

ENVIRONMENT

4.1 WINGECARRIBEE'S DISTINCT AND DIVERSE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IS PROTECTED AND ENHANCED

Adoption Date:	13 December 2017
Council Reference:	MN581/17
Owner/Contact officer:	Manager Environment and Sustainability
Next review date:	December 2019
File Reference:	5450/28
Related Policies/Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i> and Regulation <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> and Regulation <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> and Regulation <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and Regulation <i>SEPP (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011</i>
Related Documents:	Virgin Extracted Natural Material Identification Procedure Re-use of Clean Fill Within Public Roads Procedure v.2 Environmental Assessment Procedure for exempt development and environmental assessment under Part 5 of the EP&A Act

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to outline 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
- working cooperatively with all stakeholders to protect and enhance the environment.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Councillors, Council employees, community volunteers participating in Council programs, and Council contractors
- Council operations and activities including infrastructure projects.



POLICY STATEMENT

Council is committed to protecting the environment, preventing pollution and continually improving the sustainability of Council operations. This policy supports the Community Strategic Plan, Environment Strategy, Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan, and environmental management procedures. Together these provide the framework for developing, implementing, monitoring and refining our environmental objectives and targets. Council also has responsibilities to manage the potential and actual impacts of its activities under a range of Commonwealth and State legislation and policies.

Council activities that interact with the environment include:

- land-use planning, development and building controls
- management of land owned or under the care, control and management of Council, including open space.
- conservation and management of biodiversity, including threatened species and endangered ecological communities
- weed control
- construction and maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, drainage, and recreation facilities
- flood mitigation and management
- bushfire prevention and mitigation work
- pollution and waste management
- water supply and wastewater management
- resource use in the provision and maintenance of Council and community facilities.

Council will demonstrate its commitment to protecting the environment during Council operations and activities by:

- operating within relevant environmental legislation, licences and local government policies
- avoiding and minimising the adverse environmental effects of development through integrating the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development within our planning instruments
- implementing effective environmental management practices and programs for our sites and natural assets
- undertaking actions to protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and the environment, minimise adverse environmental impacts and prevent pollution
- assessing environmental impacts of Council works by conducting Council environmental assessments during planning stages and minimising impacts through the effective implementation of the specified mitigation measures
- incorporating environmental risks and sustainability criteria into procurement processes
- practising resource efficiency for our waste, water, and energy
- adapting and building resilience to climate change
- building environmental awareness amongst our employees through education and training, and by encouraging staff to participate in sustainability initiatives



- build partnerships with government, organisations and the community to improve and maintain the local environment
- monitoring and reporting our environmental performance on a regular basis
- providing this policy to the community, contractors, customers and staff.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities for implementing this policy are shared between Councillors, Executive and staff as follows:

Councillors:

- Provide leadership in complying with legislative obligations and consider principles of ecologically sustainable development
- Integrate environmental considerations into decision making.

Executive:

- Provide leadership in complying with legislative requirements
- Integrate environmental management across organisational structures
- Encourage staff environmental awareness and improvements in resource efficiency.

Staff:

- Comply with legislation requirements
- Comply with Council's environmental assessment procedures in planning and implementing Council projects and activities
- Develop, review and maintain effective environmental management systems, procedures and programs
- Implement continuous improvement practices
- Monitor and report Council's environmental performance.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The success of this policy will be measured by:

- a) compliance with state or federal environmental legislation and licences
- b) management of Council natural areas through efficient and effective programs that achieve biodiversity outcomes
- c) the creation of an organisational culture that is focused on reducing total energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels
- d) a robust environmental review system that is used by all staff involved in project planning, design, management and delivery
- e) development assessment processes that have suitable safeguards in place to protect the environment through all stages of the development assessment and implementation.



BREACHES OF THE POLICY

Any breach of this Policy that is considered an environmental incident under the Incident Notification and Reporting Procedure is reported in line with that procedure. A breach of this policy may also result in a breach of the Code of Conduct.

APPROVED BY:

WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL

