

## COASTAL AQUATIC SAFETY

<b>Responsible Directorate:</b>	<i>Community and Place</i>
<b>Responsible Service Unit:</b>	<i>Community Facilities</i>
<b>Contact Person:</b>	<i>Manager Community Facilities</i>
<b>Date of Approval:</b>	<i>15 August 2023</i>
<b>Council Resolution No:</b>	<i>CP02-08/23</i>

### 1. POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Wanneroo (City) is committed to providing a safe environment for the community to participate in recreational activities across City beaches, now and into the future.

### 2. OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE

#### Objective

The objective of this policy is to ensure safe community participation in coastal aquatic activities at City beaches, through appropriate planning and risk management, creating safe and rewarding visitor experiences.

#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the City's approach to support safe coastal aquatic activities at its beaches.

### 3. KEY DEFINITIONS

<i>DEFINITIONS: Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only.</i>	
Coastal aquatic activity	Refers to activities specifically undertaken in the beach setting such as swimming, snorkelling, scuba-diving, fishing etc. This does not include other recreational activities associated with the coastline, foreshore or open ocean.
Coastal aquatic environment	Refers solely to the beach area and waters managed by the City. Does not include other areas of the foreshore and coastline such as dunes, access tracks, car parks, groynes and open ocean etc.

### 4. SCOPE

This policy is applicable to the coastal aquatic environment within the City of Wanneroo and users of the City's beaches.

This policy is not applicable to other areas of the foreshore and coastline such as dunes, access tracks, and car parks. Similarly, the policy does not apply to risks associated with the open ocean, which is managed by the Department of Transport, or to coastal erosion which is the subject of Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

The policy will be implemented using the City's existing budget and resource allocations.

This policy aligns with the following objectives within the Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031:

- 1 ~ An inclusive and accessible city with places and spaces that embrace all.*
  - 1.2 - Value public places and spaces*
  - 1.3 - Facilities and activities for all*
- 2 ~ A city that celebrates rich cultural histories, where people can visit and enjoy unique experiences.*
  - 2.3 - Tourism opportunities and visitor experiences*
- 5 ~ A well-planned, safe and resilient city that is easy to travel around and provides a connection between people and places.*
  - 5.3 - Manage and maintain assets*
  - 5.5 - People feel safe in public places*
  - 5.6 - Prepared and resilient*

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION**

### **6.1 Coastal Planning**

The City is responsible for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the City of Wanneroo coastline and follows the requirements of *Western Australian State Planning Policy No. 2.6: State Coastal Planning Policy (SPP2.6)* (WAPC, 2013a) and supporting guideline documents.

The City's *Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP)* provides a long-term view of the potential future coastal hazards for the City and highlights possible strategies to adapt to the changing future oceanic and coastal conditions.

The City's *Coastal Management Plan* provides a framework to guide the management and use of the City's coastline and informs the community about the City's coastline and the amenities which can be expected in the foreshore and around its coastal nodes.

Several Foreshore Management Plans apply to the City's coastline and provide more detailed direction on management regimes, infrastructure requirements and approval processes. A coastal aquatic risk assessment is undertaken as part of a Foreshore Management Plan.

## **6.2 Stakeholder Partnerships**

Surf Life Saving Western Australia (SLSWA) is the state's peak coastal safety and rescue organisation. The City partners with SLSWA to provide paid seasonal beach lifeguard safety services and emergency rescue response services at City beaches.

The City also partners with local volunteer surf life saving clubs at Quinns Beach, Alkimos Beach and Yanchep Lagoon for seasonal volunteer beach patrols and community education.

The City works closely with SLSWA and its volunteer surf life saving clubs to be responsive to changes along the coastline and to provide additional safety services where appropriate to meet identified needs over time.

## **6.3 Hazard Identification & Management**

The environments and risk factors in which coastal aquatic incidences occur are dynamic and varied. As such, the City installs and maintains Australian Standard beach signage at designated beach entry points to alert visitors to hazards specific to that location. For new foreshore areas this is the responsibility of developers in accordance with the specific Foreshore Management Plan.

The City is responsible for the closure of beaches if hazards are identified which could pose a risk to the community, including, but not limited to:

- Beach cleaning or other maintenance works;
- Unsafe beach access;
- Coastal construction works;
- Shark sightings or attacks;
- Dead animals on the beach;
- Inclement weather conditions (upon advice from SLSWA and the City's local volunteer surf life saving clubs); and
- In response to an accident or drowning incident.

The City also installs and maintains Beach Emergency Numbers (BEN) signs along the coastline at public beach access points. BEN signs display specific location information that can help improve emergency response times in the event of a shark sighting, attack or other beach emergency.

## **6.4 Coastal Aquatic Safety Awareness**

Visitors are exposed to risks by the nature of the chosen recreational pursuit. The ability for each beach user to recreate safely will depend on the individual's capability, experience, and familiarity with the specific environment.

To mitigate the loss of life and prevent injury along its beaches the City promotes community awareness of coastal aquatic safety via the City's communication channels, and provides information including:

- Beach safety information, aligned with SLSWA;

- Patrolled beach locations and times, encouraging use of the City's patrolled beaches;
- Coastal recreation safety resources such as [BeachSAFE](#), [SharkSmart](#), and [Recfishwest](#);
- Seasonal coastal aquatic safety messages to enable visitors to consider risks in planning their activities; and
- Beach closure information.

The City also supports SLSWA and local volunteer surf life saving clubs in their delivery of first aid training, children's beach safety programs, surf rescue courses and education programs throughout the community.

## **7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Manager Community Facilities is responsible for implementing this policy and manages the relationships with other internal and external stakeholders, such as SLSWA and local volunteer surf life saving clubs, who play a key role in its delivery.

## **8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

All disputes in regard to this policy will be referred to the Director Community and Place in the first instance. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, the matter will be submitted to the CEO for a ruling.

## **9. EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed every three years or in accordance with any legislative, legal or risk changes prior to this date.

## **10. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

City of Wanneroo Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2015

Western Australian State Planning Policy No. 2.6: State Coastal Planning Policy

City of Wanneroo Coastal Management Plan

City of Wanneroo Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaption Plan

City of Wanneroo Foreshore Management Plans (Various)

City of Wanneroo Foreshore Management Plan Guidelines

## **11. REFERENCES**

Nil

## **12. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Manager Community Facilities

**REVISION HISTORY**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Next Review</b>	<b>Record No.</b>
7 November 2016 – CP01-11/16	November 2019	16/280596
2 June 2020 – CE01- 06/20	June 2023	16/280596V02
15 August 2023 - CP02-08/23	June 2026	16/280596V03