

Title	Sustainability
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## Policy Type

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Council

## Policy Purpose

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Sustainability is one of the City of Cockburn's core values. Council seeks to have all employees think and act with sustainability at the forefront of their decision making.

The requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995, Section 1.3*, states:

*(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.*

The City of Cockburn defines sustainability as:

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

This policy forms part of Council's integrated reporting framework which incorporates the Climate Change Strategy and Action and annual State of Sustainability Report.

This policy applies to all Elected Members in decision-making and staff in all aspects of planning, operations and program delivery.

## Policy Statement

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

(1) Integrated decision-making

Council will carefully consider both the long and short term implications of all decisions on the local economy, environment, and society.

(2) Environmental Conservation

Council will protect strategically identified remnant bushland, wetlands, the coastal environment, ecological corridors and associated eco-systems to ensure the integrity of these systems is conserved and enhanced for future generations.

(3) Sustainable Procurement

Council will implement sustainable procurement practices that minimise unnecessary resource consumption, consider whole-of-life costs, circular economy principles, and deliver beneficial environmental, social and economic outcomes.

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(4) Responsible Waste Management

Council will manage waste according to the waste hierarchy with the highest priority given to waste avoidance, followed by reuse and recycling, with 'energy from waste' and landfill as a last resort.

(5) Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)

Council will design, build and operate all community facilities and civic infrastructure in a sustainable manner. All new Council facilities exceeding a budget of \$1 million will set aside a minimum of three percent (3%) of the total project cost for innovative ESD initiatives that are beyond business as usual.

(6) Climate Change Action

Council is committed to taking action on climate change and ensuring that mitigation and adaptation actions are equitable and consistent with the aims of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

(7) Sustainable City Growth

Council will plan for population growth in accordance with the planning framework to ensure high density living is balanced with the provision of open space, tree-lined streetscapes, connected shared pathways, accessible community facilities and integrated transport infrastructure.

(8) Social Equity and Inclusion

Council recognises the First Nations people as the traditional owners of the land. The City embraces cultural diversity and celebrates the significance of the City's social and built heritage. Council will take action to improve universal accessibility, create welcoming and inclusive communities for everyone.

(9) Community Health and Wellbeing

Council will minimise risks to human health by managing the natural and built environment, delivering programs and infrastructure to reduce preventative illness, encourage healthy lifestyles and enable active transport.

(10) Economic Advancement

Council is committed to long term sustainable financial management and will deliver value for money for ratepayers. Council will strive for a diverse workforce and create opportunities for local employment, support the sustainable development of business through building capacity and capability and help empower community groups.

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(11) Leadership and Governance

Council will regularly review its performance, publicly report progress and continuously strive for excellence and to demonstrate leadership in sustainability. Consultation opportunities will be provided to the community and stakeholders on decisions that impact them.

Strategic Link:	Strategic Community Plan Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030
Category	Environment & Sustainability
Lead Business Unit:	Sustainability and Environment
Public Consultation: (Yes or No)	Yes
Adoption Date: (Governance Purpose Only)	14 September 2023
Next Review Due: (Governance Purpose Only)	September 2025
ECM Doc Set ID: (Governance Purpose Only)	4134030