



His Worship the Mayor
Councillors
City of Marion

Notice of Environment Committee

Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre
245 Sturt Road, Sturt

Tuesday, 5 September 2023 at 8.00 pm

The CEO hereby gives Notice pursuant to the provisions under Section 83 of the *Local Government Act 1999* that an Environment Committee will be held.

A copy of the Agenda for this meeting is attached in accordance with Section 83 of the Act.

Meetings of the Council are open to the public and interested members of this community are welcome to attend. Access to the Council Chamber is via the main entrance to the Administration Centre on Sturt Road, Sturt.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Harrison", is positioned above the printed name.

Tony Harrison
Chief Executive Officer

1	OPEN MEETING.....	3
2	KAURNA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
3	ELECTED MEMBER DECLARATION OF INTEREST (IF ANY)	3
4	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	3
	4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 6 June 2023	3
5	BUSINESS ARISING	11
	5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items	11
6	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS - NIL	15
7	REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION.....	15
	7.1 Soft Plastic Recycling - Submission to Parliament SA.....	15
	7.2 Coastal Monitoring Update	22
	7.3 Environment Policy	40
8	REPORTS FOR NOTING - NIL	55
9	WORKSHOP / PRESENTATION ITEMS - NIL	55
10	OTHER BUSINESS	55
11	MEETING CLOSURE	55

1 Open Meeting

2 Kurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

3 Elected Member Declaration of Interest (if any)

4 Confirmation of Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 6 June 2023

Report Reference	EC230905R4.1
Originating Officer	Business Support Officer – Governance and Council Support – Cassidy Mitchell
Corporate Manager	Manager Office of the Chief Executive – Kate McKenzie
General Manager	Chief Executive Officer – Tony Harrison

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 6 June 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. E C 230606 - Final Minutes [4.1.1 - 7 pages]



**Minutes of the Environment Committee
held on Tuesday, 6 June 2023 at 8.00 pm
Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre
245 Sturt Road, Sturt**



**PRESENT**

Councillor Jason Veliskou (Chair)
Councillor Raelene Telfer
Councillor Sarah Luscombe
Councillor Joseph Masika

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer - Tony Harrison
General Manager City Services - Ben Keen
Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment – Mat Allen
Unit Manager, Environmental Sustainability - Rebecca Neumann
Coordinator Biodiversity - Jacob Lemon
Open Space Volunteer Coordinator - Sam Ryan
Resilient South Regional Coordinator - Dr Stefan Caddy-Retalic
Environmental Engagement Officer - Jess Mitchell

1 Open Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting at 8.04pm.

2 Kurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

3 Elected Member Declaration of Interest (if any)

The Chair asked if any member wished to disclose an interest in relation to any item being considered at the meeting.

The following interests were disclosed:

- Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes**4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2023**

Report Reference EC230606R4.1

Moved Councillor Luscombe

Seconded Councillor Telfer

That the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

EC230606 - Environment Committee Meeting - 6 June 2023



Carried Unanimously.

5 Business Arising

5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items

Report Reference EC230606R5.1

The schedule of upcoming items was discussed:

The committee decided on the following topics for the upcoming meetings:

5 September

- Coastal update
- Water update

7 November

- Carbon Neutral Plan update
- Environment Report Card

Topics to be considered for 2024 meetings

- Smoke from wood fires. Suggested presenters Environment Protection Authority and Community Safety.
- Whole of life stewardship including life cycle assessment and disposal of lithium batteries.

6 Confidential Items – Nil

7 Reports for Discussion

7.1 Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029

Report Reference EC230606R7.1

The committee noted the following during the presentation:

- Achievements from the Remnant Veg Plan 2018 -2023
- Opportunities for the Biodiversity Plan 2024 – 2029.
 - Strong monitoring and reporting focus.
 - Improved mapping, including of threatened species and biodiversity on private land.
 - Development of biodiversity precincts and icon species.
 - Supporting community leadership, engagement and volunteering.
 - Improved data planning e.g. weed control mapping.
 - Kaurua engagement.
 - Threatened species protection.
 - Integration of biodiversity through urban design and major developments.
 - Climate resilience in biodiversity.
 - Supporting commercial production of locally native species.
 - Key partnerships.



- Proposed timeframes.
- Service Level Options.

Questions/discussion from the Committee included:

- World Environment Day yesterday – A major community planting event was held at Oaklands Wetland in partnership with Friends of Lower Sturt River Landcare. 6300 native plants planted and 200 volunteers attended.
 - Noted that there was limited promotion on World Environment Day
- While there are fewer biodiversity sites in the northern suburbs of Marion, the development of wildlife corridors using biodiversity sensitive design, water sensitive urban design, natural landscaping and use of verge plantings will allow wildlife to move north.
- Green Adelaide, as specialists in this area, provides broad directions on biodiversity and associated funding. We align our priorities accordingly.
- The council area is not covered by the Native Vegetation Act, apart from a few small sections. Staff are advocating for it to cover more of the council area including valuable coastal biodiversity (previous resolution of council and noted in submissions on Planning Code).
- Remnant Vegetation Plan 2018 – 23 focused on restoration and protection of priority sites with remnant vegetation. Revegetation and establishment of new sites is a key component of the Biodiversity Plan, particularly in degraded “natural landscaping” sites which can assist with improving biodiversity across the region.
- Biodiversity sites are managed by staff, contractors and volunteers. Biodiversity Plan focuses on ongoing maintenance and that sites are kept to a standard.
 - Noted that education of staff is required and revegetation requires greater levels of management
- Increased community awareness/education of biodiversity values is important. This can be achieved through discussions with residents, more frequent mowing regimes, community education events, site signage and social media.
- Noted that the plan moves beyond the standard anthropocentric approach to biodiversity management.
- Supporting biodiversity on private land, currently achieved by programs such as Gazania Free Gardens and having conversations with landowners and developers. Not a lot of ‘big stick’ options due to lack of regulations but council can continue to advocate for changes to Planning Design Code and Native Vegetation Act. Native Vegetation Property Agreements are an option.
- It was noted that there are partnership opportunities for supporting local seedbanks/growing.
- It was noted that some Environment Committee members are also on the RAP committee and the Biodiversity Plan is an opportunity amplify that.



- It was noted that non-native species can provide ecological value. Weeds will be targeted depending on their level of threat to biodiversity and in accordance with a long term plan.
- Biodiversity Plan Option 1 (\$450,000) is a slight increase above current reserve management levels.
- Elements of the plan can be separated including Kaurna land management.
- It is noted that Councillors would like to be involved in the plan prior to it going to Council.
- It is noted that Councillors would like to contribute to a biodiversity update in City Limits.

ACTION

List of biodiversity sites being considered for each ward to be provided to the committee.

Moved Councillor Luscombe

Seconded Councillor Masika

That the Environment Committee:

1. Notes and provides feedback on the proposed priorities, timeframes and process for the development of City of Marion Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029.
2. Recommends the adoption of the plan (with associated feedback addressed) at the General Council meeting on 3rd October 2023.

Carried Unanimously.

7.2 Resilient South Update

Report Reference EC230606R7.2

The committee noted the following during the presentation:

- Resilient South is a partnership and there is a formal agreement with State Government.
- Developed Adaptation and Implementation Plans to highlight and tackle climate change impacts in our region.
- Led, supported and partnered on numerous projects: e.g., Climate Risk Governance Assessments, Community Workshops, Climate Ready Schools, Resilient Asset Management Project.
- Sector Agreement – seeking General Council endorsement next week (13 June 2023).
- Resilient Asset Management Project
 - Assets need to be resilient to climate change and area key contributor to regional resilience in an uncertain future.
- Future Trees Project
 - Many streets have low street tree species diversity, which is a risk in a changing climate.



- Electricity Regulations stipulate only trees on a permitted list may be planted near powerlines.
- Future Trees project is identifying exemplars of species that that could be added to the permitted list to increase species diversity and climate resilience.
- Regional Climate Action Plan
 - Prioritises the focus of Resilient South for the next 5 years.
 - Incorporates feedback from elected members, council staff, community and focused workshops with small businesses and young people.
 - Draft Plan to be provided to elected members in June.

Questions/discussion from the Committee included:

- Ongoing and planned emissions reductions activities include LED street lights, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, carbon sequestration through greening and biodiversity, carbon accounting, shared staff functions across councils (not just Resilient South).
- Council's share information through the following mechanisms: management committee (of staff from the 4 councils) meets monthly and email weekly, identify opportunities to collaborate or replicate projects and working groups including Climate Risk Governance and a Community of Practice on Housing and Development.
- Future tree planning will have linkages to the Biodiversity Plan and Trees Asset Management Plan. We are moving to an approach where urban trees will be managed for urban cooling and habitat, not just as amenity/horticulture.
- High density areas of council are the hottest, e.g., Edwardstown – this was justification for the Greening Edwardstown project. The tree planting programs prioritise areas of high urban heat, high opportunity e.g. verge space, and SEIFA index (a measure of social and economic disadvantage). Updated Urban Heat Mapping will be available shortly.
- It is noted that the impacts of sea level rise and extreme weather on private property and assets e.g. Seaside Pool, need to be considered to future proof our assets.
- Council has a comprehensive coastal monitoring project to understand our climate risk. The approach we use is consistent with other councils and we are leading in this space. We know what we need to monitor and are monitoring so we can respond appropriately. This data has been used in the planning of the Seaside Pool.
- Coastal climate change snapshot in Marion - Cliffs with rocks are more resilient, stormwater inundation not a significant issue, Field River mouth is at risk, however we do have good information about the rate of change.

Meeting Extension

Moved Councillor Masika

Seconded Councillor Luscombe

That meeting be extended until the conclusion of the items on the agenda.



Carried Unanimously.

9:22pm meeting extended.

Moved Councillor Luscombe

Seconded Councillor Masika

That the Environment Committee:

1. Notes the update on Resilient South provided by Regional Coordinator Stefan Caddy-Retalic.
2. Provides feedback for the upcoming review of the Resilient South Sector Agreement and Regional Climate Action Plan (ReCAP).

Carried Unanimously.

8 Reports for Noting - Nil

9 Workshop / Presentation Items - Nil

10 Other Business

11 Meeting Closure

The meeting shall conclude on or before 9.30pm unless there is a specific motion adopted at the meeting to continue beyond that time.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.41pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 5 DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023

CHAIRPERSON

5 Business Arising

5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items

Report Reference	EC230905R5.1
Originating Officer	Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services – Colleen Madsen
Corporate Manager	N/A
General Manager	Acting General Manager City Services – Angela Allison

REPORT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is to review the business arising from previous meetings of the Environment Committee meetings, the meeting schedule and upcoming items.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Committee:

- 1. Notes the business arising statement, meeting schedule and upcoming items.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. EC 230905 - Business Arising as at 05 September 2023 [**5.1.1** - 1 page]
2. EC 230905 - Schedule of Upcoming Items 2023 [**5.1.2** - 2 pages]

**CITY OF MARION
BUSINESS ARISING ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

AS AT 05 SEPTEMBER 2023 

Meeting Date	Document	Item No.	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
06 June 2023	EC230606R7.1	7.1	Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029	List of biodiversity sites being considered for each Ward to be provided to the Committee.	J Lemon	Listing emailed to Committee Members on 22 June 2023.	Complete
06 June 2023	EC230606R7.1	7.1	Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029	Recommends the adoption of the plan (with associated feedback addressed) at the General Council meeting on 3 October 2023.	J Lemon	As there is no Council meeting scheduled for 3 October 2023, this Plan will be presented at the 24 October 2023 Council meeting.	

* Completed items to be removed are shaded

Environment Committee – 2022 Schedule of upcoming items

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 1 February	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Workshop Agenda for 2023	W				
Environmental Update	P			R Neumann	
Parliamentary Inquiry into the Urban Forest	W			R Neumann	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 4 April	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Trees Asset Management and Greening Strategy	R			R Neumann / I Seccafien	
Waste and Recycling	R			R Neumann / A Byrne	
Education within the broader community	R			R Neumann / B Jaggard	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 6 June	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029	R			J Lemon / R Neumann	
Resilient South	R			R Neumann	

Environment Committee – 2022 Schedule of upcoming items

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 5 September	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Coastal Monitoring Update	R			R Neumann	
Soft Plastic Recycling – Submission to Parliament SA	R			A Byrne	
Environment Policy Review	R	Referred from FORUM2300704		R Neumann	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 7 November	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Carbon Neutral Plan Update	R			R Neumann	
Environment Report Card	R			J Mitchell	

Topics for consideration in 2024

- Smoke from wood fires. Suggested presenters Environment Protection Authority and Community Safety.
- Whole of life stewardship including life cycle assessment and disposal of lithium batteries.

6 Confidential Items - Nil

7 Reports for Discussion

7.1 Soft Plastic Recycling - Submission to Parliament SA

Report Reference	EC230905R7.1
Originating Officer	Waste Education Officer – Allison Byrne
Corporate Manager	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
General Manager	Acting General Manager City Services – Angela Allison

REPORT HISTORY

Report Reference	Report Title
GC230328M15.2	Soft Plastics
GC220208R11.1	Single Use Plastic Product Bans

REPORT OBJECTIVE

To inform the Environment Committee about the South Australian Parliament's invitation for comments on recycling of soft plastics (Attachment 1), and to seek feedback on the City of Marion's draft response (Attachment 2).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Select Committee of the Legislative Council has been established to inquire into and report on the recycling of soft plastics and other recyclable material in South Australia (Attachment 1).

The Committee has invited any persons or organisations wanting to make a written submission to the inquiry to do so by Friday, 8 September 2023.

Council has identified investigating options for recycling soft plastics as a priority in the *City of Marion Business Plan 2023-2027*. A draft submission to the inquiry has therefore been prepared highlighting Council's concerns and priorities in dealing with soft plastics (Attachment 2). An extension to this deadline has been granted to the City of Marion until Thursday, 14 September to accommodate Council consideration of the draft submission for endorsement at the General Council Meeting on Tuesday, 12 September 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Committee:

- 1. Recommends that the draft submission to the Select Committee of the SA Legislative Council on "recycling of soft plastics and other recyclable material" (Attachment 1) is endorsed at the 12 September 2023 General Council Meeting subject to the inclusion of comments from the Environment Committee.**

DISCUSSION

With Australians generating more single-use plastic waste per capita than anywhere else in the world, numerous strategies to avoid, reduce and recycle soft plastics need to be investigated that

involve all levels of government and business.

A Select Committee of the Legislative Council has been established to inquire into and report on the recycling of soft plastics and other recyclable material in South Australia (Attachment 1).

Administration staff have prepared a draft submission that addresses a list of questions being addressed by the Select Committee (Attachment 2). This submission describes how the cessation of REDcycle has affected community confidence in recycling systems and raised community expectations of government to resolve this problem.

The submission also lists recommended strategies and actions for reducing the generation of soft plastics as well as increasing resource recovery within a local circular economy.

Council's submission is consistent with previous feedback provided to State Government on proposed single-use plastic items to be phased out and includes community priorities that have been identified in recent consultation related to the review of Council's Business Plan.

Key recommendations included in the draft response include:

- Development of robust end markets to support recycling of soft plastics.
- Extending producer responsibility to product manufacturers instead of all material management costs being borne by councils and materials recovery facilities such as the Southern Materials Recovery Facility (SMRF).
- Utilisation of the EPA SA's solid waste levy to help fund new recycling infrastructure for soft plastics, stimulation of end markets and education campaigns to recover lost ground in consumer confidence.
- Collaboration with other Councils and Government bodies is essential for consistent recycling education and messaging.
- Funding for Universities and Research Centres is important to ensure research and development occurs for recycling of soft plastics.
- The City of Marion is willing to work with key stakeholders on a recycling approach for soft plastics.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1_ Call for Submissions Select Committee on recycling of soft plastics & other recyclable [7.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2_City of Marion Draft submission to Legislative Council SA Select Committee on Recycling of Soft Plastics [7.1.2 - 4 pages]



**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON RECYCLING OF SOFT PLASTICS AND
OTHER RECYCLABLE MATERIAL**

A Select Committee of the Legislative Council has been established to inquire into and report on the recycling of soft plastics and other recyclable material in South Australia, with particular reference to:

- (a) How South Australia has responded to REDcycle being unable to process soft plastics;
- (b) Investigate how supermarkets and other collection points have ceased collections and what can be done to re-establish these services;
- (c) Determine whether funding from the state government (including Green Industries SA funding) has been sufficient to support South Australian businesses and local government councils within the soft plastics and other recyclables industry, including aluminium;
- (d) Identifying short and long term opportunities and solutions to ensure soft plastics can be recycled in South Australia;
- (e) Examining strategies more broadly to reduce soft plastic waste generation and better management of commercial and residential waste; and
- (f) Any other related matters.

Any person or organisation wanting to make a written submission to the inquiry, or register an interest in presenting oral evidence to the Committee, is invited to do so by Friday 8 September 2023. Please note, the Committee reserves the right to determine which witnesses will be invited to provide an oral submission.

Written submissions and expressions of interest should be addressed to the Secretary of the Committee at:

E-mail: screcycling@parliament.sa.gov.au or to
GPO Box 572, Adelaide 5001

For queries or to discuss the submissions due date please contact the Secretary on ph: 08 82379416 or the email address above.

Robyn Schutte
Secretary to the Committee

XX September 2023

Ms. Robyn Schutte
Secretary to the Committee
Select Committee on Recycling of Soft Plastics and Other Recyclable Material
Legislative Council of South Australia
Parliament House, North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms. Schutte

**SUBMISSION TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON RECYCLING OF SOFT PLASTICS AND
OTHER MATERIAL**

The City of Marion is pleased to submit a response to the Legislative Council of South Australia's Select Committee inquiry into the recycling of soft plastics and other materials. The City of Marion is supportive of further inquiry into a sustainable model for large scale collection and recycling of soft plastics.

The City of Marion's key recommendations for the recycling of soft plastics include:

- Development of robust end markets to support recycling of soft plastics.
- Extending producer responsibility to product manufacturers instead of all material management costs being borne by councils and materials recovery facilities such as the Southern Materials Recovery Facility (SMRF).
- Utilisation of the EPA SA's solid waste levy to help fund new recycling infrastructure for soft plastics, stimulation of end markets and education campaigns to recover lost ground in consumer confidence.
- Collaboration with other Councils and Government bodies is essential for consistent recycling education and messaging.
- Funding for Universities and Research Centres is important to ensure research and development occurs for recycling of soft plastics.
- The City of Marion is willing to work with key stakeholders on a recycling approach for soft plastics.

Further details are included in the following submission which has been developed in consultation with the City of Marion Environment Committee and was endorsed at the 12 September 2023 General Council Meeting.

Background

Local government plays a significant role in educating the community and encouraging their participation in 'drop-off' recycling programs for hard-to-recycle waste which is not able to be collected in domestic kerbside collection bins including scrap metal, electrical waste, batteries, light globes, chemicals, and paint. Until the closure of REDcycle, the City of Marion was advising the community to keep soft plastic out of the yellow bin and take to supermarkets for recycling as the preferred and strongly promoted option, with the only other alternative to place it in the red bin for disposal to landfill.

The City of Marion has collaborated with other councils, the Local Government Association of South Australia, and State Government in efforts to develop kerbside services in line with industry change (such as the advent of the 3-bin system and capture of food waste in the green bin) and to deliver consistent state-wide recycling messaging to the public.

Council's response below directly addresses the focus areas identified by the Select Committee in their call for submissions.

a.) How South Australia has responded to REDcycle being unable to process soft plastics

- REDcycle had previously reported while it was operational that 25% of all soft plastic collected in the REDcycle program came from South Australia (7% of Australia's population), which demonstrates how actively the South Australian community participated in this program.
- After the removal of REDcycle collection points for soft plastics at Coles and Woolworths in November 2022, Council received numerous expressions of complaint, concern, and frustration at having to landfill soft plastics as their only option.
- Our community continues to enquire of Council to what is being done to resolve the issue, with the expectation of a government-led solution to this problem and look to local government due to its role in collecting household waste and recyclables.
- The REDcycle collapse has resulted in reputational damage to the council whereby residents feel let down and untrusting of the integrity of recycling systems, which in turn affects householders' commitment to recycling and undermines recycling education efforts.

b.) How supermarkets and other collection points have ceased collections and what can be done to re-establish these services

- For a short time after closure of the REDcycle program at Coles and Woolworths, the soft plastic drop-off points locally managed in SA by Foodlands and YCA Recycling continued receiving soft plastics, but before long they also closed their collection points due to receiving unsustainable volumes from the other supermarkets beyond capacity to manage.
- The City of Marion is monitoring with interest the [soft plastics taskforce and roadmap](#) for a short-term solution to manage the soft plastics stockpile and to facilitate the re-opening of in-store collections for recycling at major supermarkets.
- To enable large scale soft plastic recycling, these factors should be considered:
 - Upscaling of local infrastructure for collection and processing.
 - Supply chain traceability for verification of sustainability claims.
 - Circularity of markets for the soft plastics.

c.) State government funding to support South Australian businesses within the soft plastics and other recyclables industry, including aluminium

- State government investment in Plastic Free SA, single-use plastic bans, Replace the Waste and Which Bin SA campaigns has been important for advancing waste reduction goals and continued investment in these programs is vital.
- Further funding and support is necessary for establishment or expansion of industries for recycling soft plastics and other materials. A critical key component is that a sufficient scale and diversity of circular end markets are developed.
- The SMRF, which processes our recyclables, were reluctant to participate in a trial of kerbside collection and sorting of soft plastics due to the absence of reliable end markets for the collected materials, which presented a risk of stockpiling.
- The City of Marion would like to see more of the EPA SA's solid waste levy utilised to fund new recycling infrastructure for soft plastics, stimulation of end markets and

education campaigns to recover lost ground in consumer confidence once a sustainable solution is implemented.

d.) Short and long-term opportunities and solutions to ensure soft plastics can be recycled in South Australia

- The REDcycle program at Coles and Woolworths only received around 2% of Australia's soft plastic waste and could be well-complemented by another collection system such as the 'bag in kerbside bin' collection system currently being trialled in NSW, VIC, and SA, if significant upscaling of end markets is achieved.
- Financial dis-incentives should form part of a long-term solution to the problem of soft plastic waste to encourage manufacturers to reduce the volumes of plastic waste they produce and to ensure for the plastics they produce that there is a circular economy for the material.
 - Other countries such as the United Kingdom have recently introduced a [plastic packaging tax](#), imposed on domestically manufactured or imported packaging which contains less than 30% recycled plastic.
 - Plastic packaging taxes have also been introduced in Spain and Italy, based on a fee per kilogram of non-recycled plastic used in products.

e.) Strategies to reduce soft plastic waste generation and better manage commercial and residential waste

- Mechanisms need to be put in place to prevent the cost-shifting of end-of-life management of soft plastics to local governments and households via rates; producers of waste must take some responsibility of the cost for managing the soft plastics they manufacture and import.
- Producers and manufacturers of soft plastic waste must take financial and material management responsibility away from the public sector via a compulsory (not voluntary) [extended producer responsibility \(EPR\) scheme](#).
- Taxes or other similar instruments need to be imposed to prioritise or mandate the use of recycled plastic over virgin plastic inputs into products.
- [Plastic Free SA](#) is a great resource demonstrating the value of incentivising businesses to reduce plastic waste and single-use packaging.
- The [waste hierarchy](#) and [circular economy principles](#) should always guide decision-making.
- Funding relevant research by universities, co-operative research centres and other groups such as CSIRO is important.
- The Australian Government must be held to account for its National Packaging Target of 70% of plastic packaging being recyclable or compostable by 2025.
- Recycling needs to become a lesser focus for thinking about managing the soft plastic waste problem, with greater emphasis on avoiding and reducing the volumes of soft plastic packaging, particularly as Australians generate more single-use plastic waste per capita than anywhere else in the world according to [Clean Up Australia](#).
- Opportunities for State and/or Federal government intervention include:
 - Regulating businesses to reduce product packaging material.
 - Encouraging circular-use products and discouraging linear-use products.
 - Introducing criteria for products to be addressed by legislation or regulation, including:
 - Plastic products designed for disposal after single-use,
 - Poor quality plastic products commonly disposed to landfill after single use,
 - Product unable or unlikely to be recycled.

In summary, the City of Marion would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the South Australian Government and industry stakeholders to develop a robust, sustainable waste reduction approach for soft plastics.

Thank you for your consideration of City of Marion's feedback on the Select Committee's inquiry. For any queries about this submission, please contact Allison Byrne, Education Officer Waste Education Officer on 0412 057 104 or via email at allison.byrne@marion.sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Kris Hanna
Mayor
City of Marion

7.2 Coastal Monitoring Update

Report Reference	EC230905R7.2
Originating Officer	Senior Environmental Planner – Rebecca Neumann
Corporate Manager	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
General Manager	Acting General Manager City Services - Angela Allison

REPORT HISTORY

Report Reference	Report Title
GC190723R10	Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Plan - Stage 3 Monitoring Plan

REPORT OBJECTIVE

To provide the Environment Committee with an update on the coastal monitoring program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, Council endorsed the development and delivery of an annual coastal monitoring program over five years to assist in collecting better data on the timing and nature of coastal change and inform future decisions on coastal adaptation.

Since this time, baseline studies and a monitoring approach have been developed and two annual monitoring reports have been completed with the third due at the end of 2023. A final annual monitoring report will be produced in 2024 along with an evaluation of the program and recommendations for future funding.

No major coastal hazards or erosion events have occurred during the monitoring period, however gradual changes in coastal conditions are being regularly observed and ongoing monitoring is likely to be required.

Funding and technical support from the State Government (Coast Protection Board) has been received for all stages of the project completed so far.

This report provides an update on the coastal program and outlines priorities for the remaining two years of funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Committee:

- 1. Notes the update on the coastal monitoring program and provides feedback / questions.**

DISCUSSION

Background

The Marion coast has not had high exposure to coastal erosion in recent history other than along Hallett Cove Beach where sand retention and management of embankments have been ongoing challenges. In 2012 City of Marion received funding support from the State Government (Coast

Protection Board) for the *Hallett Cove Beach Coastal Management Study*¹ to determine future management needs of this area. The study highlighted rising sea levels as a risk with protection of embankments and dunes needing further consideration in the future.

In November 2018, the City of Marion finalised its first detailed *Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Study*² that assessed the vulnerability of the entire City of Marion coastline to climate change. The study highlighted management actions that required further consideration, especially for higher risk areas along Hallett Cove Beach foreshore and at several locations along the cliffs identified as having less-resistant geology.

In July 2019, Council endorsed the *City of Marion Coastal Climate Change Monitoring Plan 2019-2024*³ with funding allocated conditional to matching funding for key activities being secured from the State Government. This ongoing approach to coastal monitoring forms the basis for Council's future climate coastal adaptation decisions.

Annual data on coastal hazards is being collected by the council along the coastline with reporting at the end of each calendar year. This program aims to understand the nature of coastal change to allow for efficient and timely decisions on coastal management. Evidence of coastal erosion is being regularly observed at Hallett Cove (adjacent to Heron Way Reserve) and at the mouth of the Field River.

To the south, the City of Onkaparinga conducts regular coastal monitoring and is in the process of developing a coastal climate change adaptation plan.

To the north, the 28 km beach strip between Kingston Park and Outer Harbor has been actively managed by the State Government through the Adelaide's Living Beaches strategy. The primary focus of coastal protection in this area has been on sand replenishment. Individual Councils are starting further consideration on the impacts of rising sea levels in these areas, particularly for lower-lying regions that may be subject to inundation.

The City of Marion is working regionally to progress consistency in coastal adaptation planning. This includes through the [Adelaide Coastal Councils Network](#) (Cr Luscombe is a delegate to this group) and the [SA Climate Ready Coasts](#) program being coordinated by the SA LGA.

City of Marion Coastal Adaptation Study

Council's baseline assessments of coastal conditions are summarised in series of reports referred to "Coastal Adaptation Study Cell Reports." For the purposes of monitoring, the City of Marion coastline was divided into four cells. The boundaries of these cells have been determined by the local geomorphology (rock types and landforms).

The Coastal Adaptation Study focusses on describing the underlying coastal conditions for each cell and the history of settlement and management. These reports conclude with summaries and recommendations that can be built on with adaptation planning decisions as information is gathered over time.

The current Coastal Adaptation Study Cell Reports were updated in 2022 and can be viewed via the links below (note these reports are around 150 pages each and designed to be viewed online through a PDF viewer with a single page on the screen – this allows viewing of modelled sea-level changes on images of the coast).

Coastal Adaptation Cell Reports:

- [Attachment 1: Cell 1 Marino - Coastal Adaptation Study](#)

¹ Lord, Doug (2012). Hallett Cove Coastal Management Study. Prepared by Coastal Environment Pty Ltd for the City of Marion. www.marion.sa.gov.au/services-we-offer/environment/coasts

² Western, Mark (2018). City of Marion Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Study. Prepared by Integrated Coasts for the City of Marion. Endorsed by City of Marion 27 November 2018. www.marion.sa.gov.au/services-we-offer/environment/coasts

³ Western, Mark (2019). City of Marion Coastal Monitoring Program 2019-2024. Prepared by Integrated Coasts for the City of Marion. Endorsed by City of Marion Meeting 19 July 2019. www.marion.sa.gov.au/services-we-offer/environment/coasts

- [Attachment 2: Cell 2 Hallett Cove Cliffs North - Coastal Adaptation Study](#)
- [Attachment 3: Cell 3 Hallett Cove Beach - Coastal Adaptation Study](#)
- [Attachment 4: Cell 4 Hallett Cove Cliffs South - Coastal Adaptation Study](#)

City of Marion Annual Coastal Monitoring Reports

Each calendar year we are working with specialist consultants to gather detailed information on coastal conditions and comparing them back against our baseline study to review our coastal adaptation priorities and response timeframes.

This annual coastal monitoring work is delivered over the calendar year to make sure that winter (the time of highest coastal impact) is captured in a single report and not split over financial years. The coastal monitoring activities include:

- Captures of localised 3D terrain to detect changes in beach volume in hot spot areas (Hallett Cove beach and the Field River mouth).
- Monitoring of CoastSnap images.
- Recording of high tide marks and shoreline change over time.
- Recording of wind and wave conditions to detect changes.
- Investigation and recording of storm impacts in hot spots.

The current coastal monitoring cell reports include data collected in 2021 and 2022. The next report for 2023 will be due in January 2024. The coastal monitoring cell reports are provided below for general information. Council staff review these reports and identify priorities to be brought to Council for decision as required.

Annual Coastal Monitoring Cell Reports (2021 & 2022 combined) can be viewed below:

- [Attachment 5: Cell 1 Marino – Coastal Monitoring 2021 & 2022](#)
- [Attachment 6: Cell 2 Hallett Cove Cliffs North – Coastal Monitoring 2021 & 2022](#)
- [Attachment 7: Cell 3 Hallett Cove Beach – Coastal Monitoring 2021 & 2022](#)
- [Attachment 8: Cell 4 Hallett Cove Cliff South - Coastal Monitoring 2021 & 2022](#)

The final coastal monitoring cell report will be developed in 2024 and will also include an evaluation of the coastal monitoring program.

Upcoming Priorities

The coastal adaptation priorities in the Coastal Adaptation Cell Reports and Annual Coastal Monitoring Reports are being regularly updated and reviewed through the monitoring program. Key findings have been summarised in Attachment 9.

2023 Terrain Capture

A major activity for the next period is a recapture of the high-resolution coastal terrain baseline. This baseline was last captured in 2018. The data area presented in a 3D model that can be overlaid with historical data. This will enable an analysis of any change in coastal terrain since 2018 and can be used to identify areas of change or instability that require further geotechnical investigation.

Field River Dunes Action Plan

The sand dune at the mouth of the Field River has shown to be vulnerable to storm impacts over the monitoring period. Due to the existing and future vulnerability of this location and the presence of high value ecological, cultural and community assets, an adaptation action plan is required.

Over the next two years council has committed to work with stakeholders in the area to identify vulnerabilities and make decisions on adaptation priorities and action. This decision-making will include if and how the dune area will be protected and over what period.

Review of Coastal Monitoring Program

In the final year of the current funded coastal monitoring program (2024), a major review of the program will be conducted and recommendations for future activities will be made. It is likely that





due to the comprehensive baseline established in this period, then the intensity of monitoring activity could be reduced slightly. If there was a sudden escalation in sea level rise (as could occur with melting of polar icesheets), then this would need to be reviewed again.

ATTACHMENTS

Note: Attachments 1-8 are for intended for online viewing and are presented for general information only. They should not be printed due to their large size.

- [Attachment 1: Cell 1 Marino - Coastal Adaptation Study](#)
 - [Attachment 2: Cell 2 Hallett Cove Cliffs North - Coastal Adaptation Study](#)
 - [Attachment 3: Cell 3 Hallett Cove Beach - Coastal Adaptation Study](#)
 - [Attachment 4: Cell 4 Hallett Cove Cliffs South - Coastal Adaptation Study](#)
 - [Attachment 5: Cell 1 Marino – Coastal Monitoring 2021 & 2022](#)
 - [Attachment 6: Cell 2 Hallett Cove Cliffs North – Coastal Monitoring 2021 & 2022](#)
 - [Attachment 7: Cell 3 Hallett Cove Beach – Coastal Monitoring 2021 & 2022](#)
 - [Attachment 8: Cell 4 Hallett Cove Cliff South - Coastal Monitoring 2021 & 2022](#)
1. Attachment 9 Coastal Monitoring Priorities Summary Table [7.2.1 - 1 page]
 2. Attachment 10 Environment Committee 5 Sept 2023 Coastal Monitoring Update [7.2.2 - 13 pages]

Attachment 8. Coastal monitoring priorities summary.

Location	Status	Outlook
Marino 	Current Risk: Low <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes being detected during storms in some areas. Stormwater impacts are visible. 	Future risk: uncertain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing cliff monitoring is required as sea levels rise and coastal conditions change (including stormwater impacts). Possibility for slumping and rockfalls exist in areas of unstable geology under changed future conditions. Rock revetment at northern tip of The Esplanade may need reviewing.
Hallett Cove Cliffs North 	Current Risk: Low <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes being detected during storms in some areas. Stormwater impacts are visible. 	Future risk: uncertain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing cliff monitoring is required as sea levels rise and coastal conditions change (including stormwater impacts). Possibility for slumping and rockfalls exist in areas of unstable geology under changed future conditions. Ongoing monitoring of stormwater in Kurnabinna Gully is required.
Hallett Cove Beach 	Current Risk: Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion along the along back-beach embankments is occurring during severe storms. 	Future risk: high <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to the beach embankments and Field River dunes will continue over time and adaptation options need to be assessed in the short-term (beyond the Seaside Pool project). Private property is not expected to be impacted within the short term (decades). Ongoing monitoring is required.
Hallett Cove Cliffs South 	Current Risk: Low <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes detected during the monitoring period. 	Future risk: Low <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resistant geology in this section provides more stability to the coastline.



Coastal Climate Change Update

Rebecca Neumann

Senior Environmental Planner

Presentation to:
Environment Committee 5 September 2023

marion.sa.gov.au

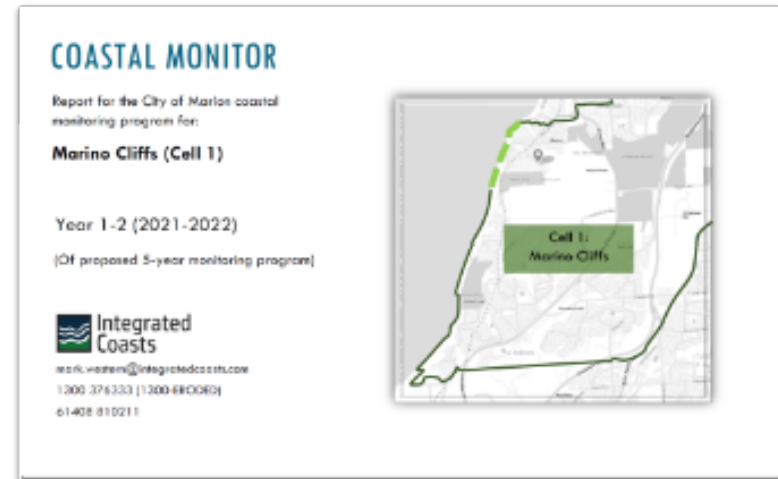
Coastal Monitoring Program



- Coastal Adaptation Study: Nov 2018, updated Nov 2022
- Coastal Monitoring Cell Reports: 2021 - 2024
- City of Marion: \$75,000 CoM five years
- DEW Coastal grants: \$103,750 (several grants)



Adaptation Studies



Annual Monitoring Reports

Coastal Adaptation Studies



2. Settlement history

Coastal Structures (continued)

Heron Way Reserve embankment

The natural dune system that existed below Heron Way Reserve was removed in the early 1970s and an earthen embankment installed (Figure a). Historical analysis shows that the toe of this embankment was progressively eroded from 1980s, including several erosion scarps in the storm of May 2016¹⁴.

Development Application DA 100/0932/99 to place rock protection on Hallett Cove Beach was declined by Coast Protection Board because 'an assessment of aerial photographs has indicated the area has remained relatively stable for the past five years and the Board does not consider there is a need for heavy protection measures at this time.

Rock revetment at Field River

Erosion of the sand spit on the southern side of Field River was a concern since the 1990s. The fragility of this dune is not abnormal for a sand spit in this location and in this case, the majority of the dune is a sand cap over the underlying clay substrate.

Development Application DA 100/0552/98 for a rip rap sea wall to the south side of Field River was not supported by Coast Protection Board who stated, 'While it is appreciated that the coastline as this location is subject to slow coastal erosion, it is not

currently threatening development, and the Branch would appreciate justification for undertaking the work at this time'.

Six years later, rock revetment was placed in front of the dune due to erosion and caving that was occurring at the base of the dune.

Coastal Walkway

The coastal walkway, installed in the 1990s, traverses across the back of the dunes along Hallett Cove Beach and at the top of the embankment of Heron Way Reserve. In 2021, a board walk was constructed across the dune system north of Field River. On the south side of Field River, the coastal walkway was widened, and rock revetment installed on its seaward edge.



Figures b & c. Rock revetment placed in front of the Field River dune, November 2004, Photograph, City of Marion.



Figure a. The natural dune system removed, earthen embankment installed, 1975, State Library of SA, SRG 847.1.1.31



¹⁴ This is likely to indicate that the toe was located incorrectly.

Coastal Adaptation Studies



Storm surge

Cell 1.1

Marino Cliffs

2100 scenario

Event: 1 in 100-year event

The Esplanade, Marino

The current 1 in 100-year event risk set by SA Coast Protection Board is:

Storm surge	2.40m AHD.
Sea level rise	1.00m
Wave set-up	0.30m
Risk	3.70m AHD

Wave run-up is an additional 0.80m and depicted in light blue.

Assessment.

Left: wave overtopping would be significant (see event for 9 May 2016) but unlikely to impact private dwellings. This type of modelling does model the effect of vertical walls on wave action.

Right: Wave runup would have significant energy at the base of the cliff. Combined with higher routine events, recession is likely.



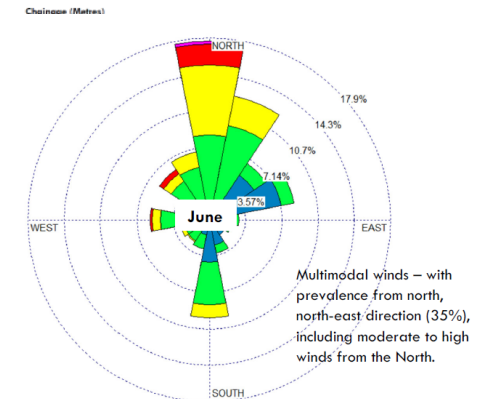
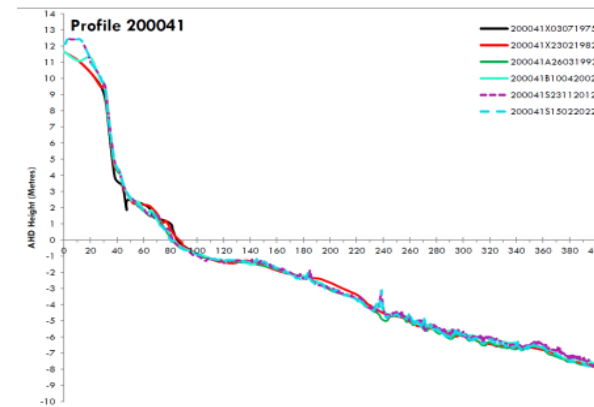
markwestern@integratedcoasts.com
www.integratedcoasts.com



Coastal Monitoring



- Monitoring program includes detailed studies of:
 - Changes in coastal terrain (erosion and accretion)
 - Storm impacts
 - Changes in wind and wave conditions
 - Stormwater impacts
 - Shoreline movement

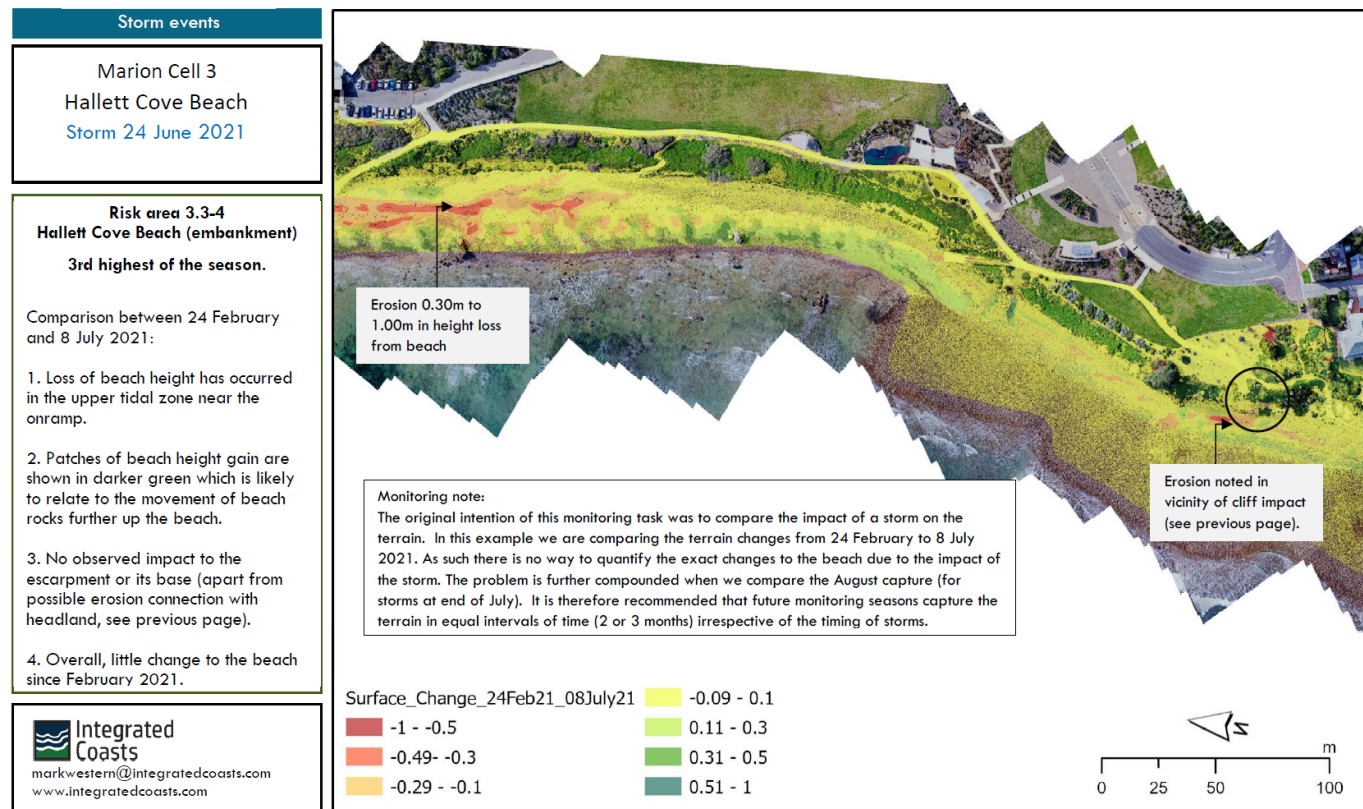


Coastal Monitoring



Sea storm - 24 June 2021

Risk area 3.3-4



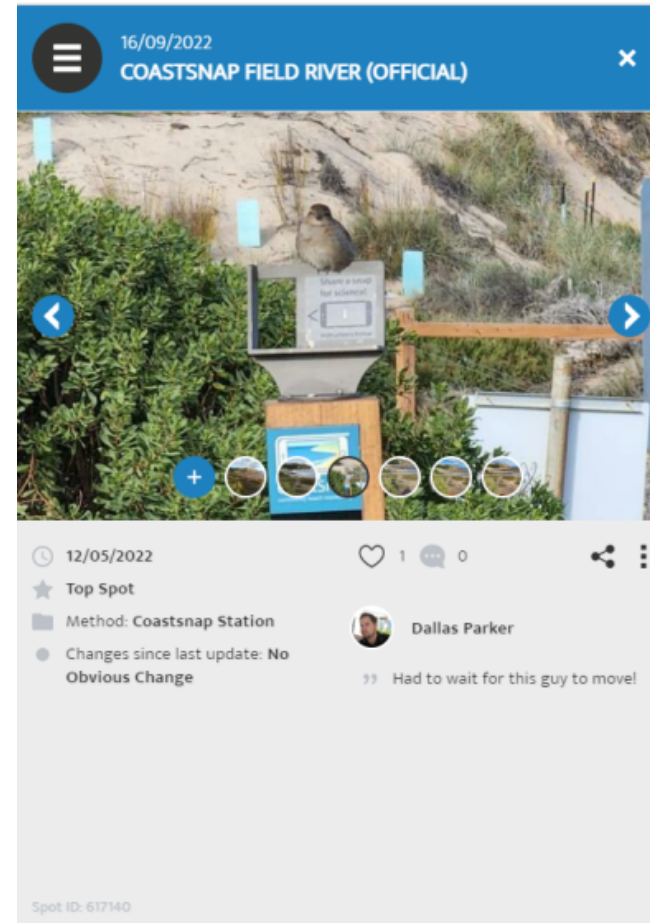
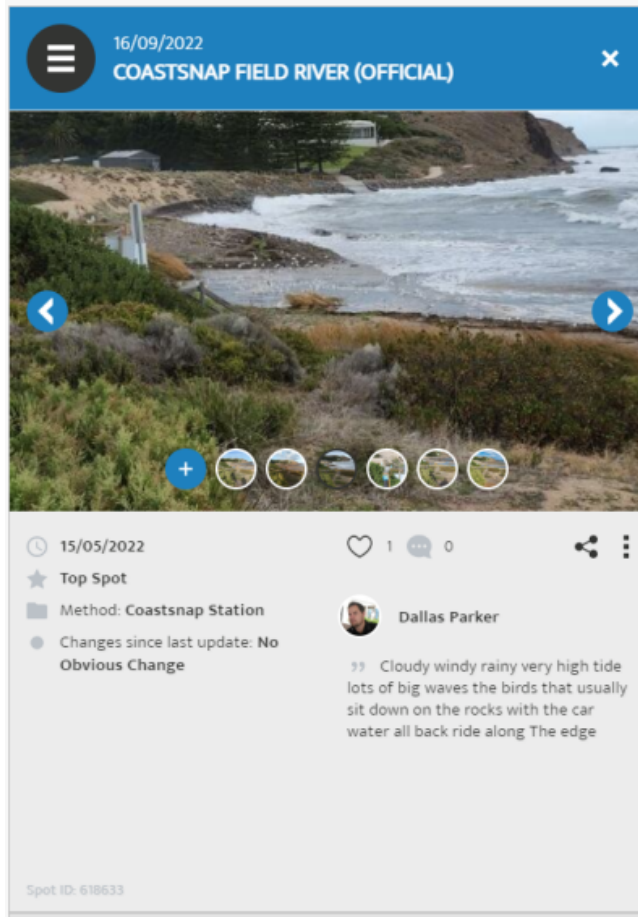
Coastal Monitoring



- Five CoastSnap monitoring points along the Marion coastline.
- Citizen scientists will assist with monitoring change.
- Close to 500 captures so far.



Coastal Monitoring



Council Assets



- Coastal Walkway
 - Heron Way to Field River
- Stormwater outlets and infrastructure
 - Plus cliff tops
- Road assets
 - e.g. Clifftop Cres, Marine Pde, Esplanade
- Open space and reserve infrastructure
 - e.g. Heron Way Reserve, coastal signs
- Artwork.



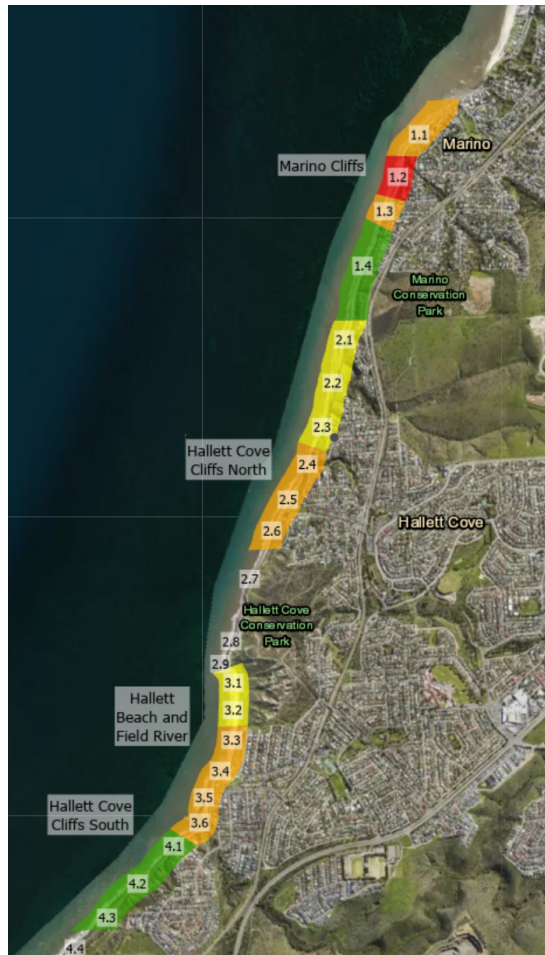
Other areas considered



- Natural assets
 - Biodiversity
 - Geology
 - Intertidal areas
- Private assets
 - Council's role?
- Public safety
 - Unstable cliffs
 - High tides.



Risk Assessments



Location: Field River (3.5-6)

Erosion

Risk assessment using Council's risk framework

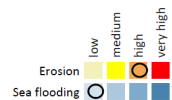
Coastal setting Field River	Beach of shingles and pebbles. Offshore low profile reef. Steeply sloping backshore through which Field River flows to the coast. A dune on the southern side of the river, earthen embankment on north side. Interventions include rock revetment to southern dune, below walking trail. Rocks removed from intertidal zone. Erosion of the dune starting in 1990s, impacted by large events 2007, 2009, 2016. Moderate exposure, low wave energy. Current impact is low (apart from on the dune). Seas 0.30m higher than present will cause significant recession of the dune, some undercutting of banks. Seas 1.00m higher than present will remove dunes (recession 10-15m).
--------------------------------	---

Risk identification: Erosion currently impacts the southern dune. Increasing sea level will increase rates of erosion on both sides of the river.

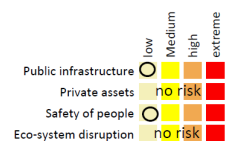
Current risk mitigation: Rock revetment to southern dune (parts are broken or/or dislodged rock).

Receiving environment	Risk description	Time	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk
Public infrastructure	Walking trail. On north side of river, elevated board walk. On south side of the river, compressed sand/rubble and protected by rock revetment. River Parade. Seas 1.00m higher than present will significantly recede dunes, impact walkways.	2020	rare	minor	low
		2100	likely	major	high
Private assets*	Private dwellings set behind River Parade or behind the dunes. Recession of these dunes may be in excess of 15m later in the century and private property impacted.	2020	no risk	no risk	no risk
		2100	possible	major	high
Public safety	This assessment assumes that people remain on official walking surfaces. This assessment relates to increased risk from erosion, not normal beach safety issues.	2020	rare	moderate	low
		2100	unlikely	moderate	medium
Ecosystem disruption	Increasing sea levels will mean that seawater will enter Field River more frequently. However, the slope of Field River bed is steep, and water 1m higher than present would not flow much further inland.	2020	no risk	no risk	no risk
		2100	unlikely	minor	low

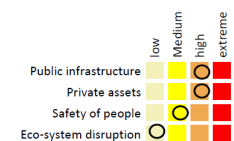
Inherent hazard rating
Inherent vulnerability



Erosion hazard rating
Current Outlook 2022



Erosion hazard rating
Future Outlook 2100



Assumptions

Rain water events have not been assessed in this project.

The assignment of future risks assumes that sea rise as projected and that no adaptation responses are employed.

*Governments are not necessarily liable for private assets.

- Erosion hazard
 - Current
 - 2050
 - 2100
- Sea flood risk minor.

Regional Approaches



- Resilient South Regional Climate Partnership.
- SA Climate Ready Coasts
- Adelaide Coastal Councils Network.
- LGA Coastal Coordinator – coming soon.



Next Steps...



➤ **Next steps:**

- 2023 Monitoring Report
- 2024 Monitoring Report
- Coastal Monitoring Evaluation Report (2024)
- Update 3D Baseline (early 2023)
- Field River Dunes Action Plan 2023 – 2024
- Heron Way Embankment Protection.

➤ **Questions and comments.**

7.3 Environment Policy

Report Reference	EC230905R7.3
Originating Officer	Senior Environmental Planner – Rebecca Neumann
Corporate Manager	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
General Manager	Acting General Manager City Services - Angela Allison

REPORT HISTORY

Report Reference	Report Title
SGC191125R04	Environment Policy
FORUM230704R1.3	Policy Review 2023

REPORT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is to seek feedback on the draft City of Marion Environment Policy (Attachment 3) before a final draft is presented to General Council seeking endorsement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current City of Marion Environmental Policy (Attachment 1) was endorsed by Council in November 2019 (SGC191125R04). At the 4 July 2023 Forum (FORUM230704R1.3), Council Members were provided with a list of Public and Legislative Policies that are due for review during 2023 which included the Environmental Policy.

The reviewed Environment Policy (Attachment 2) presented at the forum included changes to the wording of Council's environmental objectives and other changes aimed to improve clarity and consistency with other council policies.

At the Forum, Council Members identified areas for the policy to be strengthened and referred the review to the Environment Committee for further discussion before a final draft is presented to General Council.

An updated draft Environment Policy has been developed (Attachment 3) and further feedback is now sought from the Environment Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Committee:

- 1. Provides feedback on the draft Environment Policy (Attachment 3)**
- 2. Subject to the inclusion of feedback in this meeting, recommends that the draft Environment Policy is endorsed by General Council.**

DISCUSSION

The Environment Policy outlines how the City of Marion will recognise the importance of the natural environment to the community, and its aim to protect, restore, and enhance the natural environment within our Council boundaries.

Feedback received from Council Members at the 4 July 2023 Forum included:

- Need for cross-referencing procurement processes with our procurement policy.
- The policy seems “watered down.”
- Look at not just “reducing harm” but “enhancing the environment.”
- Put back “continuous improvement” language into the policy.
- Put back reference to “ecological sustainable development.”

Based on the feedback from Council Members an updated policy has been presented in Attachment 3. This updated version highlights changes from the version presented in the Forum in red. Comments on some of the changes are also included for explanation.

Key changes to the updated draft Environment Policy (Attachment 3) include:

- Ensuring objectives and implementation of the policy reflects strategic priorities of the current business plans and services provided by Council.
- Ensuring wording is consistent with the environmental roles and functions of a council in the *Local Government Act 1999*.
- Using direct language to make Council’s commitment to the policy clear.

Feedback is sought from the Environment Committee so that a final draft Environment Policy can be presented to Council seeking endorsement.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 Environmental Policy_Currently Online [7.3.1 - 2 pages]
2. Attachment 2 Environment Policy_FORUM_230704R1_3 [7.3.2 - 3 pages]
3. Attachment 3 Draft Environment Policy Aug2023 [7.3.3 - 4 pages]
4. Environment Committee 5 Sept 2023 Environment Policy [7.3.4 - 4 pages]

Environmental Policy



1. RATIONALE

The City of Marion provides a range of physical, social and developmental services to our community. To ensure effective environmental performance in all activities, the City of Marion is committed to environmental sustainability and aims to integrate environmental considerations with economic, social and cultural factors.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Marion will manage the environment in an ecologically sustainable manner, avoid negative impacts during Council operations and encourage the community to build positive and meaningful connections with nature.

Council will incorporate the principles of ecologically sustainable development into our business and management systems and decision-making processes, to ensure the city's environment and resource efficiency improves over time.

3. OBJECTIVES

The City of Marion will promote positive environmental outcomes by:

- **Protecting** existing natural environments and local biodiversity;
- **Enhancing** the condition and extent of natural environments;
- **Avoiding** impacts from excessive resource use, waste generation, pollution and pest species;
- **Adapting** to a changing environment and developing resilience to changes in our climate; and
- **Building human connections** to the natural world whilst respecting cultural, social and economic values.

Council will take a lead in ensuring adherence to these objectives where land or activity is under the direct control of Council through:

- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation and standards and, where practical, exceeding basic requirements to improve our environmental performance.
- Improving our environmental performance through setting and reviewing measurable objectives and targets.
- Regularly assessing and auditing our environmental performance and the effectiveness of our environmental risk management systems.
- Ensuring our employees, suppliers, contractors and volunteers understand and respond to their environmental responsibilities.
- Giving preference to use of environmentally friendly products and services where appropriate.
- Advocating at regional, state and federal level on environmental matters that may impact on Council's operations, activities and services.
- Developing positive relationships with our community, partners and customers to enhance environmental quality.
- Embracing innovation and technology to support improved environmental outcomes.

City of Marion 245 Sturt Road, Sturt SA
5047 PO Box 21, Park Holme SA 5043
T 08 8375 6600
www.marion.sa.gov.au

Policy Ref/Security Classification:
Category: Public
Owner: Environmental Sustainability Manager
Authorisation Date: 25 November 2019
Review Date: 25 November 2023

Environmental Policy



Where an activity is of relevance to the Marion community but outside the direct control of Council, Council may choose to advocate use of these principles for the benefit of the community and local environment.

4. POLICY SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This policy applies to:

- All of Council's activities and services;
- Council's communication and collaboration with the community and regional partners to manage environmental impacts and to help our residents and businesses to minimise their impacts on the environment.

5. DEFINITIONS

Biodiversity: the amount of diversity between different plants, animals and other species in a given habitat at a particular time. The different varieties and types of animals and plants that live in the ocean is an example of biodiversity.

Ecologically Sustainable Development: Australia's *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (1992)* defines ecologically sustainable development as: 'using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased'.

Ecosystem: a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

Resilience: The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organisation, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Environment Sustainability Team is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy across the organisation.

7. REFERENCES

- City of Marion Community Vision: Towards 2040
- City of Marion Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027
- City of Marion Business Plan 2019 – 2023
- City of Marion Climate Change Policy
- City of Marion Waste Management Policy
- City of Marion Risk Management Policy

8. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed once within each term of Council. The review will be scheduled by the Governance Department in coordination with the Environment Sustainability Team and the Environmental Risk Management Committee.

City of Marion 245 Sturt Road, Sturt SA
5047 PO Box 21, Park Holme SA 5043
T 08 8375 6600
www.marion.sa.gov.au

Policy Ref/Security Classification:
Category: Public
Owner: Environmental Sustainability Manager
Authorisation Date: 25 November 2019
Review Date: 25 November 2023

Environment Policy

1. **RATIONALE**

The purpose of this Policy is to recognise City of Marion's unique natural environment, that is valued by our community, and is fundamental to their health and wellbeing, and how Council will maintain a proactive, sustainable approach to securing its future.

2. **POLICY STATEMENT**

This Policy will outline how the City of Marion will recognise the importance of the natural environment to the community, and its aim to protect, restore, and enhance the natural environment within our Council boundaries. Council Administration will plan that operations seek to avoid harm to the environment, and partner, educate, and support the community to value and connect with the environment further.

3. **OBJECTIVES**

The Policy will align with Council's Environmental objectives by focusing on minimising waste, biodiversity, water management, carbon neutrality and environmental leadership. The objectives of this Policy as follows:

- **Minimise waste** – avoidance and maximise resource recovery and support the circular economy.
- **Biodiversity and greening** – protect and enhance the biodiversity of natural areas, ecosystem functions, open spaces, gardens, and streetscapes in our jurisdiction.
- **Sustainable water management** – ensure efficient and sustainable management of waterways and water resources through water sensitive urban design, water recycling and provision of water for the environment.
- **Carbon neutrality** – managing energy use and carbon emissions for Council operations to mitigate climate change.
- **Climate resilience** – increasing community resilience to climate change through hazard identification and adaptation planning.
- **Sustainable built environment** – encourage sustainable planning and development.
- **Environmental leadership** – demonstrate leadership to our community by minimising the environmental impacts of our own operations.
- **Environmental education and engagement** – providing and engaging with the community on environmental education.

Commented [ZL1]: Sentence Restructure: Shortened from 'The City of Marion provides a range of physical, social and developmental services to our community. To ensure effective environmental performance in all activities, the City of Marion is committed to environmental sustainability and aims to integrate environmental considerations with economic, social and cultural factors.'

Commented [ZL2]: Paragraph Restructure: Changed with a merger of 'The City of Marion will manage the environment in an ecologically sustainable manner, avoid negative impacts during Council operations and encourage the community to build positive and meaningful connections with nature. Council will incorporate the principles of ecologically sustainable development into our business and management systems and decision-making processes, to ensure the city's environment and resource efficiency improves over time.'

Commented [ZL3]: Paragraph Restructure: Opening sentence changed to reflect council's environmental objectives.

Commented [ZL4]: Sentence Inclusion: Included into the Policy.


Commented [ZL5R5]: The following original text was removed
 'The City of Marion will promote positive environmental outcomes by: § Protecting existing natural environments and local biodiversity; § Enhancing the condition and extent of natural environments; § Avoiding impacts from excessive resource use, waste generation, pollution and pest species; § Adapting to a changing environment and developing resilience to changes in our climate; and § Building human connections to the natural world whilst respecting cultural, social and economic values. Council will take a lead in ensuring adherence to these objectives where land or activity is under the direct control of Council through: § Complying with all relevant environmental legislation and standards and, where practical, exceeding basic requirements to improve our environmental performance. § Improving our environmental performance through setting and reviewing measurable objectives and targets. § Regularly assessing and auditing our environmental performance and the effectiveness of our environmental risk management systems. § Ensuring our employees, suppliers, contractors and volunteers understand and respond to their environmental responsibilities. § Giving preference to use of environmentally friendly products and services where appropriate. § Advocating at regional, state and federal level on environmental matters that may impact on Council's operations, activities and services. § Developing positive relationships with our community, partners and customers to enhance environmental quality. § Embracing innovation and technology to support improved environmental outcomes.'

Category: Public
 Owner: Manager Engineering, Assets & Environment
 Authorisation Date: xx/xx/xx
 Review Date: July 2027
 The online version of this document is the current version. This document is 'Uncontrolled if PRINTED'.

Page 1 of 3

City of Marion
 245 Sturt Road, Sturt SA 5047
 PO Box 21, Oaklands Park SA 5046
 T 08 8375 6600
www.marion.sa.gov.au

Environment Policy



4. POLICY SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Scope

This Policy applies to all of Council's activities, operations, services, programs and partnerships.

Implementation

Council will implement this Policy by:

- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation and standards and, where practical, exceeding these requirements.
- Improving our environmental performance through setting and reviewing measurable objectives.
- Regularly assessing and auditing our environmental performance and the effectiveness of our environmental risk management systems.
- Ensuring our employees, suppliers, contractors, and volunteers understand and respond to their environmental responsibilities.
- Ensuring our procurement processes give preference to the use of environmentally friendly products, services, and supply chains that improve environmental outcomes and do not result in environmental issues relevant to our council area.
- Developing positive relationships with our community, partners and customers to enhance environmental quality.
- Progressing environmental priorities through regional collaboration particularly through local government and state government partnerships.
- Embracing innovation and technology to support improved environmental outcomes.

5. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Biodiversity	The diversity of living organisms in a particular location. The term is particularly used for species that are endemic ('native') to a location and have evolved over time to exist in that area as part of an ecosystem.
Ecosystem	A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.
Resilience	The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organisation, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.

Category: Public
Owner: Manager Engineering, Assets & Environment
Authorisation Date: xx/xx/xx
Review Date: July 2027
The online version of this document is the current version. This document is 'Uncontrolled if PRINTED'.

City of Marion
 245 Sturt Road, Sturt SA 5047
 PO Box 21, Oaklands Park SA 5046
 T 08 8375 6600
www.marion.sa.gov.au

Commented [ZL6]: Sentence Restructure: expanded from 'This policy applies to:'

Commented [ZL7]: Sentence Deletion: Points below removed 'All of Council's activities and services; B Council's communication and collaboration with the community and regional partners to manage environmental impacts and to help our residents and businesses to minimise their impacts on the environment.'


Commented [ZL8]: Sentence Deletion: 'to improve our environmental performance'

Commented [ZL9]: Sentence Inclusion: Included into the Implementation.

Commented [ZL10]: Sentence Inclusion: Included into the Implementation.

Commented [ZL11]: Sentence Restructure: changed from 'the amount of diversity between different plants, animals and other species in a given habitat at a particular time. The different varieties and types of animals and plants that live in the ocean is an example of biodiversity.'

Environment Policy



Term	Definition
Greening	Conservation, restoration, or creation of green infrastructure including trees and vegetation, that benefits people, nature and our economy, and the soils and water to support it.
<i>Water Sensitive Urban Design</i>	An approach to the planning and design of urban environments focused on integrating the urban water cycle (including potable water, wastewater, and stormwater) with the built and natural urban landscape.
<i>Circular economy</i>	An alternative to the wasteful traditional 'linear' economy based on 'take, make, use and dispose' based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use at their highest utility for as long as possible and regenerating natural systems.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibility
<i>Environmental Sustainability Team</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Policy across the organisation.
<i>Council</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that council decisions meet the objectives of this Policy.
<i>Council staff</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applying the principles and objectives of this Policy.

7. REFERENCES

A broad range of State and Australian Government legislation applies to council's environmental activities. All relevant legislation should be read in conjunction with this Policy.

8. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

This Policy will be reviewed once during every four-year term of Council. The Review will be initiated by the Governance unit in coordination with the Environmental Sustainability Unit.

Commented [ZL12]: Sentence Restructure: Replaced 'Ecologically Sustainable Development.'

Commented [ZL13]: Sentence Inclusion: Included into Policy.

Commented [ZL14]: Sentence Inclusion: Included into Policy.

Commented [ZL15]: Restructure: Information previously has been placed into table with addition of Council and Council Staff.

Commented [ZL16]: Restructure: Changed to include the text below, previous legislation removed.

Commented [ZL17R17]: City of Marion Community Vision: Towards 2040 @ City of Marion Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027 @ City of Marion Business Plan 2019 – 2023 @ City of Marion Climate Change Policy @ City of Marion Waste Management Policy @ City of Marion Risk Management Policy

Commented [ZL18]: Sentence Deletion: The following was deleted 'and the Environmental Risk Management Committee.'

Category: Public

Owner: Manager Engineering, Assets & Environment

Authorisation Date: xx/xx/xx

Review Date: July 2027

The online version of this document is the current version. This document is 'Uncontrolled if PRINTED'.

Page 3 of 3

City of Marion

245 Sturt Road, Sturt SA 5047

PO Box 21, Oaklands Park SA 5046

T 08 8375 6600

www.marion.sa.gov.au

Environment Policy



1. RATIONALE

The purpose of this Policy is to recognise that a key function of the City of Marion is to manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment in an ecologically sustainable manner. The City of Marion's unique natural environment consists of land, water, air and lifeforms interrelating in complex ecosystems. This natural environment, that is valued by part of our community, and is fundamental to their community health and wellbeing, and how Council will maintain a proactive, sustainable approach to securing its future.

Commented [RN1]: This wording reflects the function and role of local government in the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Commented [RN2]: This statement improves clarity of scope that that both living and non-living components of the environment are considered.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy will outline how the City of Marion will recognise the importance of the natural environment to the community, and its aim to protect, restore, and enhance the natural environment within our Council boundaries. Council Administration will plan that operations seek to avoid harm to the environment, and partner, educate, and support the community to value and connect with the environment further.

This Policy outlines how the City of Marion manages the natural and built environment in an ecologically sustainable manner. Council recognises the intrinsic value of the natural world and its integral connection to people, culture and community. Council will deliver services that protect, restore and enhance the natural environment and encourage the community to build positive and meaningful connections with nature.

Commented [RN3]: Changed to recognise intrinsic value and better describe the connection between the community and environment.
Active voice used for Council's role to protect, enhance and restore.

3. OBJECTIVES

The Policy will align with Council's Environmental objectives by focusing on minimising waste, biodiversity, water management, carbon neutrality and environmental leadership. The objective of this Policy is as follows:

This Policy is based on the following environmental objectives:

Commented [RN4]: This list will be ordered alphabetically.

- **Minimise wWaste** – avoid waste, ance and maximise resource recovery and support the circular economy.
- **Biodiversity and greening** – protect and enhance the biodiversity of natural areas, healthy ecosystems functions, through restoration ecology and biodiversity sensitive urban design open spaces, gardens, and streetscapes in our jurisdiction.
- **Greening** - efficiently deliver arboriculture and horticultural services for beautiful, climate resilient, sustainable urban environments.
- **Sustainable wWater management** – ensure efficient and sustainable management of waterways and water resources through water sensitive urban design, water recycling and provision of water for the environment.
- **Carbon neutrality** – managing energy use and carbon emissions for Council operations to mitigate climate change.

Commented [RN5]: This has been separated from biodiversity and expanded in recognition of the different services provided by council in this area.

Category: Public
Owner: Manager Engineering, Assets & Environment
Authorisation Date: xx/xx/xx
Review Date: July August 2027

Page 1 of 4

City of Marion
245 Sturt Road, Sturt SA 5047
PO Box 21, ~~Oaklands Park~~ Park Holme SA 50463
T 08 8375 6600
www.marion.sa.gov.au

The online version of this document is the current version. This document is 'Uncontrolled if PRINTED'.

Environment Policy



- **Climate resilience** – increasing community resilience to climate change through hazard identification and adaptation planning.
- **Sustainable built environment** – encourage sustainable planning and development.
- **Environmental leadership** – demonstrate leadership to our community by minimising the environmental impacts of our own operations.
- **Environmental education and engagement** – providing and engaging with the community on environmental education.

4. POLICY SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Scope

This Policy applies to all of Council's activities, operations, services, programs and partnerships relevant to council area.

Implementation

Council will implement this Policy by:

- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation and standards and, where practical, exceeding these requirements.
- Improving our environmental performance through setting and reviewing measurable objectives.
- Regularly assessing and auditing our environmental performance and the effectiveness of our environmental risk management systems.
- Ensuring our employees, suppliers, contractors, and volunteers understand and respond to their environmental responsibilities.
- Ensuring our procurement processes give preference to the use of environmentally friendly products, services, and supply chains where appropriate, that improve environmental outcomes and do not result in environmental issues relevant to our council area.
- Ensuring disposal of council assets prioritises reuse or recycling or if not possible, then safe disposal that minimises environmental harm.
- Advocating at regional, state and federal level on environmental matters that may impact on Council's operations, activities and services.
- Developing positive relationships with our community, partners and customers to enhance environmental quality.
- Progressing environmental priorities through regional collaboration particularly through local government and state government partnerships.
- Embracing innovation and technology to support improved environmental outcomes.
- Delivering services in community education, engagement and capacity building that support positive environmental outcomes.
- Supporting local businesses to transition to a green circular economy.

Commented [RN6]: Environmental responsibility is an existing objective of the Procurement and Contract Management Policy. A Sustainable Procurement Policy has been identified as a priority in the Carbon Neutral Plan.

Commented [RN7]: This has recently been incorporated into the Disposal of Council Land and Assets Policy

Commented [RN8]: Added to ensure that council's advocacy role is clear.

Commented [RN9]: Addition to reflect work being done on environmental engagement

Commented [RN10]: Addition to reflect the focus on circular economy for economic development.

Category: Public
Owner: Manager Engineering, Assets & Environment
Authorisation Date: xx/xx/xx
Review Date: July August 2027

Page 2 of 4

City of Marion
245 Sturt Road, Sturt SA 5047
PO Box 21, Oaklands Park SA 5046
T 08 8375 6600
www.marion.sa.gov.au

The online version of this document is the current version. This document is 'Uncontrolled if PRINTED'.

Environment Policy



5. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Biodiversity	The diversity of living organisms in a particular location. The term is particularly used for species that are endemic ('native') to a location and have evolved over time to exist in that area as part of an ecosystem.
Ecosystem	A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. <u>A healthy ecosystem includes high biodiversity and shows resilience and adaptability to change.</u>
Resilience	The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organisation, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.
Greening	Conservation, restoration, or creation of green infrastructure including trees and vegetation, that benefits people, nature and our economy, and the soils and water to support it.
Water Sensitive Urban Design	An approach to the planning and design of urban environments focused on integrating the urban water cycle (including potable water, wastewater, and stormwater) with the built and natural urban landscape.
<u>Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design</u>	<u>An approach to planning and design of urban environments focussed on improving biodiversity and ecosystem health.</u>
Circular economy	An alternative to the wasteful traditional 'linear' economy based on 'take, make, use and dispose' based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use at their highest utility for as long as possible and regenerating natural systems.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibility
Environmental Sustainability Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Policy across the organisation.
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that council decisions meet the objectives of this Policy.
Council staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applying the principles and objectives of this Policy.

Category: Public
 Owner: Manager Engineering, Assets & Environment
 Authorisation Date: xx/xx/xx
 Review Date: ~~July~~ August 2027

Page 3 of 4

City of Marion
 245 Sturt Road, Sturt SA 5047
 PO Box 21, ~~Oaklands Park~~ Park Holme SA 50463
 T 08 8375 6600
www.marion.sa.gov.au

The online version of this document is the current version. This document is 'Uncontrolled if PRINTED'.

Environment Policy



7. REFERENCES

A broad range of State and Australian Government legislation applies to council's environmental activities. All relevant legislation should be read in conjunction with this Policy.

8. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

This Policy will be reviewed once during every four-year term of Council. The Review will be initiated by the Governance unit in coordination with the Environmental Sustainability Unit.

Category: Public
Owner: Manager Engineering, Assets &
Environment
Authorisation Date: xx/xx/xx
Review Date: ~~July~~ August 2027

Page 4 of 4

City of Marion
245 Sturt Road, Sturt SA 5047
PO Box 21, ~~Oaklands Park~~ Park Holme SA
50463
T 08 8375 6600
www.marion.sa.gov.au

The online version of this document is the current version. This document is 'Uncontrolled if PRINTED'.

Environment Committee

5 September 2023



Draft Environment Policy

Rebecca Neumann

Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability

marion.sa.gov.au

Background



Public Policy

- Externally focused
- Guides strategic decision-making
- Consistent with community vision and strategic objectives.

Draft Environment Policy

- Updated to reflect current strategic priorities.
- Improved focus on community outcomes.
- Originated from "*General Environmental Policy*" (ISO14001 standard)



Environmental Planning



- Environmental Policy
- Waste Management Policy
- Carbon Neutral Plan
- ESD Guidelines
- Open Space Framework
- (Health, Safety and Wellbeing Plan)
- Trees Asset Management Plan
- Biodiversity Plan



Draft Environment Policy



- Does it capture the priorities?
- Does it provide enough commitment?
- What needs to change?



8 Reports for Noting - Nil

9 Workshop / Presentation Items - Nil

10 Other Business

11 Meeting Closure

The meeting shall conclude on or before 9.30pm unless there is a specific motion adopted at the meeting to continue beyond that time.