

TEMORA SHIRE COUNCIL



TEMORA

The Friendly Shire

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

ACTIVE

Review Details

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

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PLANNED REVIEW

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Environmental Policy

Temora Shire Council is committed to protecting our environment, ensuring future generations can enjoy our beautiful surrounds. We are committed to minimising our environmental footprint in all our operations and strive demonstrate community leadership in preserving our environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT OF INTENT

Temora Shire Council's Community Strategic Plan includes the theme of preserving our beautiful surrounds of Temora Shire Council, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecological sustainable development (adapted from section 8, Local Government Act 1993), which ensures that it is a Shire where:

- air is clean and healthy;
- water is clean and healthy;
- the waterways are protected and maintained, aquatic habitats are preserved and enhanced, whilst recognising and optimising the values of natural systems;
- native vegetation is retained, rehabilitated and managed to enable all life to live and multiply and to provide for a diversity of species living in natural communities and habitats;
- sensitive areas, are protected from inappropriate developments and activities that would adversely affect them within their catchments;
- natural processes are recognised and accommodated;
- natural ecosystems are valued and protected;
- the aesthetic values of the Shire's natural and built environment are protected and enhanced;
- waste is minimised, disposed of safely and is to be viewed and utilised as a valuable resource, so that ultimately nothing is wasted;
- cultural heritage is protected and conserved;
- the community can use and enjoy the resources of the Shire.

OBJECTIVES

To effectively integrate the principles of ecological sustainability into all Council and community functions so as to achieve a clean, healthy and

ecologically sustainable environment for Temora Shire, Council is committed to:

1. Integrating the principles of ecological sustainability (including the precautionary principle; inter-generational equity; conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity; and improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms) into all Council's policies, programs and services.
2. Achieving continuous improvements in environmental performance, over and above regulatory and legislative requirements
3. Monitoring and reporting the environmental performance of the Council to the Councillors and the community
4. Working in partnership with government, organisations and the community to promote the ecological, social and economic health of the Temora Shire, to achieve sustainable environmental outcomes
5. Promoting ecological resilience and the conservation, rehabilitation and ecologically sustainable use of resources within Council and the community, as well as minimising environmental pollution and waste
6. Applying cumulative impact assessment throughout Council and promoting the application of cumulative impact assessment by the community
7. Raising the awareness of environmental issues within Temora Shire

STRATEGIES

In order to achieve the objectives of its environmental statement of intent Council will:

1. Respond to the Measures included within the Community Strategic Plan, being:
 - Council has a clear understanding of its responsibility with regard to its environmental impact
 - Council will continue towards better measuring and the reduction of its "environmental footprint"
 - Council will further refine and improve its decision-making and reporting processes utilising the Quadruple Bottom Line Principle and its sustainability initiatives
 - Council will utilise a range of indicators formerly utilised in its State of the Environment Reporting mechanisms

2. Advise all Council staff of the requirement to implement the principles of ecological sustainability in their decisions and activities, and put in place procedures to ensure those principles are accorded with.
3. Ensure the thorough control of development and building activities in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the Local Government Act 1993 and the principles of ecological sustainability.
4. Ensure that the cumulative impacts of proposals, both within local and regional contexts, are assessed when planning Council activities, determining all applications and undertaking functions of Council.

As evidence of this commitment, we will:

- Integrate environmental considerations into our business planning and operations to prevent pollution, minimise other negative impacts, and generate positive outcomes where possible.
- Implement an Environmental Management System that is appropriate for the environmental aspects of our activities, products and services, and their associated impacts.
- Achieve statutory compliance obligations.
- Monitor and measure key elements of our environmental performance, and seek to continuously improve outcomes.
- Set objectives for environmental performance improvement and assign responsibility to members of senior management. The achievement of these objectives will be included in those managers' Key Performance Indicators.
- Provide workers with awareness and training to help them make environmentally sound decisions.
- Communicate information regarding our environmental management system to interested parties via our web site and other means.

This policy and our Environmental Management System will be regularly reviewed by senior management to ensure its continued effectiveness and improvement.