

# **GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL**

**Policy Number 31.POL2**

## **Sustainable Decision Making Policy**

**Version 2.1**

**Adopted 17 December 2013**

**Last Reviewed 19 June 2018**

<b>Business Unit:</b>	Sustainability and Environment
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Team Leader Sustainability and Environment
<b>Approved By:</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Next Review:</b>	6 months following Council General Election

## PURPOSE

The aim of this policy is to outline the sustainability principles to be applied as part of Council's strategic and operational functions.

This policy will provide guidance to the review and development of all other Council corporate procedures, policies and guidelines.

Adopting a sustainable focus to decision making across Council will enhance the health of the community and our natural environment while ensuring social justice, ethical governance, improved quality of life and economic prosperity for the City of Greater Shepparton.

This policy recognises the three components of the triple bottom line principle. Our economy is limited by the constraints of our society, whilst both our economy and society lie within the foundation of our environment and are dependent on the services it provides.



## OBJECTIVE

The policy will assist Council to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability by

- Ensuring all decisions are considerate of social, environmental and economic sustainability principles
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Address the impacts of climate change and build corporate and community resilience
- Maintaining and restoring the natural environment
- Efficient use of resources
- Reducing our environmental impact
- Providing leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility to the community and throughout the region

## SCOPE

This policy underpins all Council decisions, the development of all other policies, strategies, the management of projects and the delivery of services provided by Council, contractors and volunteers.

## DEFINITIONS

Reference term	Definition
Sustainable	Possess the means or skill to strengthen the capacity to continue over time.
Sustainable development	A constantly evolving concept that improves everyone's quality of life, including that of future generations, by reconciling economic growth, social development and environmental protection. (UNESCO)

## POLICY

### 1. Principles

- a. **Governance (Ethics), Social Equity and Justice (including community engagement)**  
Council is committed to ensuring our decision making processes are open, transparent, inclusive and supportive of our communities.
- b. **Natural Environment (Conservation and Enhancement)**  
Where possible, Council will enhance and conserve the natural environment in which we live.
- c. **Efficient use of resources**  
Council is committed to adopting and facilitating the efficient use of resources and encouraging sustainable consumption and production. Council should be leaders in reducing energy usage and develop solutions that support the development of, and access to, affordable renewable energy.
- d. **Urban Planning and Building Design**  
Council is committed to a strategic role for urban planning and design in addressing environmental, social, economic, health and cultural issues for the benefit of all.
- e. **Community Health and Wellbeing**  
Council is committed to protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of our community.
- f. **Vibrant Local Economy (including sustainable Council operations)**  
Council is committed to creating and ensuring a vibrant local economy that gives access to employment without compromising the sustainability of our environment.
- g. **Think Global Act Local (including partnerships)**  
Council is committed to recognising that our actions contribute to peace, justice, equity, sustainable development and protection of the planet at a local level.

## RELATED POLICIES AND CORPORATE PROCEDURES

- Greater Shepparton City Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030
- Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy
- Greater Shepparton City Council Plan 2017-2021 (Goal 2)
- Council Procurement Policy

## RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1989*

## REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed 6 months following the Council General Election.



22/6/18

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**Peter Harriott**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Date**