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1. Statement

Council is committed to balancing the protection of the environment and the pursuit of prosperity to ensure quality of life for the people of Ipswich from generation to generation. Sustainability encompasses environmental, social and economic considerations and is a shared responsibility between government, business and the community with each party playing a critical role.

For Council, we will strive to ensure all operations, procedures and decision-making activities are underpinned by this policy to be a sustainable organisation. For the community, Council will aim to facilitate and support the people of Ipswich so that we, as a whole, are a Sustainable City.

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

The purpose of the policy is to strengthen council's commitment to corporate sustainability by providing a set of guiding principles for the organisation to conserve and protect the natural environment; promote long term economic viability; and provide social wellbeing outcomes.

Council is committed to the following six sustainability principles:

1. **Governance & Leadership** – Council will strive to lead by example in sustainable practices governed by our policies, strategies, procedures and programs. Council will provide support in building community knowledge and capacity through meaningful collaboration and acknowledge community sustainability leadership to achieve a sustainable city.
2. **Responsible Decision-Making** – Our decisions are guided by seeking long term beneficial outcomes and are holistic in approach by giving consideration to economic, environmental and social aspects. The precautionary principle will be considered in decision-making where there is plausible risk of causing potential catastrophic or irreversible harm to human health or the environment.
3. **Leave a Legacy** – Now and into the future, Council will aim to manage resources responsibly, protect environmental values and maintain the quality of life in Ipswich, so that the City remains resilient and can be enjoyed by residents and visitors now, and into the future.

4. **Sustainable Procurement** – Council will seek to procure products and services that demonstrate social and environmental credentials; provide value for money over the lifespan of the product and/ or service; and enable the achievement of strategic corporate goals. Council will also consider innovations in technology to achieve sustainability outcomes and support local businesses and enterprises as a priority.
5. **Efficient Use of Resources** – Council will utilise resources efficiently and effectively by implementing best practice measures across operations and programs. Energy, water and waste are the key areas of focus for resource efficiency. Council’s fleet, transport and mobility will also be considered here.
6. **Think Global, Act Local** - As a City, we will play our part in taking action at a local level to address sustainability outcomes that connect with regional, national and global scale activities and directions.

3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan themes:

- 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

Ipswich City Council (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 give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

6. Scope

The policy guides decision making and the development of all future policy, strategy and plans in relation to sustainable practices for Council’s operations and community capacity building. The policy applies to all Councillors, Council staff, contractors and others that act on Council’s behalf to ensure they work in accordance with the policy principles.

These policy principles are also aspirational for Ipswich’s community whereby, through the commitment and actions of Council, they will be realised.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
Chief Executive Officer and General Managers	The CEO and General Managers' are responsible for advocating, promoting and supporting the principles of the Sustainability Policy as a business as usual practice.
Environment & Sustainability Branch	<p><u>Branch/Section Manager</u> Responsible for overall development, implementation and monitoring of the Sustainability Policy</p> <p><u>Sustainability Team</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for the development, drafting and implementation and review of the Sustainability Policy and strategies in consultation with key stakeholders. • Provision of technical support and expertise to assist in the implementation of this policy. • Provision of regular reporting and analytics. • Liaison and education with key business partners such as procurement, maintenance operations and infrastructure.
All Ipswich City Council Employees	Responsible for understanding the principles outlined in the Sustainability Policy and applying these principles in planning, decision making activities and reporting.

8. Key Stakeholders

The Sustainability Policy applies broadly across all Council departments. Key stakeholders sit within each department and branch. However, stakeholders of note are those in the following teams:

- Infrastructure and Environment Department – Natural Environment and Land Management, Resource Recovery, Asset Management, City Maintenance, Strategic Infrastructure & Planning, Fleet and Construction, Emergency Management & Sustainability.
- Corporate Services Department – Procurement, Corporate Governance, Legal Services, Financial Services and Treasury.
- Planning and Regulatory Services Department – Strategic Planning, Environment Assessment, Environmental Health and Development Assessment.
- Coordination and Performance Department – Corporate Planning and Major Projects.
- Community, Cultural and Economic Development Department – Art Gallery, Libraries, Sport & Recreation, Community Facilities, Economic Development and Community Safety & Innovation.
- Ipswich community – residents and businesses

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Council's corporate sustainability monitoring and evaluation measures for continual improvement are:

- Organisational greenhouse gas emissions
- Council's operational energy, water and waste consumption.
- Data collection that informs decision making in projects and certain processes across Ipswich City Council's operations.
- Sustainability policy principles embedded in council's corporate documentation.
Level of community engagement in council delivered sustainability programs.

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 will prosper 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. Policy Owner

General Manager, Infrastructure and Environment is the policy owner and the Environment and Sustainability Manager is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.