



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

POLICY PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide environmental direction in relation to people and leadership, governance and accountability, practices and processes for the organisation.

It will detail the principles of the policy, whose responsibility it is for ensuring the policy is understood, the principles the policy is based on the legal parameters and associated documents that this policy has been developed from.

POLICY STATEMENT

McKinlay Shire Council recognises environmental protection as a guiding principle in its Corporate Plan and is committed to minimising the environmental impacts associated with its operations.

Council will seek opportunities to continually improve on its environmental performance and encourage a culture of environmental sustainability among its staff and the community.

PRINCIPLES

Council is committed to:

- demonstrated environmental leadership and encouraging its staff and the community to adopt more sustainable lifestyles; and
- effective management and protection of the natural and built environment through
- sustainable growth and development; and
- carrying out its operations in an environmentally sustainable manner and integrating sustainability into its processes and decision making.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council staff and all Council operations.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Chief Executive Officer, Directors, and Managers are responsible for ensuring that this policy is understood and adhered to by all.

DEFINITIONS

- **Ecological sustainability is a balance that integrates:**
 - (a) the protection of ecological processes and natural systems at local, regional, state and wider levels;
 - (b) economic development; and

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(c) maintenance of the cultural, economic, physical, and social wellbeing of people and communities (*s3(2) Planning Act 2016*).

- **Staff:** includes employees, contractors, volunteers, and all others who perform work for Council.

POLICY CONTENT

People and Leadership

Fostering Sustainable Behaviours

Council will encourage the community to adopt a culture of environmental responsibility at work and at home and promote sustainable practices such as energy efficiency, water conservation, sustainable transport, waste reduction and recycling.

Community Leadership

Council will work in partnership with the community and industry stakeholders to promote environmental awareness, protection, and sustainability initiatives.

Organisational Leadership

Council will encourage all staff to adopt a culture of environmental responsibility at work and at home and promote sustainable practices such as energy efficiency, water conservation, sustainable transport, waste reduction and recycling.

Governance and Accountability

Compliance with Legislation

Council will comply with the environmental legislation, regulations and other permit and licence requirements relevant to its operations and will strive to achieve best practice in environmental management where it is feasible to do so.

Prevention of Pollution

Council will strive to implement processes and practices and provide services or products to help control the release of pollutants in order to reduce adverse environmental impacts. If incidents do occur, council will implement pollution response procedures and take action to reduce the likelihood of future occurrences.

When necessary, council deemed will exercise its regulatory powers to facilitate environmental protection.

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Continual Environmental Improvement

Council will continue to review policies and procedures to maintain and improve environmental management practices and will set environmental objectives and targets in its Operational Plan when required.

Council will use quarterly performance reports and the annual report to as record its progress.

Practices and Processes

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Council will promote the efficient use of resources by applying the principles of waste reduction in the first instance, followed by reuse, recycling and recovery options, and then disposal, the least preferred option.

Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Council will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations through sustainable energy practices and investigate options to utilise low emission technology where feasible.

Sustainable Design and Resilience of Projects

Council will encourage sustainable design and practices related to building, infrastructure, and maintenance projects to include consideration of tropical design, energy efficiency, demand management and greenhouse gas emissions to reduce the operating costs over the life of the asset.

Water Management

Council will strive to improve its management of the Council's water consumption and endeavour to reduce the impact of wastewater discharge and run off within its areas of operation.

Sustainable Planning and Climate Change Adaptation

Council will consider ecological sustainability principles in its strategic land use, infrastructure, and development planning to facilitate the protection of natural and urban environments and places of heritage significance.

Biodiversity Protection and Management

Council will work to manage and protect natural environments under council care through land, vegetation and water management practices. Council will seek to support and enable local Landcare, coast care and catchment groups.

Purchasing Goods and Services

When purchasing goods and services, council will apply the contracting principles set out in the *Local Government Act 2009*, one of which is Environmental Protection. Consideration should be given to the effective, efficient use of materials and resources to minimise environmental impact.

Council expects high standards of environmental management from its suppliers and contractors.

LEGAL PARAMETERS

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003
Environmental Protection Act 1994
Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Fisheries Act 1994
Land Protection (Pest & Stock Route Management) Act 2002
Local Government Act 2009
Nature Conservation Act 1992
Queensland Heritage Act 1992
Planning Act 2016
Vegetation Management Act 1999
Water Act 2000

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030
Queensland Waste Reduction and Recycling Strategy 2010-2020
State Planning Policies - (relevant to council operations)
McKinlay Shire Council Planning Scheme 2019
Construction and Maintenance Environmental Management System
Corporate Plan
Operational Plan
ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems
Purchasing Policy