

## **Environmental Sustainability Policy**

### **1. Background**

Mosman Council has a role and obligation in protecting the environment, minimising adverse environmental impacts, remediating environmental problems, reducing resource consumption and enhancing the sustainability of Mosman. The Local Government Act 1993 requires all councils, councillors and council employees to have regard to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD).

### **2. Purpose**

This policy demonstrates Council's commitment to sustainability and sound environmental management. It also highlights how the principles of ESD and sustainability should be integrated into all of Council's planning, operations, activities and service delivery and advocated to the Mosman community.

### **3. Policy**

Mosman Council is committed to:

- Protecting and conserving the environment, including natural resources, landscapes, ecological processes, biological diversity, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage and relics;
- Reducing the ecological footprint of Council and the community of Mosman as a whole, through the encouragement of avoidance of waste, sustainable use of resources and uptake of social responsibility and sustainable lifestyles practices;
- Preventing and minimising human impacts on the environment by incorporating the principles of ESD into planning, policy and procedures; and
- Excellence in environmental management, sustainability and corporate social responsibility, utilising current best practices where possible and applying expertise within Council to contribute to managing environmental issues where applicable.

### **4. Implementation**

The implementation of the policy will be achieved by:

- 1) Enhancing the environmental awareness of employees, contractors, councillors, volunteers and the community to build their capacity to protect the environment.
- 2) Fostering an environmentally responsible culture in Council workplaces, within the Local Government Area and broader community;
- 3) Building corporate social responsibility into all facets of the organisation including planning, operations and services;
- 4) Clearly identifying the environmental roles and responsibilities of staff and providing staff with appropriate knowledge, resources and training opportunities;
- 5) Ensuring all Council plans, policies and decision-making processes consider the principles of ESD and minimise adverse environmental effects;
- 6) Identifying and addressing environmental issues through timely investigations and robust analysis including environmental auditing, life cycle assessment and risk assessment techniques;
- 7) Remediating adverse environmental effects including those caused by environmental pollution incidents and accidents, in a timely and responsible manner;
- 8) Applying sustainability principles to the purchasing and procurement of goods and services and all Council contract specifications, including the principle of value for money and the life cycle of products;

- 9) Requiring suppliers and independent contractors to demonstrate environmentally responsible behaviour, and commitment to environmental management practices, consistent with the principles of ESD and sustainability and encouraging their use of environmental management systems, environmental management plans, environmental policies, and/or environmental labeling systems;
- 10) Ensuring responsible use of resources including water and energy, and implementing efficiency measures to reduce water and energy use on Council owned property and in the Local Government Area;
- 11) Continuing Council's commitment to reducing corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions, through the implementation of greenhouse gas reduction actions;
- 12) Implementing waste avoidance strategies and maximising resource recovery to conserve resources and reduce waste generation;
- 13) Implementing strategies to: i) reduce emissions of air pollutants and ensure good air quality in Mosman ii) ensure conservation of biological diversity both on land, in the intertidal zone and in the marine environment iii) appropriately manage the water cycle in its entirety, and iv) ensure the terrestrial environment is managed consistently with the principles of Total Catchment Management and ESD;
- 14) Ensuring ESD principles are adhered to in the planning, design and construction of infrastructure and asset management;
- 15) Ensuring building and development approvals meet ESD requirements and the effects on the environment are minimised, and sustainable design principles are incorporated into public domain improvements and the redevelopment of Council land; and
- 16) Striving for ongoing improvement in environmental performance through monitoring and evaluation.

## **5. Responsibilities**

All staff and councillors will be responsible for adhering to the Environmental Sustainability Policy within their areas of responsibility. The Manager of Environment and Services will have overall responsibility for the dissemination of the Environmental Sustainability Policy.

## **6. Communication**

This policy will be communicated to new staff members and Councillors through the new staff induction processes, and to existing staff via training.

## **7. Evaluation and Review**

This policy will be evaluated and reviewed by the Manager Environment and Services every three years to ensure it remains up-to-date and relevant.

The following mechanisms will be used for monitoring performance:

- Performance indicators in MOSPLAN / Environmental Management Plan (EMP);
- State of the Environment Reports and Community Environmental Contract reports; and
- Stakeholder feedback.

## **8. Related Documents**

This overarching policy relates to all other Council policies and programs, which are required to be consistent with the Environmental Sustainability Policy.