
Policy Title:	Environmental
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Policy Subject:	Environment Health
Directorate:	Development and Environment
Department:	Environmental Health
Responsible Officer:	Director Development & Environment
Authorised by:	North Burnett Regional Council
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Authorities:

DEFINITIONS:

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions apply:

Ecologically Sustainable Development: Development which aims to meet the needs of Australians today, while conserving our ecosystems for the benefit of future generations (National Strategy for ESD)

Environmentally Relevant Activities: Activities prescribed under section 19 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 as an environmentally relevant activity.

INTRODUCTION:

This policy is developed in recognition of Councils Corporate Plan 2009 – 2013, Outcome 5-4 Building on Environmental Strengths.

Council has environmental responsibilities in relation to its activities of supply of water and waste water services; waste management; construction and maintenance works; land use planning and management; and providing public amenities, parks and gardens.

OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this policy is to ensure that Councils activities are conducted in a manner that protects the environment in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Council's aim is to prevent, manage and minimise environmental impacts associated with its activities, whilst conserving and enhancing the Region's biodiversity and environmental quality.

POLICY:

Council will achieve the objectives of this policy through the following actions:

- Comply with and where practical, exceed the requirements of relevant legislation, policies and standards to continually maintain and improve our environmental performance.
- Regularly assess, review and monitor our environmental performance and the effectiveness of our environmental management systems, and procedures to include the activities of non-environmentally relevant activities such as roadworks.
- Carry out an assessment of all environmentally relevant activities operated by Council and their actual and possible impacts on the environment.
- Support and implement waste reduction, reuse and recycling programs.
- Ensure our employees, contractors and suppliers are aware of and able to respond to their environmental responsibilities.
- Provide training for staff on environmental best practice and implement work procedures which meet or exceed regulatory requirements.
- Ensure that Council owned and controlled land is managed in ways that protect and enhance native flora, fauna, natural habitat and indigenous and community cultural values.
- Control and, where possible, eradicate invasive pest plants and animals on council land.
- Work in partnership with other land and catchment management agencies and private landholders to:
 - Better coordinate environmental protection and enhancement
 - Balance environmental protection with the need to address community safety obligations with respect to fire and emergency management and road safety.