

Document Control	
Policy Title	<i>Sustainability Policy</i>
Doc ID No	<b>2181168</b>
Responsible Directorate	<b>Planning and Development</b>
Responsible Position	<b>Director Planning and Development</b>
Date Review Due	<b>February 2024</b>

Version	Council Meeting Date (Date of Adoption/Review)	Minute Number
1.0	12 February 2020	M10/02/20

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Sustainability Policy is to:

- Outline Council's vision and direction for achieving a more sustainable organisation and community;
- Define what sustainability means for Gympie Regional Council;
- Establish a shared understanding of what sustainability means, why it is important and how it will be implemented;
- Outline Council's sustainability objectives and priority actions;
- Acknowledge that sustainability is "a journey" and achieving more sustainable outcomes is based on incremental steps, continuous improvement and innovation;
- Clarify the applicability of the policy across the organisation; and
- Establish Council's leadership role in positively showcasing the benefits of sustainability to the broader community.

## 2. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, Sustainability is defined as:

*"the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of life today, without compromising the quality of life for future generations"*

and the definition of what a sustainable future looks like for the Gympie Region is:

*"A sustainable future is one in which a healthy environment, economic prosperity and social wellbeing are pursued simultaneously to ensure the quality of life of present and future generations"*

## 3. Objectives

The objectives of the policy are to:

- Guide, direct and influence Council's decision-making processes and decisions to achieve a more sustainable outcome;
- Effect more sustainable outcomes by ensuring that priorities, policies, procedures and projects incorporate sustainability objectives and performance measures;
- Confirm a whole of organisation commitment and obligation to a sustainable Gympie Region as outlined in the definition;
- Establish Council's leadership role in guiding, influencing and encouraging community to make more sustainable choices;
- Develop and set measurable sustainability targets and performance measures and evaluate sustainability improvements and achievements through monitoring, recording and reporting; and
- Celebrate and promote sustainability improvements and achievements.

## 4. Scope

The Sustainability policy focuses on Council and the community's "footprint" on the natural environment, equally balanced with economic and social issues – including from resource and energy use, waste management, greenhouse gas emissions and procurement.

This policy applies to all Council Directorates and is relevant to the elected Council, Council employees, volunteers, consultants and contractors.

Council's vision is for a sustainable region where social well-being is supported by a dynamic, productive, resilient and innovative economy and reinforced by a healthy natural environment. Sustainable decisions and action by Council will result in a suite of economic, social and environmental benefits. This policy will focus strongly on Council's organisational sustainability footprint to demonstrate community leadership, as well as working together with residents, community, businesses, industry and other levels of government.

The Sustainability policy outlines a clear and shared understanding about what sustainability means to Council, and how it will be implemented through Council's decision making processes and actions. This policy will be used to guide the development of new and revision of existing Council policies and plans. In practical ways the policy will influence and input into project management, procurement and staff training and induction, to drive consideration of sustainability and innovation across all areas of Council business.

## 5. Related Legislation

### National Legislation

- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007

### State Legislation

- Planning Act 2016
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011
- Local Government Act

## 6. Related Documents

### National Strategies

- Climate Sustainability Plan 2016-2020
- National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development 1992

### State Strategies

- Queensland Waste Avoidance and Resource Productivity Strategy 2014–2024
- Queensland Climate Transition Strategy - Pathways to a clean growth economy
- Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy 2017–2030 - Pathways to a climate resilient Qld

### Gympie Regional Council

- Sustainability Corporate Standard
- Corporate Plan
- Operational Plan
- Environment Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Tourism Strategy
- Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy 2100
- Water Resilience Strategy
- Waste Management Strategy 2013-2020
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Community Development Strategy 2014-2019
- Procurement Policy

## 7. Policy Statement

Council's vision for the Gympie region is to be the natural choice to live, work and play. To assist in achieving this vision, Council is committed to ensuring the quality of life we have in the region today is maintained and enhanced, without compromising the quality of life for future generations. Council will achieve this by embedding sustainability principles and actions across the organisation and demonstrating leadership to the community, through the application of the following commitments:

- Council will strive to make sustainable decisions that result in long-term benefits, with a balance made between short-term and long-term outcomes, resulting in corporate resilience and reduced corporate risk.
- Council will strive to minimise the footprint of its corporate activities and achieve an appropriate balance between growth, development and environmental sustainability across the region.
- Council commits to action on climate change resilience and adaptation through planning and projects to prepare for the economic, community and environmental implications of climate change.
- Council will strive to achieve climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the application of sustainable energy practices and low emission technology across corporate operations and the community.
- Council commits to evaluating sustainability improvements and achievements through monitoring, recording, reporting and setting measurable sustainability objectives and targets.
- Council commits to supporting (subject to budget and resources) sustainability improvements in the following key corporate areas:
  - Electricity efficiency
  - Water use efficiency
  - Transport and fuel efficiency
  - Renewable energy
  - Climate change resilience and adaptation
  - Waste minimisation
  - Wastewater treatment
  - Built environment and buildings
  - Procurement
  - Community and business partnerships (such as Ecobiz)

## 8. Review Trigger

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related legislation/documents are amended or replaced.
2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council
3. As initiated by the CEO or Executive Team
4. Periodic Review – within 4 years from date of adoption.

## 9. Appendices

NIL