



ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GUIDELINE No 08

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF FLORA, FAUNA AND MARINE

1. GUIDELINE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Environmental Management of Flora, Fauna and Marine Guideline is to:

- a) ensure that any development that occurs on or within the Rottnest Island Reserve protects and enhances existing native ecosystems and encourages rich and native biodiversity;
- b) minimise the impact of development on Rottnest Island's natural environment;
- c) ensure that proposed development is undertaken in accordance with the approved Environmental Management Plan; and
- d) provide a set of environmental performance criteria for all proposed development to be assessed against.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Environmental Impact Assessment is to be conducted for all Substantial Development Applications to ascertain the impact of the proposed development on Rottnest Island's natural environment.

The Environmental Impact Assessment must identify all potential environmental issues.

The Environmental Impact Assessment should be undertaken by a suitably qualified environmental professional on behalf of the Developer, at the Developer's expense and submitted with the Development Application.

The RIA's Environmental Management branch is to be consulted as part of any Environmental Impact Assessment process.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The RIA will require an Environmental Management Plan to be drafted and presented where, in the opinion of the RIA, the proposed development will have a significant impact on Rottnest Island's natural environment.

The Environmental Management Plan must address all issues identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

The RIA may require an Environmental Management Plan to be submitted as part of a Development Application or as a condition of development approval.

The Environmental Management Plan is to contain the following information:

- i) how the landscape and amenity of the area will be protected;
- ii) how the land will be maintained and managed to achieve sustainable environmental outcomes over the long term;
- iii) how nutrient inputs to the land and exports from the land from the development will be controlled and reduced (if applicable);
- iv) how the provision of habitat for flora and fauna on and around the development site will be enhanced (if applicable);
- v) how wetlands and remnant vegetation will be protected and rehabilitated (if applicable); and
- vi) a waste strategy drawing on the applicable references in the proposed or approved Waste Management Plan.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFSETS

Environmental offsets aim to ensure that significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impacts are counterbalanced by a positive environmental gain, with an aspirational goal of achieving a 'net environmental benefit'.

In view of the RIA's commitment to sustainability, it has the potential to be a useful management tool – enabling development to occur, but not at the expense of the environment.

It is important to recognise that environmental offsets represent a 'last line of defence' for the environment, being used only when all other options to avoid and mitigate environmental impacts have been considered and exhausted.

Any environmental offsets proposed by a Developer to facilitate a development are to be in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority's relevant guidance statement relating to environmental offsets.

5. REFERRAL OF PROPOSALS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY

The RIA is recognised as a 'decision making authority' under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Under Section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the RIA is required to refer proposals to the Environmental Protection Authority where the matter is considered to be a 'significant proposal', that is if the proposal were implemented it would have a significant effect on the environment.

6. DECISION MAKING CRITERIA

In assessing a Development Application for a development within or adjacent to any natural area (terrestrial or marine) the RIA will consider as appropriate:

- a) the potential impacts on any significant vegetation with conservation value during the anticipated phases of development including construction and subsequent on-going use;

- b) the reason for removing any vegetation and the practicality of any alternative options which do not require removal of native vegetation or other habitat components or would reduce the loss of natural area/habitat. Where alternatives exist which do not require the loss of native vegetation or other habitat values, these alternatives will be favoured;
- c) the results of any flora and fauna survey and assessment of the biological values of the land and consideration of whether the survey and assessment have been adequately completed under appropriate seasonal conditions and by suitably qualified personnel;
- d) whether the flora and fauna of the area are to be adequately protected and their sustainability and long-term conservation ensured;
- e) whether appropriate management practices are proposed, including the control of environmental weeds, pollutants and access; and
- f) the contribution of the proposal towards the ecological restoration of any remnant vegetation and habitat, or the potential of the proposal to reduce the capability for ecological restoration of the site.

7. FLORA

Indigenous vegetation on Rottnest Island is of great significance due to its intrinsic habitat and visual landscape values and is to be retained and enhanced as part of a development.

Indigenous vegetation is not to be removed from Rottnest Island to facilitate development unless it can be clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of the RIA that such removal will not adversely impact on the environmental integrity of Rottnest Island. If any vegetation removal is approved by the RIA, it may require offset planting to be undertaken by the Developer.

The planting of environmental weeds will not be approved.

Applicants for buildings and works are encouraged to develop proposals which result in a net increase of indigenous vegetation.

The use of pesticides, herbicides and artificial fertilisers is to be minimised. This can be achieved through choice of landscaping and physical termite barriers etc. Developers are to consult with the RIA's Environment Management section with regards to this.

Developers are to include bushfire mitigation and management planning and take appropriate management actions, as determined by the RIA.

All landscaping is to comply with the requirements of DPG 03 Sustainable Development Guideline: 3.3 Landscaping.

Protection of flora during construction (including significant trees) is to be undertaken in accordance with the RIA's Construction Management Guideline (DPG 10) and in consultation with the RIA's Environment Management section.

8. FAUNA

Development is to have no impact on land and marine habitats for native species, with particular focus on threatened or endangered species.

The RIA may require the Developer to prepare for approval a pest management strategy. All measures contained within the approved pest management strategy are to be implemented by the Developer.

Development on Rottnest Island is to limit fencing and other structures that restrict safe fauna movement.

The approved development will satisfy an approach to minimised light and noise pollution and any noise and light will be directed away from fauna habitat areas.

Ecological corridors linking vegetated and open space areas are to be retained and enhanced where possible to the satisfaction of the RIA.

Where applicable, a thorough ecological fauna survey in accordance with Environment Protection Authority standards is to be conducted prior to development to ascertain biodiversity and populations of vulnerable or threatened species. Development will be designed to facilitate the preservation of such species where identified.

Protection of fauna during construction is to be undertaken in accordance with the RIA's Construction Management Guideline and in consultation with the RIA's Environment Management section.

9. MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Developments proposed for the marine reserve are to be low impact, minimising environmental damage during construction and ensuring the design will not create environmental damage when subsequently used for ongoing operations.

Design is to demonstrate minimal shading of seagrass meadows and sediment suspension.