22.03 DAMS

This policy applies to the construction of dams.

Policy Basis

The construction of dams is a necessary development to support the agricultural and horticultural use of land. The siting, design and construction of dams should be undertaken to minimise the impact on sustainable land and water system management.

Objectives

- To ensure that dams are designed and constructed in such a manner that dam failure is minimised.
- To ensure that dam sizes relate to the suitability of the site and to the use intended.
- To minimise tree removal and to maximise retention and use of top soil.
- To ensure appropriate revegetation.
- To prevent construction of dams in environmentally sensitive areas, such as bush gullies.
- To ensure that dams adjacent declared roads are designed and constructed in a manner that minimises the risk of dam failure and the subsequent road safety implications that would arise.

Implementation

It is policy that:

- The location of the proposed dam is suitable to the terrain characteristics of the land.
- The capacity of the proposed dam is suitable given the catchment area of the site.
- Spillways are designed to cater for a 1 in 5 year storm level.
- The capacity of the proposed dam is adequate to meet the needs of the intended use.
- The need to remove trees is minimised.
- Soil types on the site are suitable for water retention and if not suitable, adequate mechanical or chemical means will be employed.
- Top soil stripped from the site will be spread on any exposed batters and exposed soils will be revegetated with perennial grasses and appropriate indigenous vegetation as soon as possible after construction.
- The contractor or the applicant consults with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and is familiar with recommended dam construction techniques.
- A landscape plan will be submitted with an application for approval to construct a dam. This plan will indicate the revegetation works proposed (including any mulch) and will be to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
- An application for a permit for a dam will be referred for comment to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the North East Catchment Management Authority and to any relevant Drainage or Water Authority. The responsible authority may have regard to the comments received from such authorities.
• Dams with a capacity of 10ML or more, located on the upslope of a declared road will be referred to VicRoads.

**Information Required**

• Design details of the proposed dam including.
  • Location.
  • Size (megalitre capacity).
  • Outlet details.
  • Topographical details of the proposed site for at least a 100 metre radius of the dam site including watercourses, drainage lines, contours and road pavement levels.

For applications that are referred under Section 55 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to VicRoads the following additional information is required.

**Geotechnical Report**

A certification from a suitably qualified geotechnical consultant is to be submitted to VicRoads, certifying to the stability of the proposed structure. Accompanying this certification is to be a report which should include reference to the nature of the in-situ material, stability of existing ground conditions, and reference to materials to be used in the construction of the proposed dam.

**Hydrological Report**

A certification from a hydrological engineer or suitably qualified practitioner is to be submitted to VicRoads, certifying that he has evaluated the hydrological impacts of the proposed dam and that the design minimises the risk of dam failure and the subsequent road safety implications that would arise. Accompanying this certification is to be a report which should include spillway design in accordance with a suitable storm event and measures such that concentrated drainage is not discharge din to the declared road reserve without the express permission of VicRoads.