

ATTACHMENT TO AGENDA ITEM

Ordinary Meeting

17 December 2013

Agenda Item 9.5 Sustainable Decision Making Policy for Adoption

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GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL

Council Policy Number 31.POL2

Sustainability Policy

Version 1.0

Adopted 17 January, 2012

This document should be read in conjunction with the Greater Shepparton City Council's Sustainability and Environment Strategy (yet to be adopted), Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy, Greater Shepparton City Council Plan, Council Procurement Policy, Council's EcoBuy Policy.

Preamble

The aim of this policy is to promote and develop sustainable practice as a strategic and operational function of the Council. Council has recognised its community leadership role and responsibility by incorporating sustainability principles into the organisation through its interactions within the organisation and with the broader community.

“Sustainability” refers to three broad themes, economic, social and environmental, that must all be coordinated and addressed to ensure the long term viability of our community and the natural environment.

“Sustainable development” seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability to meet those of the future.

This policy has a broad scope which will apply to all Council decisions and activities and will:

- inform decision making and the development of all policy, strategy, project management and actions as well as the delivery of Council services and operations and the actions of contractors, volunteers, staff and Councillors alike
- demonstrate Council’s commitment towards sustainability following the principles of ecological sustainable development and creating objectives for sustainable practice which will enhance the health of the community and our natural environment while ensuring social justice, ethical governance, improved quality of life and economic prosperity

Policy Statement

The Councillors and all staff of the Greater Shepparton City Council are committed to the achievement of a sustainable way of life for current and future generations through a shared understanding of sustainability.

Policy Objective

The objective of this policy is to assist the Council to:

- be responsive to the challenge of changing climate
- maintain and restore the natural environment
- use our resources more efficiently
- reduce our environmental impact
- display ethical leadership to the community

Principles

- **Governance (Ethics), Social Equity and Justice (including community engagement)**
Council is committed to ensuring our decision making processes are open, transparent, inclusive and supportive of our communities.
- **Natural Environment (Conservation and Enhancement)**
Where possible, Council will enhance and conserve the natural environment in which we live.
- **Efficient use of resources**
Council is committed to adopting and facilitating the efficient use of resources and encouraging sustainable consumption and production.
- **Urban Planning and Building Design**
Council is committed to a strategic role for urban planning and design in addressing environmental, social, economic, health and cultural issues for the benefit of all. Council should be leaders in reducing energy usage and develop solutions that support the development of sustainable energy.
- **Community Health and Wellbeing**
Council is committed to protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of our community.
- **Vibrant Local Economy (including sustainable Council operations)**
Council is committed to creating and ensuring a vibrant local economy that gives access to employment without compromising the sustainability of our environment.
- **Think Global Act Local (including partnerships)**
Council is committed to recognising that our actions contribute to global peace, justice, equity, sustainable development and protection of the planet at a local level.

Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Sustainable Development Working Group.

Julie Salomon
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Date

GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL

Policy Number 31.POL2

Sustainable Decision Making Policy

Version 1.0

Adopted 17 January, 2012

Last Reviewed 19 September 2013

Business Unit:	Sustainability and Environment
Responsible Officer:	Team Leader Sustainability and Environment
Approved By:	Chief Executive Officer
Next Review:	

PURPOSE

The aim of this policy is to outline the sustainability principles to be applied as part of Council's strategic and operational functions.

This policy will provide guidance to the review and development of all other Council directives, policies and guidelines with regard to sustainability.

Adopting a sustainable focus to decision making across Council will enhance the health of the community and our natural environment while ensuring social justice, ethical governance, improved quality of life and economic prosperity for the City of Greater Shepparton.

OBJECTIVE

The policy will assist Council to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability by

- Ensuring all decisions are considerate of social, environmental and economic sustainability principles
- Being more responsive to the challenge of climate change
- Maintaining and restoring the natural environment
- Using our resources more efficiently
- Reducing our environmental impact
- Displaying ethical leadership to the community

SCOPE

This policy underpins all Council decisions, the development of all other policies, strategies, the management of projects and the delivery of services provided by Council, contractors and volunteers.

DEFINITIONS

Reference term	Definition
Sustainability	Refers to three broad themes, economic, social and environmental, that must all be coordinated and addressed to ensure the long term viability of our community and the natural environment.
Sustainable development	Development that seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

POLICY

1. Principles

a. **Governance (Ethics), Social Equity and Justice (including community engagement)**

Council is committed to ensuring our decision making processes are open, transparent, inclusive and supportive of our communities.

b. **Natural Environment (Conservation and Enhancement)**

Where possible, Council will enhance and conserve the natural environment in which we live.

- c. **Efficient use of resources**
Council is committed to adopting and facilitating the efficient use of resources and encouraging sustainable consumption and production.
- d. **Urban Planning and Building Design**
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Council is committed to creating and ensuring a vibrant local economy that gives access to employment without compromising the sustainability of our environment.
- g. **Think Global Act Local (including partnerships)**
Council is committed to recognising that our actions contribute to peace, justice, equity, sustainable development and protection of the planet at a local level.

RELATED POLICIES AND DIRECTIVES

- Greater Shepparton City Council's Sustainability and Environment Strategy (yet to be adopted)
- Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy
- Greater Shepparton City Council Plan 2013-2017 (Goal 2)
- Council Procurement Policy (adopted 19/2/2013)
- Council's Eco-buy Policy

RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1989*

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every four years by the Sustainable Working Group and Council's Environment Department.

Gavin Cator
Chief Executive Officer

Date