

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

- To lead by example by providing a clear statement of Council’s intent to integrate sustainability into its culture and achieve a sustainable community within Wollondilly.
- To ensure the four pillars of sustainability (environmental, social, economic and governance) are incorporated into all elements of business including decision making, processes and operations.
- To support the local community, businesses and other stakeholders transition to enhanced sustainable practices.
- To fulfil the requirements of ecologically sustainable development as defined in Section 8A of the Local Government Act 1993.
- To support and inform the implementation of the Sustainability Strategy for the Wollondilly Local Government Area (LGA).

Always read this policy in conjunction with the Related Procedures identified below.

<p>POLICY STATEMENT</p>	<p>Wollondilly Shire Council is committed to delivering sustainable outcomes across the four sustainability pillars of community, environment, economy and governance.</p> <p>This policy provides direction to integrate sustainability in to all Council operations and processes and embed the principles in to all decision making.</p>
<p>SCOPE</p>	<p>Councillors, Employees, Volunteers, Contractors, Suppliers, Community, Industry/Businesses, Developers, Government and other agencies and organisations</p>
<p>RELATED DOCUMENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategic Plan • Delivery Program and Operational Plan • Local Strategic Planning Statement • Biosecurity Policy • Wollondilly Biosecurity (Weed Management) Strategy • Integrated Water Management Policy • Integrated Water Management Strategy • Water Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines • Social and Health Assessment Policy • Smart Shire Strategy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Management Policy • Waste Management Strategy & Action Plan • Wollondilly Urban Tree Canopy Plan and Landscape Strategy • Activate Wollondilly: Long term community recovery and resilience plan • Wollondilly Local Housing Strategy • Community Engagement Strategy • Planning Proposal Policy • Wollondilly Shire Resourcing Strategy • Business Enhancement Plan
COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Act 1993 - Section 8A • Local Land Services Act 2013 • Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 • Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 • Greater Cities Commission Act 2022 • Modern Slavery Act 2018 • Protection of the Operations Act 1997 • State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) • Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan and related documents
POLICY OWNER	Manager Waste and Environmental Services
ADOPTION DATE	28 March 2023
NEXT REVIEW DATE	28 March 2026

1. PRINCIPLES

The following provide a set of values and sustainability principles to be applied in all governance decision making, processes and operations:

1.1 Caring for Country

Council acknowledges the Dharawal and Gundungurra people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and water in Wollondilly. Council appreciates their knowledge, stewardship values, stories and connections, and will collaborate with Traditional Custodians in caring for land, water, people and culture.

1.2 Evidence based

The precautionary principle will be applied when there is a risk of potential harm to the environment, community or local economy. Decisions must be evidence-based with a localised and regional focus, consistent, transparent and supported by the best available recognised scientific research, monitoring and reporting.

1.3 Inter-generational equity

Ensure the health and productivity of the environment and the quality of life for the community is maintained and enhanced by the present generation for the benefit of future generations.

1.4 Balanced consideration of environment, social and economic impacts

All decisions will consider environmental, social and economic factors in determining a balanced outcome. This includes:

- Protecting, conserving and enhancing the ecological health of our natural areas and waterways.
- Continuing to build healthy, resilient and liveable communities in Wollondilly Shire.
- Promoting and supporting a strong and sustainable local economy.
- Identifying and mitigating the true environmental, social and economic cost of land use planning decisions to ensure future development does not cause irreparable impacts.

1.5 Practical action on climate change

Council recognises that anthropogenic climate change is occurring and without substantial action poses a major threat to humanity and most living systems on Earth. The acute and chronic impacts of climate change include more frequent, widespread and devastating severe weather events. Council is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating climate change impacts and building greater environmental and community resilience on a localised scale consistent with state and federal government policies and best practice.

1.6 Protecting biodiversity

Considering the broader planning framework, all decisions are made in accordance with the following order of priority, where achievable:

1. Avoidance of potential impacts to biodiversity. Where avoidance cannot be achieved then;
2. Mitigation of any unavoidable impacts of the decision on the site affected. Where mitigation cannot be achieved then;
3. Offsetting of any residual impacts of the decision within the Wollondilly LGA.

Those proposals prepared under biodiversity frameworks at the state and/or Commonwealth level involving offsetting must demonstrate compliance with the above position in accordance with all relevant documents including legislation and Environmental Planning Instruments. It is Council's view that this approach will promote positive sustainable biodiversity outcomes on the site affected consistent with the objectives of this Policy.

1.7 Mitigating loss

All decisions are made to mitigate adverse impacts on Wollondilly's diverse environment, economic and social values and any residual impacts be offset locally.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITY
COUNCILLORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take custodianship and champion the understanding and implementation of this Policy across Council, the community and other stakeholders. To promote a culture which upholds the sustainability principles in this Policy.
CEO AND SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take stewardship and facilitate the opportunities to deliver all elements of this Policy. To educate Council staff in their understanding of and compliance with this Policy and embed across Council.
MANAGER WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide advice on the implementation of this Policy. To oversee the review and updating of the Policy as required. To champion and promote the Policy to Council staff.
ALL STAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To embrace and comply with this Policy during operations, processes and decision making. To continually assess opportunities to improve sustainability practices. To promote a culture which upholds the sustainability principles in this Policy.
CONTRACTORS, DEVELOPERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and conduct operations and services in accordance with the Policy.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

With the support of a Sustainability Strategy, Council will implement the principles of this Policy across its four main areas of influence as outlined below:

3.1 Corporate Sustainability

- 3.1.1 Applying the principles outlined in this Policy to all operations, processes, governance, procurement processes and decision making.
- 3.1.2 Ensuring all Council employees are supported by Councillors and the Senior Leadership Team to apply the sustainability principles to all aspects of their work including procurement, civil works, planning decisions, compliance, management of facilities and public space, events, provision of services, environmental management and community/stakeholder support and guidance.
- 3.1.3 Setting measurable targets for the monitoring and reporting of environmental, social and economic performance.
- 3.1.4 Identification of climate change risks and actions to support resilience, preparedness and adaptation for the community, environment and local economy.
- 3.1.5 Demonstrating leadership and championing sustainability practices to the community and other stakeholders.
- 3.1.6 Development of a Sustainability Strategy that is consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- 3.1.7 Commitment for achieving net zero emissions for Council operations no later than 2050.
- 3.1.8 Reviewing and updating of Council's Development Control Plan (DCP) and Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and other strategies, plans and corporate documents to ensure best practice sustainable outcomes.
- 3.1.9 Undertaking of compliance action to support the wellbeing of the environment and community.

3.2 Provision of facilities, services, resources and opportunities

- 3.2.1 Supporting stakeholders, particularly the community, community groups and local businesses through provision of open space and natural areas, facilities, resources, services and opportunities.
- 3.2.2 Transitioning the powering of Council facilities and assets to renewable energy.
- 3.2.3 Increase the use of sustainable materials, methods and equipment in Council and community operations.

3.3 Sustainable growth and development

- 3.3.1 Incorporation of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable design that improves quality of life for current and future generations and maintains and improves the health of the natural environment.
- 3.3.2 Increase the use of sustainable materials, methods and equipment in development approvals.
- 3.3.3 Increasing sustainable and safe transport options including shared pathways and public transport.
- 3.3.4 Incorporating the principles of this policy into land use planning decisions to achieve sustainable growth and development.

3.4 Advocacy, education and collaboration

- 3.4.1 Engaging and collaborating with stakeholders such as traditional custodians, other agencies, industry/businesses, community and civil societies.
- 3.4.2 Supporting the community and other stakeholders transition towards more sustainable practices.
- 3.4.3 Advocating for amendments to State and Commonwealth legislative and policy frameworks to achieve positive sustainable outcomes consistent with this Policy.
- 3.4.4 Advocating to both state and federal government for better sustainability outcomes for Wollondilly and its community.

4. DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
SUSTAINABILITY	Sustainability, for the purpose of this Policy, means meeting the environmental, social and economic needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, through robust governance.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Development that improves the quality of life, both now and into the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.
BIODIVERSITY	Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms on earth - the different plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems of which they are a part.
MITIGATION	An action or activity intended to remedy or reduce known negative impacts of a decision.
OFFSETTING	The act of a measurable way to compensate for residual impacts in development projects.
ANTHROPOGENIC CLIMATE CHANGE	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified and persists for an extended period as a result of human activities.