

11.2 Sustainable Development Attachments

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11.2 Sustainable Development

11.2.1 OVERARCHING SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Attachment 1 – Overarching Sustainability Policy

Overarching Sustainability Policy



July 2018

This Policy as adopted by Council to set governing principles in place that align the strategic direction of the organisation through all five key focus areas of the Community Strategic Plan 2036.

Objectives

The objectives of the Policy are:

- a) An understanding that without a healthy and sustainable environment, continuous economic prosperity and community well-being is not achievable.
- b) Demonstration by the Shire of its understanding of, commitment to, and leadership in sustainability.
- c) Incorporation of relevant sustainability policy objectives in all of the Shire's policies, strategies and plans.
- d) Incorporation of the "Precautionary Principle" into decision-making processes to ensure long-term protection of the environment.

This *Overarching Sustainability Policy* (the Policy) recognises the United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by world leaders including Australia in September 2015. Relevant SDG, the Community Strategic Plan 2036 and the Sustainability Policy Reference Paper (2017) will inform strategies and measures (Key Performance Indicators) by which this Policy is put into effect.

Policy

The Shire will at all times:

- 1. Demonstrate a commitment to the protection and enhancement of the unique natural environment and biodiversity of the region.**

Council recognises that all life has intrinsic value, is interconnected and that biodiversity and ecological integrity are part of irreplaceable life support systems and are the foundation for our region's lifestyles and economy, and that the Shire occupies a key place in Australia's only internationally accredited Biodiversity Hotspot.

2. Demonstrate a commitment to minimising the effects of climate change and to sustainable resource use

Council's vision is to reduce its ecological footprint and that of the community as a whole. The Shire will minimise its ecological footprint through encouraging avoidance of waste, sustainable use of resources and uptake of socially responsible and sustainable planning and lifestyle practices. The community's values will be taken into account in balancing competing demands for growth and maintaining a distinctive country character in a healthy well-managed environment.

Council will show leadership and actively engage with the community to reduce carbon emissions and increase the resilience of the environment, community, culture and economy in the face of changing climate.

3. Demonstrate a commitment to social and cultural sustainability

Council's vision is to develop resilient, welcoming, safe, and inclusive communities that contribute towards social equality and justice and provide support to Aboriginal community, disadvantaged groups and the aging community.

Council will work to ensure that the rights all people are respected, regardless of gender, age, religion or race. Council acknowledges that the culture of Aboriginal people and nature are inextricably linked, and will ensure that Aboriginal culture is acknowledged and respected in its decisions.

4. Demonstrate a commitment to sustainable economic development

Council's vision is to develop a prosperous economy with a sustainable range of business and job opportunities to meet the needs of the Shire's growing population. This will be achieved through the promotion and implementation of sustainable development based on the values of the local environment, products and creative capital, that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Application

Responsibility for the implementation of this Policy rests with all Councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. Sustainability is to be measured and reported upon in the annual report. The policy is to be reviewed every three years.

Terms used

“sustainability” means meeting the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement, and economic prosperity.

“sustainable development” development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

“precautionary principle” When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.

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