

Corporate Environment Policy

Head of Power

This policy supports Council's Corporate Plan Strategic Priority for the Natural Environment to "Ensure the enhancement of biodiversity including koala habitat, bushland, greenspace, waterways, catchments, air and coastal ecosystems in recognition of our unique location on Moreton Bay".

Policy Objective

Three foundation objectives are highlighted for implementation under this policy:

- Council's ecological footprint will be assessed and used as a basis for future decision-making;
- Council's environmental performance will be measured under the State of the Environment Reporting Framework, and annual Corporate Reporting;
- Greater integration across Council Departments and Groups, and at the works and activities level, is essential to achieving major environment planning and management responsibilities.

Policy Statement

Council is committed to:

1. Protect, maintain and enhance the health of the City's:
 - bushland, natural areas, significant and native vegetation;
 - koala population;
 - waterways, foreshores, coasts and Moreton Bay, and;
 - biological diversity, maintaining viability of ecosystems and enhancing habitat.
2. Halt and then reverse the declining trend in the health of Redlands waterways and Moreton Bay, returning the native fish and macro-invertebrates to our (freshwater) waterways.
3. Protect natural ecosystems and the community from, environmental nuisance, air pollution, and land contamination arising from new and past human activities; through planning and management to avoid, minimize or manage the potential for negative impacts from these sources.
4. Reduce the greenhouse gases emitted by Council and the community to levels and within a time acceptable to the wider community.
5. Ensure that the consequences of climate change for Redland City are understood and planning minimizes the potential adverse impacts on natural ecosystems and the community.
6. Provide a diversity of well-planned public open spaces, parks, streetscapes and pathways that foster improved community health and neighbourhood connections, recreation and sporting opportunities and support activities of everyday life.

CMR Team use only

7. Achieve optimal environmental outcomes by prioritising waste management practices to avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, treat, and dispose of waste (in order of preference) generated by Council and the community.
8. Assess the ecological footprint of the Council as a basis for environment planning and management.
9. Improve integration across Council Departments and Groups, and at the works and activities level, to achieve major environment planning and management responsibilities.
10. Monitor and report on Council's sustainability and environmental performance, and strive for best practice environmental management and performance standards in all operations and activities.
11. Provide public reporting on the state of the environment in Redland City; through this reporting, establish targets for the sustainable use and management of natural resources and track progress toward sustainability using indicators and ratings.
12. Develop awareness, extension and education programs for business and the public on environment and sustainability issues;
13. Promote adoption of sound environmental principles and practices by suppliers, consultants, developers, customers and the community.
14. Encourage research that strives to achieve best practice environmental management.
15. Implement the *Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities* to guide thinking and provide a strategic framework for action by the Council toward greater sustainability.
16. Ensure that all forms of development within the city seek to achieve ecological sustainability; encourage all new development to be compliant with 'green' building principles and practices.
17. Promote and encourage improved public transport facilities and patronage, facilitate a safe and accessible walking environment and encourage other low embodied energy forms of transport in the City.

Associated documents to be read in conjunction with this policy are:

1. The Koala Policy 2008 – POL-3069
2. The Biodiversity Policy – POL-3070
3. The Vegetation Enhancement Policy – POL-2609
4. Redlands Pest Management Plan 2006-2010