

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Policy statement

Gympie Regional Council's vision for our region is to be the natural choice to live, work and play. To assist in achieving this vision council will implement policies and procedures to ensure that our environment is sustainably managed and healthy. Council is committed to minimising the impact to the environment from activities under its control. Council's Environment Strategy supports this vision.

Scope

This policy applies to all council staff, contractors, volunteers and all others who participate in council controlled activities.

Principles

Annually council will develop, review and enhance the Environment Strategy so that it is innovative, balanced and achievable and encourages the responsible stewardship of the Gympie region.

Through the Environment Strategy council will:

- attain a sustainable balance between achieving tangible, environmental outcomes and conducting council controlled activities
- establish a clear policy position to achieve positive environmental outcomes through the development and assessment processes
- promote sustainable, innovative and responsible environmental practices
- provide systems and process to assess, monitor and report on its environmental performance
- work in partnership with community and regional organisations.

Accountability

Compliance with legislation: council will comply with environmental legislation, regulations, permits and licence requirements relevant to its operations.

Leadership

Biodiversity protection: council will implement environmental procedures for activities under its control to protect the natural environment.

Continuous improvement – environment: council will support continuous improvement projects.

Disaster management: council will consider the environment in the recovery process following a disaster.

Energy cost reduction: council aims to be a leader in environmentally responsible energy usage.

Energy efficient design: council will encourage energy efficient design and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Organisational leadership: council will encourage environmental awareness and inter-directorate partnerships amongst staff to achieve positive environmental outcomes.

Planning: councils planning scheme will facilitate sustainable development.

Waste and recycling: council will deliver sustainable environmental solutions.

Water management: council will encourage the sustainable use of water in our region.