



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY 2015

TITLE:	ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY 2015
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	MANAGER ENGINEERING & REGULATORY SERVICES
APPROVED BY COUNCIL:	16 OCTOBER 2001
RESOLUTION NO:	233/2001
AMENDED ON:	21 JULY 2015
RESOLUTION NUMBER:	117/2015
REVIEW DATE:	2019 (EVERY FOUR YEARS)

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Sorell Council, in partnership with its community, will demonstrate leadership in achieving best practice in Environmental Sustainability. Environmental Sustainability is the maintenance of functioning natural ecosystems, as well as the control of pollutants and toxins in environments including residential, rural and agricultural areas. It is the concept of humans living in a fashion that they use natural resources balanced by the ability of the natural world to generate resources while enhancing the living requirements of other organisms on earth.

2. PRINCIPLES

Sorell Council will demonstrate leadership, model behaviour and achieve best practice in working with staff, contractors and the community by:

- increasing awareness of and behaviour change towards greater environmental sustainability;

- working in partnership with the community to develop programs and initiatives that improve environmental sustainability in Sorell;
- consider climate change risks and impacts in the implementation of this policy;
- adoption of work practices that minimise environmental impacts from Council's civil works and the operation of existing assets. In particular coastal and scenic values such as the Pitt Water Orielton Lagoon RAMSAR site;
- adopt an Environmental Management System (EMS) that integrates the principles of continual improvement in environmental performance across all operations;
- consideration of environmental issues when purchasing goods and services;
- minimisation and/or avoidance of waste;
- practicing and promoting ecologically sustainable development principles (ESD) in the planning and development of the municipality;
- adopting and promoting patterns of production, consumption and reproduction that minimise consumption of natural resources, recycling what we use and replacing non-renewable resources with renewable resources;
- improving the quality of air, land and water for current and future generations;
- researching, planning and taking action for changing environmental conditions and threats;
- monitoring environmental performance outcomes and regularly reviewing and updating environmental policies, strategies and management plans;
- collaborating with other Local Governments in support of environmental sustainability;
- advocating to State and Federal Governments and other Local Governments for improvements to environmental policies and regulations; and
- abiding by any relevant Federal, State and Local Government environmental legislation.

3. AUTHORISATION

This policy is managed by the General Manager, Sorell Council, and is approved by:

..... GENERAL MANAGER, SORELL COUNCIL

..... MAYOR, SORELL COUNCIL

4. REVISION DATE/RELEVANT POLICIES SUPERSECEDED

This policy will be reviewed and presented to Council 26th July 2015 and then every four years thereafter.

This policy replaces the Environmental Policy 16 October 2001.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is ultimately the responsibility of Councillors, GM, Management and staff to develop a culture that values the principles of environmental sustainability and embeds them in decision making processes.

It is the responsibility of all Councillors, staff and contractors to understand the concepts and principles of environmental sustainability outlined in this policy and to apply these principles in all planning, decision-making, activities and reporting.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Federal Legislation
 - Kyoto Protocol 2007
 - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- State Legislation and Policy
 - State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997
 - State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land 2009
 - Our Water Our Future 2004
 - Weed Management Act 1999
 - Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
 - Environment Management and Pollution Act 1994
 - Plastic Shopping Bags Ban Act 2013
- Council Local Laws
 - General Local Law No. 7 and its Amendments
- Council Policies and Plans
 - Sorell Council's Strategic Plan 2014-2018
 - Asset Management Policy
 - Fire Hazard Abatement
 - Mowing of Grassed Areas under Council Management
 - Sorell Council Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Relevant Reference Documents
 - Earth Charter
 - Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

This policy will be incorporated into key Council decision making processes.

Its implementation will be outlined in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy which will be developed in 2016-2017. Existing plans and strategies that will fall under the umbrella of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy include:

- Council's Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Plan;
- Council's Waste Minimisation and Management Plan;;
- Council's Tree Policy;
- Council's Stormwater Management Plan;
- Council's Asset Management Strategy and Policy; and
- Various Council Natural Reserves and Waterways Management Plans.