

T8. Gravel Pit Rehabilitation Policy

Policy Objective

To rehabilitate abandoned gravel pits and include progressive rehabilitation in the management of current gravel pits within the Shire of Dundas.

Policy Statement

The Shire of Dundas recognizes and accepts that gravel pit rehabilitation is necessary to avoid soil compaction, increased surface drainage, erosion and visual pollution.

General policy:

1. Prior to opening a gravel pit, a plan for the management of the site will be written which will include a plan for rehabilitation and monitoring.
2. Private operators are required to submit and abide to a gravel pit management plan, which includes a plan for rehabilitation and monitoring, before establishing a gravel pit.
3. Wherever possible, new gravel pits will be established on cleared land, not existing bushland.
4. Where necessary, the visual impacts of an operating gravel pit will be minimised through the establishment of buffers between the pit and visual vantage point/s.
5. Where necessary, the dust and noise impacts of an operating gravel pit will be minimised through the establishment of buffers between the pit and neighbours.
6. Throughout the life of the pit, topsoil, overburden and vegetation will be stockpiled separately ready for respreading in the rehabilitation process.
7. If weeds have developed on the topsoil mounds these should be removed prior to respreading the topsoil.
8. If necessary, drainage structures will be established within the pit, to ameliorate any ponding and surface erosion.
9. Rehabilitation will be done progressively throughout the life of the gravel pit.
10. The site will be monitored every year and for three years after closure of the pit. If rehabilitation is inadequate, appropriate measures will be taken to ensure success.

Specific Policy for Bush Sites

1. Prior to opening a gravel pit, approval to clear will be obtained from the relevant authority if necessary.
2. The general process of rehabilitation will be to first rip the floor of the pit at 1 metre intervals across the contour. Following ripping the pit needs to be shaped so that the surfaces are as smooth as possible, and the edges are battered down to blend in with the landscape. The batter slopes should be no steeper than 1 in 4 and the overburden and topsoil should be returned to the pit. The site should be cross-ripped at 1m intervals on the contour to encourage plant growth. Finally, the vegetation and debris should be returned to the pit.

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Abandoned Gravel Pits

1. The method for rehabilitation will not change from that mentioned above.
2. If fill is no longer available, spoil from road works etc., will be used. Topsoil, if no longer on site, will be carted to the area to ensure regeneration will be satisfactory.
3. An amount will be budgeted each financial year for rehabilitating abandoned gravel pits until all pits are rehabilitated to a satisfactory level.

Policy Reviewed October 2020