

# Council Policy

**Council Policy Name:** Sustainability

**Responsible Directorate:** Infrastructure and Environment

**Version:** ADOPTED

## 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this Policy is to guide the City of Busselton in its efforts to embed sustainability principles in planning and decision-making processes at an operational and strategic level.

## 2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This Policy is applicable to City of Busselton employees and Elected Members.
- 2.2. This Policy is designed to ensure sustainability is a key consideration in decision making and to ensure relevant environmental, social, economic and governance aspects are promoted to meet the goals and objectives of the City's Council Plan 2024-2034.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

| Term           | Meaning  |
|----------------|--|
| Policy         | This City of Busselton Council Policy titled "Sustainability"  |
| Sustainability | To meet the needs of current and future generations through integration of environmental protection, social advancement, economic wellbeing and good governance. |

## 4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

| Strategic Theme | Objective   |
|-----------------|---|
| ENVIRONMENT     | Objective 5. Work with key partners to improve the health of our waterways, including the Lower Vasse River and Toby Inlet. |
|                 | Objective 6. Care for and enhance our natural areas and habitats.   |
|                 | Objective 7. Respond to climate impacts including coastal erosion and accretion, extreme weather events and fire.           |
|                 | Objective 8. Promote and facilitate environmentally responsible practices, including reducing waste and emissions.          |
| PLACE           | Objective 10. Provide well maintained public facilities, open space, parks and playgrounds.                                 |
| OPPORTUNITY     | Objective 13. Prepare a business case for attaining and retaining eco-destination accreditation.                            |

## 5. POLICY STATEMENT

- 5.1. The City's environment is core to its vision - to be a place where environment, lifestyle and opportunity thrive.
- 5.2. The City is also committed to upholding the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) and recognises its responsibility to demonstrate leadership and work with community by delivering governance excellence leading towards an integrated environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable future.
- 5.3. The Local Government Act 1995 (WA) Section 3.1(1A) states:

*Without limiting subsection (1), the general function of a local government must be performed having regard to the following:*

*(a) the need:*

- (i) to promote the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the district; and*
- (ii) to plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change; and*
- (iii) in making decisions, to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations*

- 5.4. The City of Busselton is committed to:
  - a. Promoting sustainable management practices across City operations through effective organisational leadership and governance.
  - b. Considering and balancing environmental, social, economic and governance impacts when making decisions.
  - c. Considering ways to deliver beneficial environmental, social and economic outcomes through strategic procurement approaches.
  - d. Empowering City employees to approach challenges and opportunities sustainably by providing a Sustainability and Environment Framework.
  - e. Collaborating with key stakeholders including local, state and federal governments, research institutions, non-government organisations, industry and advocacy bodies, and the business community to achieve shared sustainability objectives and environmental resilience.
  - f. Promoting sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of the City's natural environment in a way that maintains ecological integrity and recognising that the South West Region is located within one of the 36 internationally recognised biodiversity hotspots around the world.
  - g. Promoting sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of the City's built environment and heritage.
  - h. Building, maintaining, improving and operating City facilities and assets to ensure operational efficiency and to maximise energy and water savings.
  - i. Promoting sustainable practices and building resilience within the local community through fostering a shared understanding and collective responsibility.
  - j. Supporting an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable local economy.
  - k. Embracing and supporting innovation, industry leadership and opportunities for continual improvement by adopting a progressive and agile approach.

## 6. RELATED DOCUMENTATION / LEGISLATION

- 6.1. Local Government Act 1995 (WA) Section 3.1(1A)
- 6.2. Environmental Protection Act 1986
- 6.3. Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

## 7. REVIEW DETAILS

| Review Frequency  |      | 3 yearly       |              |           |
|-------------------|------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| Council Adoption  | DATE | 13 August 2025 | Resolution # | C2508/223 |
| Previous Adoption | DATE | N/A            | Resolution # | N/A       |