

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

## COMMUNITY POLICY



### 1 Scope

This policy applies to all Rockhampton Regional Council activities conducted throughout Council's operations.

### 2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline Council's commitment to continually improve its environmental performance and provides direction as Council encourages a culture of environmental sustainability among its workers and the community.

### 3 Related Documents

#### 3.1 Primary

Nil

#### 3.2 Secondary

*Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cwth)*

*Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 (Cwth)*

*Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011 (Cwth)*

*Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)*

*Environmental Protection Act 1994*

*Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*

*Fisheries Act 1994*

*Local Government Act 2009*

*National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (Cwth)*

*Nature Conservation Act 1992*

*Planning Act 2016*

*Vegetation Management Act 1999*

*Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*

*Water Act 2000*

Australia's Strategy for Nature 2018-2030

Environmental Authorities (licences under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*)

Delegation and Authorisation Policy

Delegations Corporate Register

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Fleet Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Policy  
Purchasing Policy – Acquisition of Goods and Services  
Queensland Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy  
Rockhampton Region Biosecurity Plan for Pest Management  
Rockhampton Regional Council Corporate Plan  
Rockhampton Regional Council Environmental Sustainability Strategy  
Rockhampton Regional Council Operational Plan  
Rockhampton Region Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan  
Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme  
State Planning Policies  
Sustainable Rockhampton Investment Fund Procedure

#### 4 Definitions

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions apply:

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| CEO                                  | Chief Executive Officer:<br>A person who holds an appointment under section 194 of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> . This includes a person acting in this position.   |
| Contractor                           | A person, organisation or entity that performs a specific act or acts including the provision of services and/or materials to another person, organisation or entity under an agreement enforceable by law.   |
| Council                              | Rockhampton Regional Council  |
| Councillor/s                         | The Mayor and/or Councillors of Council, within the meaning of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .   |
| Ecologically Sustainable Development | As detailed in the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> , ecologically sustainable development integrates:<br>(a) The protection of ecological processes and natural systems at local, regional, State and national levels;<br>(b) Economic development; and<br>(c) The cultural, economic, physical and social wellbeing of the community. |
| Environmental sustainability         | Ensuring our actions meet current needs without compromising the prospects of future generations.   |
| Employees                            | Local government employee:<br>(a) The CEO; or<br>(b) A person holding an appointment under section 196 of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .  |
| Manager                              | Includes employees appointed to a position with a Corporate Band 3 or higher delegated in accordance with the Delegation and Authorisation Policy and detailed in the Delegations Corporate Register.   |
| Region                               | Rockhampton Regional Area defined by the Local Government Areas of Queensland.  |
| Volunteer                            | Any person, who of their own free will, offers to undertake un-paid work for Council and is accepted as a volunteer by the CEO and/or their authorised delegates.   |

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|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Workers | All persons who perform work on behalf of Council. This includes an employee, contractor or subcontractor, an employee of a contractor or subcontractor, an employee of a labour hire company assigned to work for Council, an apprentice or trainee, work experience participant or a volunteer. |
|---------|---|

## 5 Policy Statement

To ensure the Region remains a great place to live, work, play, learn and invest, Council recognises that we must take care of our environment, so our environment can continue to take care of us both now and in the future.

Council will achieve this by seeking to:

- (a) Protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment;
- (b) Strengthen our community capacity to live more sustainably;
- (c) Encourage sustainable industry and infrastructure; and
- (d) Continually improve Council's environment and sustainability performance.

## 6 Guiding Principles

In applying this policy, Council will seek to embed the following principles within its operations whilst ensuring that Council also gives weight to other factors that are important to the community and the organisation:

- (a) People and leadership – Council will encourage a culture of environmental sustainability among its workers and the community. Council will lead by example, demonstrating its commitment to environmental protection and sustainable practices. Council will work in partnership with community and industry to promote awareness, knowledge-sharing, innovation and initiatives that benefit our Region and support a more sustainable community and environment.
- (b) Governance and accountability – Council will strive to carry out its operations in an environmentally sustainable manner and to integrate sustainability into its processes and decision making where practical. Council will comply with all environmental legislation, regulations and other permit and licence requirements relevant to its operations and will continue to proactively identify and manage environmental risks and opportunities. When deemed necessary, Council will exercise its regulatory powers to facilitate environmental protection.
- (c) Continuous improvement - Council will continue to recognise environmental sustainability as a guiding principle in its Corporate and Operational Plans and to set measureable environmental objectives and targets. Council will seek to improve its environmental performance by refining training, policies, systems and procedures to ensure our workers are able to respond to their environmental responsibilities.
- (d) Pollution prevention - Council will strive to implement processes and practices that control the release of pollutants from its works. If incidents do occur, Council will implement pollution response procedures to minimise environmental harm and where possible take action to reduce the likelihood of future occurrences.
- (e) Renewable energy and energy efficiency - Council will work to increase energy efficiency and the level of renewable energy used for its operations. Council will also work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations through sustainable energy practices, low emission technologies and appropriate carbon offsets.
- (f) Waste reduction and recycling - Council will promote the wise use of resources by applying the principles of waste reduction in the first instance, followed by reuse, recycling and recovery options and then disposal as the least preferred option.
- (g) Water management - Council will endeavour to make efficient use of water and to reduce the impact of wastewater discharge and run off within its areas of operation.

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- (h) Biodiversity protection – Council will work to protect, maintain and enhance the natural environments under Council’s care. Council will also act to support healthy and resilient natural ecosystems, and urban forests, that support the liveability of our Region.
- (i) Sustainable planning, design and infrastructure - To improve community resilience and reduce operating costs over the life of assets, Council will encourage ecologically sustainable development principles and consider the potential impacts of climate variability in its strategic land use, infrastructure, transport, development and other planning. Council will also encourage sustainable design, building and maintenance practices, including the use of energy-efficient, water-wise and low-waste approaches, sustainable materials and renewable energy technologies.
- (j) Procuring goods and services - When procuring goods and services, Council will apply the sound contracting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2009, one of which is environmental protection. Council will also consider the need to make wise use of resources to minimise environmental impact and ensure contractors do the same.

## 7 Responsibilities

In implementing this policy:

- (a) Councillors and managers are responsible for promoting, supporting and acting in accordance with this policy; and
- (b) Workers are responsible for working in accordance with this policy, Council’s procedures and all applicable environmental approvals, legislative and other requirements relevant to Council.

## 8 Review Timelines

This policy is reviewed when any of the following occur:

- (a) The related information is amended or replaced; or
- (b) Other circumstances as determined from time to time by Council.

## 9 Document Management

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sponsor                | Chief Executive Officer        |
| Business Owner         | Deputy Chief Executive Officer |
| Policy Owner           | Chief Financial Officer        |
| Policy Quality Control | Legal and Governance           |



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