Policy 3.05  Environmental sustainability for Council Operations

Scope
Council delivers a great variety of services and functions. Council decisions and activities have the potential to significantly impact the local and regional environment now and for future generations. This policy outlines the principles implemented to facilitate and enhance the environmental sustainability practices of all Council operations and services.

Purpose
- To display strong leadership to the community through the implementation of sustainability initiatives.
- To reduce the environmental impact of Council’s operations and activities.
- To integrate the principles of sustainability into all Council functions and activities so as to achieve a healthy, clean and sustainable environment.
- To reduce financial costs associated with resource consumption across Council’s many assets and activities.

Definitions

Sustainability
To live within the limits of what the environment can provide, understanding the many interconnections between the economy society and the environment.

Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD)
ESD is defined as development that uses, conserves and enhances our natural resources so that ecological processes, and in turn the quality of life now and into the future, can be maintained.

Legislative requirements
Local Government Act 1993

Policy Statement
Bega Valley Shire Council will systematically address the environmental sustainability of Council operations and activities by:
- Applying the principles of sustainability to all decision making, functions and activities.
- Reviewing all policies, processes and procedures to facilitate capacity to deliver triple bottom line performance and improvement across Council operations.
• Underpinning its commitment to sustainability through the application of the principles adopted by all levels of government in the National ESD Strategy. These are:
  a. Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity – Council will maintain and where possible enhance the range of native plants, animals and their habitats to protect the health of our local environment.
  b. Precautionary principle – Council will actively manage environmental risks.
  c. Inter-generational equity – Council will ensure that the health diversity and productivity of our environment is maintained and / or enhanced for future generations
  d. Integrated decision making – Council will ensure that short and long term economic, social and environmental considerations are integrated into all decision making.

• Improved valuation and pricing of environmental resources – Council will ensure that environmental factors are considered in asset management and service provision and will also ensure the principle of “polluter pays” will apply where the costs of containment, abatement or avoidance of pollution or waste are paid by the polluter.
Policy Version Control

Policy title | Weed Management
--- | ---
Policy No.: | 3.05
Directorate | Planning and Environment Group
Outcome Action | Sustainable Living
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 supporting innovative approached 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

Policy No.: | Title
--- | ---
3.01 | Development Administration
3.02 | Environment Management
3.07 | Climate Change
4.03 | Public Regulation
4.05 | Enforcement and Compliance
4.10 | Lands under Council jurisdiction

Note: Policy details may change prior to review date due to legislative changes. For the most up-to-date version please refer to Council’s website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au