

2.20 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Responsible Directorate	Statutory Services	
Responsible Service Area	Planning and Environment Services	
Resolution	9 July 2024	C2.07.24
Procedure Ref	N/A	

1. PURPOSE

To guide decision-making that aligns with our corporate and community commitment to environmental sustainability and reflects our responsibility to preserve natural assets for future generations. The Shire strives to lead by example in sustainability and environmental management.

2. SCOPE

This policy outlines the Shire’s commitment to environmental sustainability and expectations for council members, employees, volunteers and contractors engaged by the Shire of Mundaring. It guides decisions affecting the environment or use of natural resources to support sustainable development, maintain ecosystem health and promote environmental sustainability.

3. DEFINITIONS

circular economy	keeping resources in use within the wider economy for as long as possible by designing out waste and pollution, reusing and recycling products to extract maximum value, and recovering materials.
environmental sustainability	responsible use of natural resources, protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, maximising energy and water efficiency and minimising pollution and waste.
sustainable development	development that integrates social, economic and environmental values to meet the needs of the community, without compromising the ecosystems that support life or the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
threatening processes	processes that reduce biodiversity or the health of the natural environment such as clearing, pollution, frequent fire, feral animals, and spread of weeds and diseases.

4. POLICY

The Shire has a primary role in protection of biodiversity within local road reserves, conservation reserves and other land containing natural assets. Various Shire activities and facilities also have environmental impacts through use of natural resources, energy and water.

The Shire will provide responsible environmental management of its own land and activities within available resources. The Shire will provide guidance to residents and others to manage weeds and other threats to natural areas, provide habitat for native fauna, and reduce their overall environmental footprint.

The principles below will be taken into account in making decisions that affect the environment or use of natural resources:

4.1. Biodiversity Principles

- a. The Shire will balance bushfire risk management with maintaining biodiversity and conservation of natural landscapes.
- b. Allocation of Shire resources for natural area management will take into account social and ecological values and the nature of threatening processes.
- c. Human induced climate change is recognised as a key threat to biodiversity, requiring mitigation action to reduce carbon emissions at all levels of government, and adaptation to local impacts.
- d. Biodiversity and watercourse integrity should be maintained. Where works cannot be designed or constructed to avoid impacts, mitigation measures must be considered.

4.2. Sustainability Principles

- a. The Shire will pursue and promote improved water and energy efficiency, reduced carbon emissions and sustainable use of natural resources.
- b. Energy and water efficiency is a key consideration in design, construction, maintenance or renovation of Shire facilities, and in the purchase of vehicles, machinery, fittings and appliances.
- c. The Shire will make improvements to green infrastructure that will contribute to water and energy efficiency, through tree canopy shade, waterwise landscaping and stormwater harvesting.
- d. Reusable, recycled content or recyclable products should be selected where available and cost effective to support the shift to a circular economy, minimise waste and the use of natural resources.

4.3. Community Principles

- a. The Shire recognises that healthy ecosystems and well-managed natural areas support the health and well-being of the community, and will act as a responsible custodian of public environmental assets.
- b. The Shire seeks to build and maintain effective partnerships to promote environmental awareness, responsible natural resource management and sustainable lifestyles.
- c. Information will be made available for schools and residents on sustainability and local environmental issues through publications, talks, workshops and other mediums.

- d. The Shire encourages enjoyment, environmental stewardship and care of natural areas by residents and community groups.

4.4. Culture Principles

- a. The Shire will be transparent and accountable for its environmental management, through regular monitoring and reporting.
- b. The Shire will remain agile; learning and collaborating with community groups, research institutions and relevant government agencies to adapt best practice environmental management to fit the Shire's context.
- c. The Shire will continuously improve environmental protection measures within its legislative control and the corresponding enforcement practices.
- d. Where the Shire has an opportunity to influence state government decisions on proposals that may have a significant environmental impact, the Shire will advocate for a precautionary approach to environmental risks and for decisions that can achieve a net environmental benefit.

5. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Local Planning Strategy

Local Biodiversity Strategy

Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy

Emissions Reduction Strategy

Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Economic Development and Tourism Strategy

Bushfire Risk Management Plan

Procurement Policy (1.4)

Risk Management Policy (2.16)

Roadside Conservation Policy (EV-01)