Policy 3.02  Environmental Management

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<th>Directorate</th>
<th>Planning and Environment Group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Responsible Officer</td>
<td>Manager</td>
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**Scope**

This policy defines Council’s commitment to protect the Shire’s natural environment through best practice planning processes, internal activities, land and asset management, and public education.

**Purpose**

- To actively and responsibly manage the Shire’s natural environment to maintain its quality and effectively manage environmental impact rehabilitate degraded areas and enhance biodiversity.

**Definitions**

Nil

**Legislative requirements**

Local Government Act 1993  
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979  
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016  
Biosecurity Act 2015

**Policy Statement**

Bega Valley Shire Council will actively and responsibly undertake ‘Environmental Management’ in a systematic manner by:

- Complying with relevant environmental law and regulations and by adhering to applicable codes of practices and Guidelines.
- Developing, implementing, monitoring and reviewing procedures that help maintain, manage and enhance the environment as a key asset of the shire.
- Leading by example and supporting action for sustainability by reducing wherever possible the use of resources.
- Ensuring the adequate resourcing of environmental management initiatives complemented by the ongoing Environment Levy.
- Managing for clean and healthy waterways, beaches and wetlands with healthy marine life and cleaner stormwater run-off through integrated water cycle management that recognises the inter-relationships between water, wastewater and the receiving natural systems.
- Committing to a low waste future by implementing the principles of best practice disposal: ‘avoid, reduce, reuse, and recycle’.
- Establishing an understanding and acceptance of environmental best practice throughout Council, agencies and the community through environmental education and capacity building including:
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Version: 2
Adopted: 29 November 2017
Next review: May 2017

a. Provision of training for staff on environmental best practice and implementation of work practices that meet or exceed statutory requirements,

b. Including environmental requirements in the procurement process and ensuring contractors are complying with relevant environmental legislation.

- Engaging and working with the community as a key partner with government and relevant agencies in planning, biodiversity conservation and management and to encourage participation in activities that improve the natural environment.

- Recognising and representing Aboriginal peoples’ spiritual and cultural values and associations in our conservation of remnant landscapes and natural systems.

### Policy Version Control

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<td>Sustainable Living</td>
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**Goal(s)**

1. Our air and water is pristine and our natural environment and rural landscapes are protected.
2. We are leaders in sustainable living and support innovative approaches to resource recovery and the production of renewable energy and food.

**Responsible Officer**
Manager | Environmental Services

**Version**
2

**Adopted**
29 November 2017

**Next revision**
May 2021

### Related BVSC policies

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