

1. Policy intent

The objectives of this policy are:

- 1.1 To acknowledge Council's obligation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) and other relevant environmental legislation.
- 1.2 To establish Council's commitment to a sustainable environment as per the Corporate Plan 2009-2013.
- 1.3 To outline a framework for the reduction and management of environmental risks and impacts arising from council operations and activities.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy is applicable to the Tablelands Regional Council (TRC), its councillors, employees and contractors in all council operations and activities.
- 2.2 The policy may also extend to others such as volunteers, students on work experience and committee members who are or may be perceived to be acting on Council's behalf.

3. Background/supporting information

- 3.1 The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) aims to protect the environment while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends (ecologically sustainable development). The act defines Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERAs) such as waste processing and wastewater treatment and provides conditions for the registration and authorisation that is required to undertake these activities at a set place. TRC is licensed for the following ERAs:
 - 3.1.1 Extractive and screening activities
 - 3.1.2 Motor vehicle workshop operation
 - 3.1.3 Composting and soil conditioner manufacturing
 - 3.1.4 Regulated waste storage, transport and treatment
 - 3.1.5 Waste disposal
 - 3.1.6 Sewage treatment
 - 3.1.7 Water treatment
- 3.2 Sustainable environment is one of the key issues defined in the Corporate Plan 2009-2013, with a focus on the orderly and balanced development of the built environment and supporting infrastructure while at the same time protecting and preserving the region's natural environment for future generations. TRC has been guided by the Quadruple

Bottom line reporting framework as established under the principles of sustainability for determining the priority issues, outcomes and strategies.

- 3.3 It has been recognized that whilst providing services and essential infrastructure to the community, TRC may encounter environmental risks and is likely to impact on the natural environment. As a holder of public funds, TRC is also aware of its responsibility to ensure high standards of environmental protection and accountability are maintained.

4. Policy statement

- 4.1 Council recognizes the important role Councillors, Council employees and others have in protection of the environment and minimizing the environmental risks and impacts of Council operations. TRC will maintain an employee engagement program to raise awareness and embed environmental responsibility into the way we do business. TRC will strive for continuous improvement in environmental protection through setting targets, monitoring performance and alignment with our future corporate strategies.
- 4.2 In accordance with objectives of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and other relevant environmental legislation and current best practice, it is Council policy to:
- 4.1.1 Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations and all applicable legal requirements
 - 4.1.2 Monitor and assess our environmental risks and impacts
 - 4.1.3 Use resources efficiently, reduce the consumption of water and energy and minimize the generation of waste
 - 4.1.4 Preserve and manage the region's natural environment, open space and public amenity
 - 4.1.5 Reduce the community's risk and exposure to the adverse impacts of natural hazards
 - 4.1.6 Improve the region's urban form, character and natural environment
 - 4.1.7 Prevent pollution
 - 4.1.8 Determine and report on greenhouse gas emissions inventory periodically
 - 4.1.9 Provide support to employees and the community with initiatives to reduce their personal environmental impact
 - 4.1.10 Promote and encourage participation in activities that support preservation of the natural environment e.g. tree planting, recycling initiatives and efficient use of natural resources
 - 4.1.11 Take into account environmental considerations in investment and corporate strategies and in the purchase of goods and services.
- 4.3 These outcomes are achieved via the development and implementation of:
- 4.1.12 Environmental Management System
 - 4.1.13 Sustainability Action Plan
 - 4.1.14 Strategies as per the Corporate Plan 2009-2013: environmental awareness, environmental protection, natural hazards and sustainable development

5. Responsibility

Council is responsible for the adoption, amendment and repeal of the Policy and the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the development and amendment of any associated procedures and guidelines relevant to the Policy.

6. Review

It is the responsibility of the General Manager Community, Planning & Environment to monitor the adequacy of this policy and recommend appropriate changes. This policy will be formally reviewed every three years or as required by Council.

This Policy is to remain in force until otherwise amended/repealed by resolution of Council.

JUSTIN COMMONS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER