



FOCUS AREA 1

Environmentally accountable Council

Council is committed to showing leadership in environmental sustainability.



Policy position

Moira Shire acknowledges:

- Environmental sustainability is a key determinant for a healthy and liveable community;
- The best way to preserve Moira Shire's natural environment is for the community to value and take ownership; and
- The binding connections between people, biodiversity, ecological function, and community wellbeing is vital.

Moira Shire Council will:

- Strive to be an innovative leader in environmental sustainability;
- Integrate environmental sustainability across all areas of Council, in all decision making, project implementation and activities;
- Comply with legislative requirements relevant to environmental sustainability; and
- Increase resilience to environmental risks.

Policy Rationale

Council recognises:

- the need to establish realistic goals and ensure transparency in operations and actions as we transition to environmental sustainability;
- The need to act responsibly and meet legislative responsibilities in regard to environmental sustainability; and
- There are many synergies where corporate actions that are good for the environment also have economic benefits.

Long-term target

Environmental sustainability is considered and integrated across all aspects of Council.

Performance Indicators (by 2026)

The following performance indicators will be used to determine the successful implementation of the strategy:

1. Environmental sustainability is considered and integrated across all areas of Council, in all decisions and in project implementation.
2. Ecologically Sustainable Design Principles are implemented in the planning stage of all Council projects (capital works, subdivisions, new buildings and building renovations).
3. Reported annually on the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
4. Environmental sustainability features included in the Council Plan and other Council Strategies as they are reviewed and updated.

Actions

The following actions will support the implementation of the strategy:

- Consider environmental risks and benefits early in the development of Council plans, projects and programs.
- Consider environmental sustainability (e.g. weighting and criteria) in procurement processes.
- Hold regular internal training for Council staff on environmental sustainability (e.g. waste bins and reusable products).
- Utilise the Green Team to increase understanding, awareness, and action regarding environmental sustainability in the workplace and at home.
- Foster cross-departmental discussions about environmental sustainability and report on ESS implementation through the Environment Working Group (EWG).
- Apply Landscape Guide (2017) for Council projects.
- Seek internal and external funding to implement environmental sustainability projects.
- Advocate internally and externally on behalf of the environment.
- Consider immediate and ongoing (operational) implications by applying environmental cost analysis on all projects and programs.
- Review Council activities for continuous improvement and apply learnings.
- Improve consultation across departments.