

## 1 PURPOSE

This policy addresses environmental matters associated with Council operations including energy, waste and water management and will allow council to understand, manage and where possible eliminate environmental risks.

City of Darwin is committed to implementing best practice and advocating for improved sustainability and the protection of our environment. Council values biodiversity and the natural environment as important parts of the city. Council will strive to continually improve on its environmental performance and to foster a culture of environmental awareness and sustainability among its staff and the community.

## 2 SCOPE

Through the implementation of this policy, Council aims to be a leader and champion of sustainability and environmental best practice.

City of Darwin has a commitment to reducing energy and water consumption, improving resource recovery and enhancing the Darwin environment.

The Darwin community will be well informed of Council initiatives and strategies that protect the environment and will be engaged to understand and implement environmental strategies in their own lives.

Council will resource the implementation of this policy and monitor its environmental performance.

## 3 POLICY STATEMENT

City of Darwin will encourage a culture of environmental responsibility at work and in the community and promote sustainable practices such as waste minimisation, and sustainable transport.

To lead and advocate for environmental sustainability, City of Darwin will:

- Comply with and where possible, exceed the requirements of relevant legislation, regulation, policy and standards to continually improve its environmental performance.
- Work with the Darwin community to enhance the city's environmental sustainability, while respecting cultural, social and economic values.
- Enhance and protect Darwin's urban forest and local natural ecosystems.
- Regularly assess and audit its environmental performance and the effectiveness of its environmental management systems.

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- Improve its environmental performance through setting measurable targets and key performance indicators.
- Ensure its employees, suppliers and contractors are aware of and able to respond to their environmental responsibilities.
- Reduce resource consumption, including energy and water use.
- Consider environmental and social sustainability in all procurement.
- Recognise interconnections between people, livelihoods, lifestyle, economy and the natural environment, and ensure this approach is included in management planning and project delivery.
- Use an evidence-based approach to managing the environment and adapt appropriately as new information arises regarding environmental matters.
- Apply the precautionary approach to environmental decision making where there is uncertainty, to avoid or minimise harm.
- Working in partnership with government, organisations and the community to promote the ecological, social and economic sustainability of the city.
- Will empower individuals and groups to take an active role in managing their environmental sustainability.

#### 4 DEFINITIONS

**Sustainability** means meeting current needs of a population by responsibly utilising resources (economic, social and environmental) without jeopardizing the ability for future generations to meet their needs.

#### 5 LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

- Environmental Assessment Act 1982*
- 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)*
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- National Environment Protection Measures (Implementation) Act 1998*
- Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 (NT)*
- Water Act 1992 (NT)*
- Weeds Management Act 2001 (NT)*

#### 6 PROCEDURES / RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Climate Emergency Strategy
- Greening Darwin Strategy
- Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

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## 7 RESPONSIBILITY / APPLICATION

All staff will be responsible for implementing relevant actions related to this policy in their own work area. Support is available through the Engineering and City Services.

On-going evaluation of environmental performance will be part of the Environmental Management System audit processes and annual reporting coordinated through the Engineering and City Services.

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