

# Council Policy

# Contaminated Sites Management

## Introduction

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The Shire of Capel recognises its responsibility to protect public health, environmental values and community assets through the effective management of contaminated and potentially contaminated land.

This policy establishes a clear framework for identifying, investigating, remediating and monitoring contamination on land under the Shire's care, control or influence. It ensures compliance with the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 (WA) and aligns with best practice environmental and risk management principles, supporting sustainable land use, responsible development and long-term community wellbeing.

## Purpose

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To establish a consistent, risk-based approach to identifying, registering, investigating, remediating and managing contaminated and potentially contaminated land under the care, control, or interest of the Shire of Capel, in accordance with the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 (WA) and other relevant regulatory requirements. This policy supports the Shire's commitment to environmental protection, public health and responsible land management.

## Policy statement

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The Shire of Capel recognises its duty to responsibly manage known or potentially contaminated sites to prevent harm to the community and environment. This includes ensuring compliance with its statutory obligations, minimising future liability and facilitating safe and sustainable land use.

## Application

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This policy applies to all parcels of land and property that fall under the Shire's management or where the Shire holds a custodial, operational, or regulatory interest, including:

- Shire-owned or managed land (e.g., public open space, reserves, depots)
- Road reserves
- Crown land or private property with contamination linked to past operations
- Suspected but unclassified contaminated sites
- Properties with identified asbestos contamination

## Definitions

**Contaminated Site:** Land known or suspected to contain hazardous substances at levels that may pose a risk to human health or the environment.

PSI: Preliminary Site Investigation – desktop study and limited sampling to assess potential contamination.

DSI: Detailed Site Investigation – a comprehensive environmental assessment to determine the type, extent, and severity of contamination on a site that is known or suspected to be contaminated. It is a critical step in the contaminated site assessment process under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 (WA) and associated Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) guidelines.

#### Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer: Oversight of policy implementation.

Manager Development Services / Environmental Health Coordinator of site identification, investigation, DWER liaison and register management.

Facilities and Assets Team: Site access, support for remediation works, asbestos risk mitigation. Planning Services: Land use change referrals, development and rezoning assessments.

External Consultants: Delivery of PSIs, DSIs, remediation plans and monitoring.

Leaseholders / Third Parties: Cooperation in risk mitigation, cost-sharing for investigations or remediation where applicable.

## Procedure

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Procedures in respect to existing known and new potential contaminated sites is set out in a Contaminated Sites Management Procedure.

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<b>Reviewer:</b>	Manager Development Services	<b>Legislation:</b>	Contaminated Sites Act 2003 (WA)
<b>Adopted:</b>	OCM 25.03.26, OC/2026/41	<b>Delegation:</b>	
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