

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017-2021

Summary



The Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) will guide Council in setting environmental sustainability policies and determining roles, responsibilities, and priorities for implementation.

Moira Shire formally started documenting this journey with the development of a Natural Environment Strategy in 2006, followed by an ESS in 2012. A review of the 2012 ESS demonstrated significant progress and is summarised in the ESS 2012 Achievements Report*.

The DRAFT ESS 2017-2021* provides a sharper sense of direction and action, with a tighter and more concise presentation of four-year performance indicators and the inclusion of long term goals.

Role of Council in environmental sustainability:

Lead by example and support the community in transitioning to environmental sustainability.

Purpose of the ESS:

To provide an easily shared guide for Council to work towards its vision and long-term goals for environmental sustainability.

Moira Shire's extensive river and creek systems, including internationally and nationally significant wetlands, are interspersed by plains woodlands and grasslands. These features provide habitat for abundant and diverse native flora and fauna, including many threatened species and migratory birds.

The natural environment of Moira Shire also makes the area suitable for productive agriculture, recreation and tourism.

To ensure Moira Shire's unique and special natural features continue to be enjoyed by future generations, and continue to provide valuable ecosystem services, we need to deal with a range of challenges. These include climate change, ongoing loss of habitat, pest plants and animals, population growth and development, and managing water quality and quantity.

Moira Shire Council works in partnership with a range of stakeholders to achieve environmental sustainability outcomes. The ESS focusses on Council's responsibilities and areas of influence as a local government authority.

Council will build on its environmental sustainability achievements, working across all departments and in partnership with stakeholders.

Seven focus areas will guide Council's actions in working towards the long-term goals.

Vision: Community working together for an environmentally sustainable future.

The vision will be achieved by realising long-term goals:

- Council activities make an overall positive impact on our natural environment; and
- Industries, businesses and the general community actively care for our natural environment.

Focus areas	Performance indicators (by 2021)
 <p>Environmentally accountable Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste from Council activities is reduced. • Council's consumption of energy (by vehicles and office-based activities) is reduced. • Ecologically Sustainable Design Principles are considered in the planning stage of all Council projects (capital works, subdivisions, new buildings, building renovation). • Environmental sustainability features in the Council Plan and other Council Strategies as they are reviewed and updated. • Environmental sustainability is considered across all areas of Council, in all decisions and in project implementation.
 <p>Community engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of schools in Moira have been involved in environmental sustainability projects. • 25% increase in business sector involvement in environmental sustainability projects. • Moira's environment and environmentally sustainable living are celebrated.
 <p>Partnerships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key stakeholders continue to endorse partnerships for implementing the ESS (e.g. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee). • Funding 'won' (and shared), from government and 'non-traditional' sources. • Council participates in 20 partnership projects annually. • Cooperation agreement for delivery of environmental activities developed and signed by key partners. • Partnership program established to enhance Moira Shire section of the River Murray e.g. RiverConnect. • Council shares and celebrates successes with partners and the community.
 <p>Climate change – adaptation and mitigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moira Shire Council corporate Emissions Reduction Plan developed and implemented. • 25% of Council's electricity is from renewable sources*. • Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by a further 20% on 2016 levels. • Two community based energy efficiency and/or renewable energy projects. <p><i>*To be confirmed through the development of an emissions reduction plan.</i></p>
 <p>Conservation of biodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the area under conservation covenants and biodiversity management agreements in Moira Shire from 2016 levels by an average of 10% per year over 4 years. • Actively supported a minimum of two large-scale multi-partner programs per year which deliver biodiversity conservation outcomes. • Achieved a 'net gain' in native vegetation for Council activities*. <p><i>*Where actions to compensate unavoidable losses contribute to longer term gains in quality and quantity.</i></p>
 <p>Sustainable management of water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Council contributions to instream and wetland water quality. • Stormwater management meets State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) minimum requirements. • All Council assets have efficient water supplies through technology and governance improvements.
 <p>Sustainable management of waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised and implemented Waste Management Business Plan. • Increased diversion from landfill across our three main waste streams: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Municipal solid waste b. Commercial and industrial c. Construction and demolition. • Greenhouse gas emissions from landfill have declined from 2016 levels.

To view the full Environmental Sustainability Strategy and 2012-2016 Achievements Report please go to

www.moira.vic.gov.au/environment