

<b>POL</b>	<b>SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<b>SC37</b>
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<b>POLICY CODE:</b>	SC37
<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	All Divisions
<b>BUSINESS UNIT:</b>	Parks & Environmental Services
<b>SERVICE UNIT:</b>	Environmental Management
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Manager, Parks and Environment
<b>FILE NO.:</b>	182/001
<b>DATE FIRST ADOPTED:</b>	8 June 2006
<b>DATE LAST REVIEWED:</b>	8 June 2017
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	N/A
<b>DELEGATED AUTHORITY REF.:</b>	N/A
<b>VERSION NO.</b>	5

<b>Dates of Amendments / Reviews:</b>		
DAPPS Meeting:	16 May 2006 24 November 2011 22 March 2012	31 January 2013 28 November 2013 18 May 2017
OCM:	8 December 2011 12 April 2012	14 February 2013 12 December 2013

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Cockburn recognises its responsibility to implement sustainability measures across the organisation and to work with its community towards an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable future.

The City of Cockburn's definition of sustainability is drawn from the 'quadruple bottom line' (TBL+1) approach to sustainable development, which encompasses governance, environment, society and economy.

*Pursuing governance excellence to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of the environment, society and economy.*

Local Governments have a key role to play in sustainable development as stated in the Local Government Act 1995 S1.3(3).

*In carrying out its functions a local government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.*

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## **PURPOSE:**

This policy has been developed to:

- Provide a set of high level, guiding principles which guide the City's policy and practice.
- Ensure sustainability is considered in decision-making processes within Council.
- Show Council's commitment to operating in a sustainable manner including limiting Council's exposure to increasing resource costs and managing financial and reputational risk.
- Show leadership to the community in guiding the City of Cockburn towards a sustainable future as articulated by the City of Cockburn Sustainability Strategy 2017-2022.

## **POLICY:**

The City is committed to achieving sustainability by applying the following six principles to decision-making processes across the City's operations:

(1) Integrated decision-making

Consider both the long and short term economic, environmental, society and ethical impacts of all decisions.

(2) Provide for equity within and between generations:

Consider the health, diversity and productivity of the environment when making decisions, and ensure it is conserved and enhanced for future generations.

(3) Conserve biological diversity and ecological integrity:

Ensure that the eco-systems services value is acknowledged and communicated and that the integrity of these systems is maintained.

(4) Act cautiously when there is a risk of serious or irreversible impacts on the environment or society:

Consider the 'precautionary principle' when making decisions, namely, if there is a threat of serious or permanent environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

(5) Recognise dimensions beyond our borders while concentrating on issues we can influence:

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Consider the impacts of decisions on factors outside of our direct influence and see regional, national and international knowledge on sustainability in order to ensure the currency of Council policy and strategy.

- (6) Provide for broad public involvement on issues that affect society:

Consider the need to engage individuals, communities, stakeholders and businesses and adopt open deliberations to build understanding of sustainability and foster collective responsibility.