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1. Statement

Ipswich City Council (Council) is dedicated to advancing environmental stewardship, climate action, social equity, and economic vitality, aiming to ensure a high quality of life for present and future generations. In alignment with contemporary Australian and global sustainability trends, this policy recognises that sustainability is a multi-dimensional challenge requiring integrated action from all sectors of society. Council will lead by example in sustainability practices and foster collaborative efforts with government bodies, businesses, and the local community to build a resilient and thriving Sustainable City - a city of opportunity for all. The commitment to being a sustainable city also recognises the evidence-based science for climate change, which will be taken into consideration in the transition to a Sustainable City.

2. Purpose and Principles

This policy aims to reinforce Council's commitment to sustainability by aligning with current best practices and emerging trends. It will guide the conservation and improvement of the city's natural environment and resources, lead the reduction of emissions and waste, lead the reduction of energy and water usage, promote social equity and wellbeing, and enhance economic prosperity through the following six sustainability principles:

a) Governance & Leadership

- **Enhanced Transparency:** Council will improve transparency by regularly reporting on sustainability goals and progress. This includes publishing annual sustainability reports and engaging with the community through public forums.
- **Leadership in Innovation:** Council will adopt cutting-edge sustainability technologies and practices, aiming for decarbonisation and sustainable development.

b) Responsible Decision-Making

- **Climate Resilience:** Decisions will be informed by climate resilience and risk assessments to anticipate and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This involves integrating climate risk into strategic planning, infrastructure and operational work.



c) Leave a Legacy

- **Regenerative Practices:** In addition to managing resources responsibly, Council will implement regenerative practices that restore and enhance ecological health. This includes urban greening initiatives, biodiversity restoration, and sustainable land management.
- **Community Empowerment:** Council will focus on empowering local communities through education and support for grassroots sustainability initiatives.

d) Circular Economy

- **Circular Economy:** Emphasis will be placed on circular economy principles, prioritising products and services that minimise waste and promote reuse and recycling.
- **Sustainable Procurement:** Procurement practices will ensure that goods and services are sourced ethically, supporting fair labour practices and sustainable supply chains.

e) Efficient Use of Resources

- **Emissions Reduction:** Council is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, incorporating renewable energy sources, and enhancing energy efficiency across all operations.
- **Water Stewardship:** Implementing comprehensive water management approaches that address water scarcity and quality issues, incorporating advanced water recycling and conservation measures.

f) Think Global, Act Local

- **Alignment with state, national and global goals:** Council's sustainability actions will be aligned with state, national, and global frameworks such as Queensland's Department of Energy and Climate Strategic Plan 2024–2028, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international climate agreements.
- **Local Partnerships:** Strengthen partnerships with local organisations, businesses, and educational institutions to foster community-led sustainability initiatives and innovations.

3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan themes and integrates emerging sustainability goals:

- Vibrant and Growing
- Safe, Inclusive and Creative
- Natural and Sustainable
- A Trusted and Leading Organisation

4. Regulatory Authority

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2014*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

5. Human Rights Commitment

Council has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and consider human rights relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

6. Scope

This policy applies to all Council activities, operations, and planning processes. It extends to all Councillors, employees, contractors, and partners, guiding them to integrate sustainability principles into their work. The policy also serves as a framework for business and community engagement and collaboration in sustainability efforts.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
Chief Executive Officer and General Managers	Champion and promote the sustainability principles, ensuring they are integrated into organisational culture and strategic objectives.
Environment & Sustainability Department	General Manager & Managers oversee the implementation and monitoring of the sustainability principles, ensuring alignment with current trends and best practices. Sustainability Team develops, implements, reviews and reports on the Sustainability Policy and strategies in consultation with key stakeholders. Provides technical support and expertise to assist in the implementation of this policy across Council. Liaises and educates key stakeholders.
All Ipswich City Council Employees	Apply sustainability principles in daily business as usual and project activities, and in any other decision-making processes.

8. Key Stakeholders

To create a Sustainable City, we all need to play our part, hence the following key stakeholders have been identified:

- **All Council Departments:** Environment & Sustainability, Planning & Regulatory Services, Community, Culture & Economic Development, Corporate Services, Assets & Infrastructure Services, and the Office of the CEO.
- **Ipswich community:** Residents, businesses, and industries of the local Ipswich area.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with Council's four (4) year review cycle or sooner if required.

10. Definitions

Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Greenhouse gases are those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of thermal infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere itself, and by clouds. This property causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapour (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄) and ozone (O₃) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere.

Sustainability (local context) – The City prospers environmentally, socially and economically while preserving and enhancing the ability of our natural environment to support a desired quality of life for current and future generations.

Sustainable Development - Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (World Commission on Environment and Development, Our Common Future Report, 1987)

11. Related Documents

Not applicable.

12. Policy Owner

The General Manager of the Environment & Sustainability Department is the policy owner, and the Sustainability & Climate Change Coordinator is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.