ materials onto the beach and the ~~trading~~ activity itself is considered of value to beach users.

4.3. Development:

The City aims to effectively plan for commercial development opportunities along the City's coastline. It is acknowledged that commercial development and activities require a balance against existing character of an area and potential environmental impacts.

Creation date: February 2018 (CJ028-02/18)

Formerly:

Amendments: CJXXX-02/23

Last reviewed: February 2023 (CJXXX-02/23)

Related documentation:

- Local Government and Public Property Local Law 2014⁴⁹
- Western Australian Marine Act 1982
- Environmental Protection Act 1986
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Asset Management Council Policy
- ~~Alcohol Management Policy~~
- Environmentally Sustainable Design for City Buildings Council Policy
- ~~Height of Non-Residential Buildings Local Planning Policy~~
- Commercial, Mixed Use and Service Commercial Zone Local Planning Policy
- Requests for New or Capital Upgrades to Existing Community Venues Council Policy
- Sustainability Policy
- ~~Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan~~
- Public Open Space Framework
- Asset Management Strategy

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