

Shire of Mundaring

POLICY

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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Statute Ref:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>		
Local Law Ref:	N/A		

PURPOSE

To establish a sustainable Shire that demonstrates our corporate and community commitment to the environment and reflects our responsibility to its natural assets for future generations. The Shire strives to be a leader in local government sustainability and environmental management.

INTRODUCTION

This policy consolidates the Shire's strategic position on key environmental issues and provides a basis for future environmental initiatives. It guides decisions affecting the environment or use of natural resources to minimise the Shire's environmental footprint, maintain ecosystem health and promote environmental sustainability.

Sustainable development 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. Environmental sustainability includes responsible use of natural resources, protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, maximising energy and water efficiency and minimising pollution and waste sent to landfill.

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 can lead by example in responsible environmental management of its own land and activities. The Shire will also guide or assist residents and others to manage weeds and other threats to natural areas, provide habitat for native fauna, and reduce their overall environmental footprint.

POLICY

This policy applies to Elected Members, employees and contractors engaged by the Shire of Mundaring.

1. Biodiversity principles

- 1.1. Biodiversity and watercourse integrity should be maintained and mitigation measures will be considered where the works cannot be designed or constructed to avoid impacts.
- 1.2. The Shire will strive to lead by example in balancing bushfire risk management with maintaining biodiversity and conservation of natural landscapes.
- 1.3. Allocation of Shire resources for natural area management will take into account social and ecological values and the nature of threatening processes.
- 1.4. 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.

2. Sustainability principles

- 2.1. The Shire will pursue and promote improved water and energy efficiency, reduced carbon emissions and sustainable use of natural resources.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. 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.
- 2.4. Reusable, recycled content or recyclable products should be selected where possible to minimise the use of natural resources and the volume of waste sent to landfill.

3. Community principles

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

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

4. Culture principles

4.1. The Shire will be transparent and accountable to key performance indicators for environmental management, through regular monitoring and reporting.

4.2. 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.

4.3. The Shire will continuously improve environmental protection measures within its legislative control and the corresponding enforcement practices.

4.4. 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.