Environmental Protection Policy

Collaboration Communication Integrity Efficiency Leadership

Version Control and Objective ID	Version No: 1	Objective ID:
Approved by Chief Executive Officer on		
Date of Review		

1. Statement

Ipswich City Council will be a leader in environmental excellence by identifying, preventing, and managing any potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the delivery of its operations, activities, products, and services. Environmental best practice is an important objective for all our community, including those who work and do business in Ipswich, and for Council.

2. Purpose and Principles

This policy guides Council's decision-making based on principles of protecting the environment, its values, and the ecosystem functions, fulfilling compliance obligations, and continually improving environmental management to enhance environmental performance across the city.

The following principles underpin Council's commitment to environmental protection:

- Plan – Do, Check, Act
- Understand – Potential impacts of actions and activities
- Protect – the environment by preventing or mitigating adverse environmental impacts
- Comply – with all relevant environmental legal obligations
- Regulate – Undertake its duties as a Regulatory Authority for development and land use activities in accordance with all relevant obligations and standards
- Manage – environmental-related risk effectively and in a manner that is integrated with other risks across Council
- Continually improve – the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of environmental management to enhance environmental condition outcomes and performance
- Encourage – responsible environmental practice by all stakeholders across Ipswich
- Commit – to best practice environmental incident control, rectification, and reporting
- Achieve – environmental objectives
- Strive – For better environmental compliance and environmental outcomes for development and land use across Ipswich beyond compliance

3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy delivers against the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan theme/s:

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

4. Regulatory Authority

Implementation, application, and governance of this policy will consider the following regulatory instruments:

Queensland:

- Environmental Protection Act 1994
    - Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019
    - Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2019
    - Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019
    - Environmental Protection Regulation 2019
- Water Act 2000
- Fisheries Act 1994
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003
- Queensland Heritage Act 1992
- Vegetation Management Act 1999
- Biosecurity Act 2014
- Planning Act 2016
- Local Government Act 2009
- Nature Conservation Act 1992
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995
- Environmental Offsets Act 2014
- Other associated subordinate documents

Australia:

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Native Title Act 1993
- Airports Act 1996
- Other associated subordinate documents

5. Human Rights Commitment

Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* 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

- This policy applies to all council staff, contractors, and others working on Council's behalf to ensure they work in accordance with the policy principles and in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- This policy applies to all of Council business or activities which have the potential to cause adverse environmental impact or influence functions including pollution, contamination,

damage, biosecurity impacts, and issues affecting soil, air, water, land, flora, fauna and humans including cultural heritage, cultural landscapes and their interrelations.

- This policy applies to environmental protection within Council's legislative requirements and responsibilities. This policy does not apply to activities that are outside of Council's control.
- This policy does not apply to Federal or State matters e.g., investigation, management, regulations, licenses and permits which sit with the QLD Department of Environment, Science, and Innovation.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Councillors	The Councillors are responsible for advocating, promoting, and supporting the principles of the Environmental Protection Policy
Chief Executive Officer and General Managers	The CEO and General Managers are responsible for advocating, promoting and supporting the principles of the Environmental Protection Policy and embedding the principles as a business-as-usual practice.
Environment and Sustainability Department	<u>General Manager/Manager Natural Environment</u> Responsible for the overall development, implementation, and monitoring of the Environmental Protection Policy <u>Strategic Catchment and Conservation Planning Team</u> • Responsible for advising on the development, drafting, implementation, monitoring and review of the Environmental Protection Policy and associated strategies, plans and procedures in consultations with key stakeholders • Provision of technical support and expertise to assist in the implementation of this policy • Provision of liaison and education with key internal stakeholders • Collecting data on impacts and issues
Branch and Section Managers	• Responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the Environmental Protection Policy within their work areas • Responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of associated standards, guidelines, manuals, work instruction and plans required for implementation of the Environmental Protection Policy within their work areas
All Ipswich City Council Employees, Contractors and others working on behalf of Council	Responsible for understanding the principles outlined in the Environmental Protection Policy and applying these principles throughout their work including in planning, decision-making, operations, monitoring, construction, maintenance, compliance and reporting of any issues or potential issues which arise

Everyone including the community, people who work and do business in Ipswich and all of Council	The Environmental Protection Act 1994 (the Act) states that everyone has a general environmental duty (GED). This means that everyone is responsible for the actions they take that affect the environment.

8. Key Stakeholders

The policy applies broadly across all Council departments. Key stakeholders who will be consulted during the review process include:

- Environment and Sustainability Department
  - Land Management and Natural Areas Planning
  - Strategic Catchment and Conservation Planning
  - Resource Recovery
  - Environment and Sustainability Education and Awareness
- Asset and Infrastructure Services Department
  - Infrastructure Strategy
  - Capital Delivery
  - Works and Field Services
- Planning and Regulatory Services Department
  - City Design
  - Engineering, Health, and Environment
  - Development Planning
  - Compliance

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The following measures will determine the success and effectiveness of the policy:

- Broad staff participation in training that builds understanding and adoption of the policy and subsidiary documents
- Environmental Protection Policy principles and requirements embedded in Council's corporate documentation and ProMapps
- Effective reporting and a reduction of environmental incidents and complaints

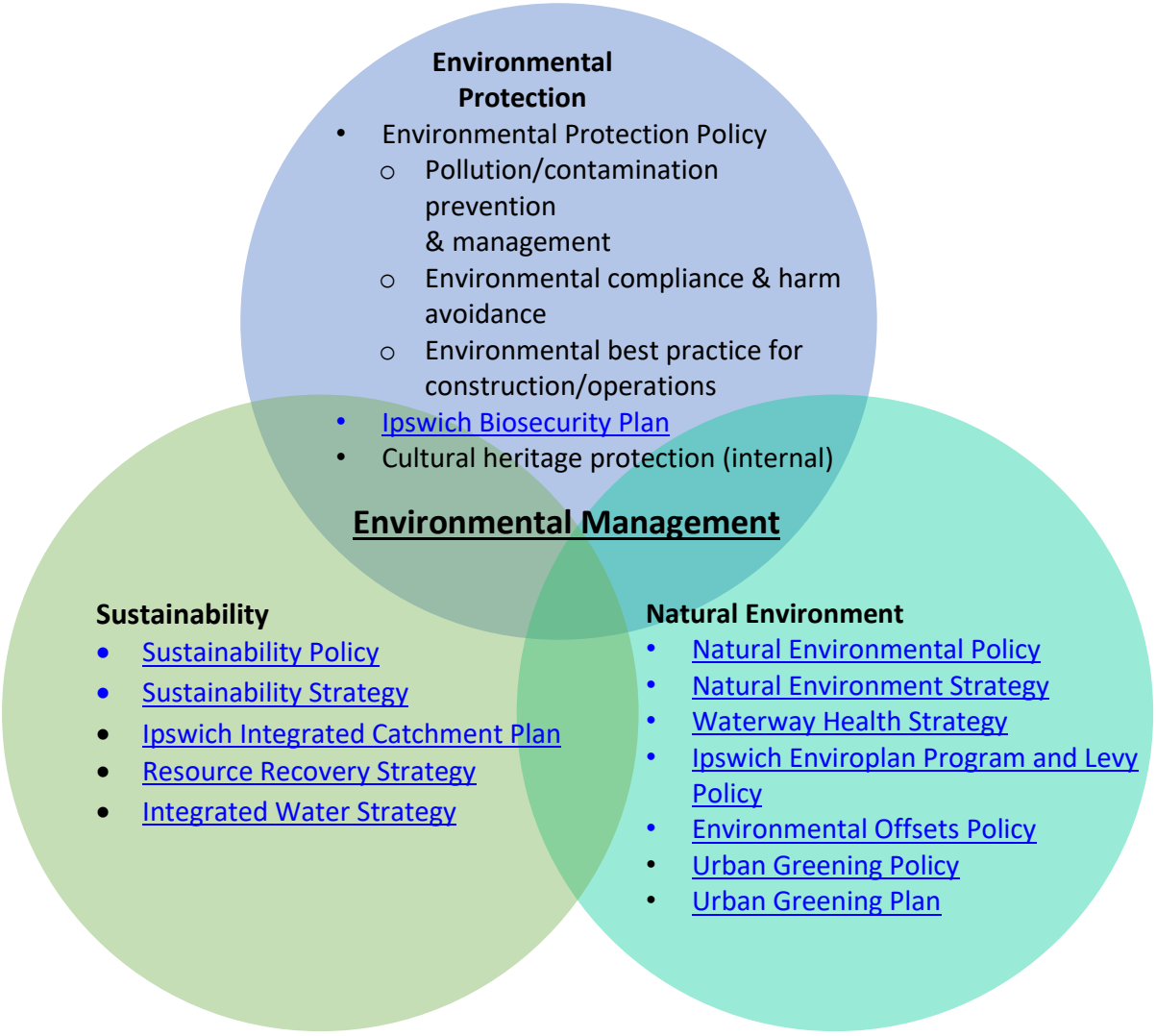
10. Definitions

Key Term	Definitions (from AS/NZS ISO 14001:2016)
Environment	Surroundings in which an organisation operates, including, air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelations
Environmental Impacts	Changes to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly, or partially resulting from an organisation's environmental aspects

Environmental Aspect	Element of an organisation's activities or products or services that interacts or can interact with the environment
Environmental Condition	State or characteristic of the environment as determined at a certain point in time

11. Related Documents

Environmental Management has been allocated to three interlinking aspects and their associated documentation: Environmental Protection, Sustainability and Natural Environment.



12. Policy Owner

The General Manager (Environment and Sustainability) is the policy owner, and the Manager (Natural Environment) is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.