

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. PURPOSE

1.1 Tamworth Regional Council is committed to pursuing best practice in environmental performance and acknowledges that its employees and the community at large expect environmentally responsible practice. Additionally, this policy establishes a common commitment to integrate the four pillars of sustainability within the Council's decision-making processes and operations. This includes ecologically sustainable development, social justice principles and sound financial management to comply with Chapter 3 of the Local Government Act 1993.

2. COMMENCEMENT OF POLICY

2.1 This Policy commenced in 2012 and is revised annually.

3. APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

3.1 This Policy applies to all workers and contractors of Tamworth Regional Council.

4. COMMITMENT

Tamworth Regional Council is committed to:

- Planning and conducting our operations to minimise environmental impact and risk and wherever practicable, eliminate adverse environmental impacts;
- Continually improving our environmental performance including setting, monitoring and regularly reviewing environmental objectives and targets – particularly with regards to:
 - Ensuring that 'Whole of Life' environmental impacts are considered during all stages of asset ownership (design, construct, operate and decommission) to allow Council to utilise efficient and sustainable materials, both manufactured and natural;
 - Ensuring best practice in waste sustainability, resource recovery and the way waste is minimised, reused and recycled;
 - Prevention and minimisation of pollution so far as is reasonably practicable;
 - Ensuring best practice in water and energy efficiency is implemented; and
 - Conservation, enhancement and promotion of the region's biodiversity;
- Openly and constructively engaging:
 - with our community to raise awareness of environmental issues and promote environmental best practice;
 - with regulators to demonstrate our commitment to continuous improvement;
- Tracking carbon emissions across Council assets and projects to inform decision making;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from our processes, operations and facilities;
- Integrating the four pillars of sustainability (environmental, economic, social and governance) within Council decision making processes, project management, procurement, reporting and operations;
- Complying with environmental legislation, regulations, standards and codes of practice; and
- Conducting business with suppliers and contractors whose commitment to the environment aligns with the objectives contained in this policy.

Tamworth Regional Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2022 – 2026 has established key objectives, targets and actions in alignment with Chapter 3 of the Local Government Act.

The Sustainability Team works collaboratively with, and supports, relevant areas of Council to achieve these targets.

Through communication and training, our workers and contractors will increase their awareness and commitment to enhancing Tamworth Regional Council's environmental awareness and performance.

POLICY VERSION AND REVISION INFORMATION

Policy Authorised by:
Title: General Manager



Next Scheduled Review: August 2025
Current version: 12

