

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

## (COMMUNITY POLICY)

### 1. Scope

The Environmental Sustainability Policy (this 'Policy') applies to all Livingstone Shire Council employees and elected members.

### 2. Purpose

To provide a Policy that identifies Council's commitment to continually:

- improve its environmental and sustainability performance;
- encourage a culture of environmental sustainability within the organisation and in the Livingstone community;
- protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural assets of the shire; and
- build the long-term sustainability and environmental resilience of the region through partnerships and collaboration with environmental stakeholders, the community and traditional owners.

### 3. References (legislation/related documents)

#### Legislative references

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cwlth)*  
*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*  
*Biosecurity Act 2014*  
*Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cwlth)*  
*Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 (Cwlth)*  
*Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011 (Cwlth)*  
*Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*  
*Environmental Protection Act 1994*  
*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)*  
*Environmental Protection Regulation 2019*  
*Fisheries Act 1994*  
*Human Rights Act 2019*  
*Local Government Act 2009*  
*National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (Cwlth)*  
*Natural Heritage Trust Act of Australia 1997*  
*Nature Conservation Act 1992*  
*Planning Act 2016*  
*Queensland Heritage Act 1992*  
*Stock Route Management Act 2002*  
*Vegetation Management Act 1999*  
*Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*  
*Water Act 2000*

## **Related documents**

### ***Australia***

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030  
Kyoto Protocol 2005 and Paris Agreement 2016  
National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2015  
Reef 2050 Plan

### ***Queensland***

Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy 2017-2030  
Queensland Climate Transition Strategy 2017  
Queensland Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019  
State Planning Policy

### ***Livingstone Shire Council***

Blueprint 2030 Strategy  
Darumbal People, Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council  
Indigenous Land Use Agreement 2016  
Livingstone Community Plan: Towards 2050  
Livingstone Planning Scheme 2018  
Livingstone Shire Council's Corporate Plan 2020 – 2030  
Livingstone Shire Council Budget and Operational Plan 2022-2023  
Livingstone Shire Council Procurement Policy 2022  
Livingstone Shire Council Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2016-2026  
Livingstone Shoreline Management Plan 2022-23  
Low Carbon Livingstone 2030: A Strategy to Reduce Livingstone Shire Council's Carbon Footprint  
Our Living Coast: Livingstone Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy  
Our Living Environment: Biodiversity Strategy 2021-2027

### ***Other***

Central Queensland Sustainability Strategy 2030 (Fitzroy Basin Association)

## **4. Definitions**

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions shall apply:

Biodiversity	Biodiversity is the variety and variability of life on Earth. It is typically a measure of variation at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level.
Council	Livingstone Shire Council.
Climate Change	The statistically significant variation in the average state of climate over a minimum 30-year period for an extended period
Climate Change Adaptation	Any action, initiative or strategy taken to reduce the vulnerability of the natural and/or human environment from climate change impacts.
Climate Change Mitigation	Actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to minimise their effects on global climate change.
Employees	Employees, volunteers, and contractors of Livingstone Shire Council.
Environmental Sustainability	Ensuring actions meet current needs without compromising the prospects of future generations and that these actions result in the integration of environmental, economic, social, cultural and governance factors.

Renewable Energy	Energy sourced from natural sources such as sunlight and wind power that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed. These energy sources cannot be depleted and are able to supply a continuous source of clean energy.
------------------	---

## 5. Policy Statement

Livingstone has a unique natural environment across the rural, urban, marine and island landscapes, which is regarded as a key value for the Livingstone community. In order to protect this value, Council recognises the need to take care of our environment so that a positive legacy is left for future generations. Council will achieve this by seeking to:

- Protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment in partnership with our stakeholders and community;
- Build capacity within our community to engender sustainable behaviour and living;
- Continually improve Council's environmental and sustainability performance; and
- Respond effectively to increasing pressures on our environment such as climate change, natural hazards, invasive species, inappropriate land management and development.

Council will seek to embed the following principles within its operations whilst ensuring that Council also considers other factors that are important to the community and the organisation:

- People and leadership** – Council will encourage a culture of environmental sustainability among its staff and the community. Council will demonstrate its commitment to environmental protection and sustainable practices and will work in partnership with community and industry stakeholders to promote environmental sustainability awareness, knowledge-sharing, innovation and initiatives that benefit Livingstone Shire. Council will include environmental sustainability awareness training as part of its induction process for all new staff and elected representatives.
- Traditional Owners** – Council recognises the significant knowledge, culture, practice on country and sustainable approaches that traditional owners offer and will strive to further understand, acknowledge and apply these with respect to environmental sustainability in partnership with the Darumbal and Woppaburra traditional owners.
- Governance and accountability** – Council will strive to carry out its operations in an environmentally sustainable manner and to integrate environmental sustainability into its planning and operational processes and decision making. Council will comply with all environmental legislation, regulations and other permit and license requirements relevant to its operations and will continue to proactively identify and manage environmental risks and opportunities. When deemed necessary, Council will exercise its regulatory powers to facilitate environmental protection.
- Continual improvement** – Council will continue to review policies, procedures, processes and systems to maintain and improve environmentally sustainable practices and will continue to set appropriate objectives and targets in its Operational Plan. Council will report quarterly and annually to record its progress. Council will seek to improve its environmental performance by refining training, policies, systems and procedures to ensure our workers are able to respond to their environmental responsibilities.
- Biodiversity protection** – Council will work to protect, maintain and enhance the natural assets under Council's care. Council will also act to support healthy and resilient natural ecosystems, that support the liveability of our shire. It will work with its residents to ensure responsible stewardship of the shire's natural assets. Council will also better identify and understand potential impacts on our natural assets from natural hazards, invasive species, inappropriate land management practices and development.
- Climate Change** – Council recognises the need to take action on climate change and will seek to recognise and understand its vulnerabilities associated with climate change based

on the best available science. Council will develop and implement climate change mitigation and adaptation actions which aim to reduce the impact of climate change on Council's operations and strengthen Council's resilience to climate change impacts.

- g) **Renewable energy and energy efficiency** – Council will work to increase energy efficiency and the level of renewable energy used for its operations. Council will also work to identify, reduce and monitor greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations through sustainable energy practices, low emission technologies and appropriate behavioural change strategies.
- h) **Waste management** – Council will promote the wise use of resources by applying the principles of waste minimisation in the first instance, followed by reuse, recycling and recovery options and then disposal as the least preferred option.
- i) **Water management** – Council will endeavour to make efficient use of water and to reduce the impact of wastewater discharge and run off within its areas of operation. Council will raise awareness and encourage water efficiency in the community to help preserve the long-term sustainability of Livingstone's water resources.
- j) **Great Barrier Reef** – Council will assist in promoting the values of the Great Barrier Reef and highlighting the threats to it. Council will also work with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and other stakeholders to engender change in the community so that our actions have a reduced impact on the Great Barrier Reef.
- k) **Environmental and Sustainability Education** – Council will facilitate the effective delivery of information, education and behavioural change within the Livingstone community on environmental sustainability through focused programmes, projects, initiatives, events, publications and products.
- l) **Sustainable planning, design and infrastructure** – To improve community resilience and reduce operating costs over the life of assets, Council will encourage sustainable design, building and maintenance practices, including the use of energy-efficient, water-wise and low-waste approaches, sustainable materials and renewable energy technologies.
- m) **Procuring goods and services** – When procuring goods and services, Council will apply the sound contracting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2009, one of which is environmental protection. Council will also consider the need to make wise use of resources to minimise environmental impact and ensure employees, suppliers and contractors do the same.

## 6. Changes to this Policy

This Policy is to remain in force until any of the following occur:

- 1) The related information is amended/replaced; or
- 2) Other circumstances as determined from time to time by the Council.

## 7. Repeals/Amendments

This Policy repeals the Livingstone Shire Council Policy named 'Environmental Policy (v1.0)'.

Version	Date	Action
1.0	24/03/2015	Adopted
1.1	11/01/2019	Administrative Amendments – update legislative references, reflect organisational restructure and update of Chief Executive Officer
2.0	15/09/2020	Adopted – amendment to existing policy to align Council's direction and overarching strategic documents

2.1	31/05/2023	Administrative Amendments – references and definitions updated, minor reformatting of document, Portfolio updated to reflect organisational restructure
-----	------------	---

**BRETT BACON**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**