

# Environment Policy

## Policy No. 6830.100.E.R

### 1 Purpose

This policy formalises City of Darwin's commitment and approach to achieving best practice environmental sustainability, environmental regulatory compliance, and continuous improvement in environmental performance across its operations.

### 2 Scope

This policy applies to all City of Darwin operations, procurement, infrastructure, and service delivery, and is to be implemented by all workplace participants.

### 3 Policy Statement

City of Darwin aims to be a leader of sustainability and environmental best practice. This includes responding to the climate emergency by reducing operational emissions and building resilience to the impacts of climate change in our assets and services. City of Darwin also supports the Darwin community to reduce its emissions and implement measures to mitigate climate change impacts on the community.

City of Darwin recognises that the community highly values Darwin's natural environment and biodiversity, and this policy reinforces how City of Darwin strives for environmental protection and enhancement, supported by a culture of environmental sustainability and stewardship among City of Darwin staff and the community.

City of Darwin will:

- Maintain an Environmental Management System that aligns with AS/NZS ISO 14001:2016 Environmental management systems and formalises the processes and requirements for ensuring continual improvement in environmental performance.
- Use a data-driven and evidence-based approach through the Environmental Management System by undertaking monitoring, data collection, assessment, and review to track and improve environmental performance against targets and performance indicators.
- Maintain compliance with, and where possible exceed, all requirements under Northern Territory and Federal environmental legislation and implement best practice in accordance with Australian Standards and recognised guidelines.
- Through the Environmental Management System, embed environmental sustainability, environmental risk, and climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations throughout all organisational planning and decision making.

Version:	Decision Number:	Adoption Date:	Next Review Date:
3	ORD511/24	26 November 2024	26 November 2026

**Responsible Officer: General Manager Innovation**

*Electronic version current. Uncontrolled copy valid only at time of printing.*

- Apply the precautionary approach to decision making where there is uncertainty regarding potential environmental harm.
- Continually reduce emissions across the organisation associated with energy, fuel, and resource use and consumption, waste generation and supply chains, with the aim of net zero emissions from City of Darwin operations by 2030.
- Implement initiatives that reduce, re-use, recycle and divert waste from landfill, grow a circular economy, and educate the community on how to reduce their waste.
- Proactively enhance, protect, and promote the importance of Darwin's natural landscapes, native habitats, habitat corridors, biodiversity, and threatened species.
- Regularly update, maintain, and implement biodiversity management plans for Darwin's priority biodiversity assets, such as East Point Reserve and Rapid Creek.
- Proactively protect and increase Darwin's urban tree canopy cover to enhance climate resilience, cooling, shading and community wellbeing.
- Ensure all workplace participants are made aware of and effectively implement their environmental responsibilities, which at minimum includes reporting all environmental incidents through City of Darwin's incident reporting system.
- Educate, train and support City of Darwin staff and Elected Members to make climate-aligned and environmentally sustainable decisions and foster a culture of environmental responsibility and stewardship.
- Include environmental sustainability in the assessment process for all procurement.
- Encourage partnerships with organisations whose products and services are aligned with City of Darwin's environmental sustainability targets and cool, clean, and green strategic direction.
- Work in collaboration with the Northern Territory and Federal Governments, community organisations, businesses, and the Darwin community to enhance Darwin's environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
- Support and empower the Darwin community through education, partnerships, and advocacy to:
  - build community resilience and adaptation to climate change
  - reduce community emissions
  - grow a circular economy
  - protect and enhance Darwin's natural environment

Version:	Decision Number:	Adoption Date:	Next Review Date:
3	ORD511/24	26 November 2024	26 November 2026

**Responsible Officer: General Manager Innovation**

*Electronic version current. Uncontrolled copy valid only at time of printing.*

## 4 Definitions

**Emissions** means greenhouse gas emissions, that is, gases that trap heat in the earth’s atmosphere and cause climate change. These gases include carbon dioxide, methane, and others, and are emitted predominantly through the burning of fossil fuels for transport and energy, from the breakdown of landfill waste, and from domestic livestock and burning of vegetation.

**Environmental Management System** means a formalised system of integrated policies, procedures and processes that assist an organisation achieve its environmental goals, and which are regularly reviewed and improved.

**Environmental sustainability** means meeting the current needs of a population by responsibly utilising resources without jeopardising the ability for future generations to meet their needs. This includes:

- sustainable use of energy, water, materials, and natural resources
- minimising emissions and waste
- protection and enhancement of natural assets and resources
- prevention of water, soil, and air pollution.

**Net zero emissions from City of Darwin operations by 2030** means achieving net-zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions i.e. from City of Darwin’s direct use of electricity, gas, and fuel. It does not include landfill gas emissions from the Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility or Scope 3 supply-chain emissions. City of Darwin, however, still includes these emissions sources in its annual emissions reporting and aims to continually reduce these emissions.

**Workplace participants** means employees, volunteers, work experience placements, contractors, consultants, and labour-hire staff of City of Darwin.

## 5 Legislative References

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*

*National Environment Protection Measures (Implementation) Act 1998 (Cth)*

*National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (Cth)*

*Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1996 (NT)*

*Environment Protection Act 2019 (NT)*

*Environment Protection Regulations 2020 (NT)*

*Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act 2011 (NT)*

*Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976 (NT)*

*Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 (NT)*

*Water Act 1992 (NT)*

*Weeds Management Act 2001 (NT)*

Version:	Decision Number:	Adoption Date:	Next Review Date:
3	ORD511/24	26 November 2024	26 November 2026
Responsible Officer: General Manager Innovation			

## 6 Procedures / Related Documents

2030 Climate Emergency Strategy

2030 Greening Darwin Strategy

2030 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

2030 Movement Strategy

Public Tree Management Policy and Procedure

Native Vegetation Policy and Procedure

Trees on Verges Conservation Policy

Environmental Management System Manual

East Point Reserve Biodiversity Management Plan

Rapid Creek Fire and Weed Management Plans

Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility Environmental Management Plan

## 7 Responsibility / Application

All workplace participants are responsible for ensuring that they adhere to this policy.

The General Manager Innovation is responsible for the implementation and review of this policy.

This policy will be reviewed every two years or as required.

Version:	Decision Number:	Adoption Date:	Next Review Date:
3	ORD511/24	26 November 2024	26 November 2026

**Responsible Officer: General Manager Innovation**

*Electronic version current. Uncontrolled copy valid only at time of printing.*