



# **Sustainability Policy**

## POLICY OBJECTIVE

Council is committed to minimising environmental impacts arising from Council operations and improving resource and energy use and efficiency. Council also has an important role to play in the protection and enhancement of the environment for future generations and supporting sustainability in the wider community.

## LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*

*Local Government Act 1993*

*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

## POLICY STATEMENT

### Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- To continue the integration of sustainability practices into Council functions.
- To provide a clear statement that Council will exercise leadership on sustainability and the Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development ESD as defined in the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.
- To implement the sustainability strategies outlined in Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Programs and Operational plans.
- To strive for continual improvement in sustainability practices.

### Principles

Council's responsibility is to provide affordable high quality services to its community while protecting and enhancing its environment for future generations. Council's Sustainability Policy is based on the Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development as required under *Local Government Act 1993*. These principles are:

- The **precautionary principle**, e.g. if there are threats of serious irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation
- **Intergenerational equity**, e.g. the present generation should ensure that the health diversity and productivity of the environment is preserved and enhanced for the benefit of future generations
- **Conservation** of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration
- Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms and environmental factors will be included in the valuation of all Council assets and services. This can be achieved by adopting the principles of **Quadruple Bottom Line accounting**. This involves assessing projects by the following criteria - economic prosperity, social equity, environmental sustainability & cultural vitality.

This Policy will be implemented by:

- Providing clear direction for Council to incorporate environmental sustainability practices across all aspects of the organisation's operations. This is to reflect the strategic goals of the Community Strategic Plan.
- Ensure the Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development form a critical reference point for Council decision making and are embedded into all Council operations and activities



## GOULBURN MULWAREE COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

- Minimise and/or mitigate adverse environmental sustainability impacts from Council operations and processes
- Raise awareness of environmental sustainability amongst Goulburn Mulwaree Council staff, contractors, visitors, volunteers and the community.

Version	Council Meeting Date	Resolution	Adoption Date	Effective From
1	2 October 2012	12/352	14 November 2012	14 November 2012
2	16 August 2016	16/376	23 September 2016	23 September 2016
3	18 July 2017	2017/320	18 July 2017	18 August 2017
4	4 October 2022	2022/362	4 October 2022	1 November 2022

**All policies can be reviewed or revoked by resolution of Council at anytime.**

**DIRECTORATE:** Executive Services

**BUSINESS UNIT:** Executive Services