

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this policy outline Tamworth Regional Council's commitment to:

- minimising potential and actual environmental impacts of its activities and operations
- protecting the environment, preventing pollution and continually improving the sustainability of Council operations, incorporating environmental, economic, social, governance (ESG) principles into our decision making.
- working cooperatively with all stakeholders, promoting ecologically sustainable development that protects and enhances the Local Government Area, and
- complying with Chapter 3 of the Local Government Act 1993.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE POLICY

This Policy commenced in 2012 and is revised annually.

POLICY

Purpose

This policy supports Council's Community Strategic Plan, Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan, Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Integrated Management System.

Council activities that interact with the environment include:

- Land-use planning, development and building controls
- Management of land owned and under the care, control and management of Council, including open space.
- Conservation and management of biodiversity, including threatened species and endangered ecological communities
- Weed and pest control through management of invasive species that threaten native flora and fauna
- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, drainage and recreation facilities
- Flood mitigation and management through effective drainage and waterway control
- Bushfire prevention and mitigation work via vegetation and hazard reduction
- Pollution and waste management including proper handling and disposal
- Water supply and wastewater management ensuring sustainable use and treatment
- Resource use in the provision and maintenance of Council and community facilities.

Council demonstrates its commitment to protecting the environment during operations and activities through:

Compliance and strategy

Tamworth Regional Council Policy

- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations, standards, and codes of practice.
- Deliver on the objectives, targets, and actions outlined in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2026, aligned with Chapter 3 of the Local Government Act.
- Avoiding and minimising the adverse environmental effects of development through integrating the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development within our planning instrument

Pollution and Efficiency

- Apply best practices in waste and resource recovery, water and energy efficiency across Council operations
- Undertake actions to protect, maintain, enhance and promote the region's biodiversity and the environment, minimise adverse environmental impacts and prevent environmental pollution to as far as reasonably practicable
- assessing environmental impacts of Council works by conducting Council environmental assessments during planning stages, minimising impacts through the effective implementation of the specified mitigation measures

Whole of Life Asset Management

- Consider environmental impacts including climate change across all asset lifecycle stages – design, construct, operate and decommission – to support the use of efficient and sustainable materials.
- Embed the four pillars of sustainability – environmental, economic, social and governance – into decision making processes, project management, procurement, reporting and operations.

Climate Action

- Monitoring our environmental performance on a regular basis such as carbon emissions to inform decision making.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Council assets, operations and facilities

Collaboration and Engagement

- Partner with suppliers and contractors who share Council's environmental values and objectives.
- Building environmental awareness amongst our employees and community through education and training, and by encouraging participation in sustainability initiatives.
- Openly and constructively engaging with regulators to demonstrate continuous improvement.

Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Councillors	Leadership in complying with legislative obligations an consider principles of ecologically sustainable development and consider the environment in decision making
Executive Leadership Team	Leadership in complying with legislative requirements, integrate environmental management across areas of responsibilities

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Managers	Provide guidance and comply with the policy Develop, review and maintain effective environmental management systems, procedures and programs Monitor and report on environmental performance
Workers inc. Volunteers	Comply with legislative requirements Comply with environmental assessment procedures in planning and implementing projects and activities Support the development, review and maintenance of effective environmental management systems, procedures and programs


ASSOCIATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

- Integrated Management System

REFERENCES AND LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act 1993 and Regulation
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Regulation
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and Regulation Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Fisheries Management Act 1994
- Biosecurity Act 2015 and Regulation
- National Parks and Wildlife Act
- Local Land Services Act
- Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001
- Contaminated Land Management Act 1997
- Water Management Act 2000
- State Environmental Planning Policies (various)

POLICY VERSION AND REVISION INFORMATION

Policy Authorised by: Title: Paul Bennett		Original issue: 2012 Revision Period Annually
Policy Maintained by: Manager Risk and Safety		Current Version 14