

POLICY STATEMENT

The Corporation of the City of Marion provides a range of physical, social and developmental services to the local community, visitors to the City and external stakeholders.

To ensure effective environmental performance in all activities, the City of Marion is committed to achieving a “Healthy Environment” and aims to integrate environmental considerations with economic, cultural and social factors.

This policy provides the guiding principles for setting and reviewing environmental directions, strategies, plans, policies, procedures and actions.

DEFINITIONS

Healthy Environment

In a healthy environment interactions between natural assets (land, water, air, biota (all living things), are diverse and yet occur with a stability causing changes to happen over very long periods of time. This term has been identified as one of the four community themes of the City of Marion Strategic Plan 2006-2020.

Environmental Management System (EMS)

Is a process used by an organisation to implement its corporate environment policy and manage its activities that interact and change the environment, whether beneficially or adversely. The system provides a framework that embraces continual improvement in the management and coordination of our environmental activities.

Environmental Aspect

Any element of an organisation’s activities, products or services that can interact with the environment.

Environmental Impact

Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organisation’s environmental aspects.

Continual Improvement

Refers to the ongoing process of reviewing the environmental management system with the overall objective of improving environmental performance in line with the general environmental policy.

Environmental Responsibility

Refers to duty of care for the environment, particularly in relation to responsibilities and accountabilities of all employees, in accordance with the supporting procedures and relevant legislation.

AS/NZS ISO 14001

The international standard that specifies requirements for an environmental management system to enable an organisation to develop and implement a policy and objectives which take into account legal and other requirements, and information about significant environmental aspects (risks).

PRINCIPLES:

Environmental projects are developed and identified through a planning process that facilitates the delivery of the community vision. The following guiding principles are used in this process.

The City of Marion will ensure:

1. Environmental objectives are established and published so that they are publicly available; and
2. That this policy is communicated to all of Council's employees, volunteers, Elected Members and suppliers of goods and services, to facilitate awareness of their responsibilities in relation to environmental management.

Strategic Planning

Planning for a healthy environment is achieved through an effective environmental planning framework. The following guiding principles will be used in developing this framework:

- I. Ensure the development and review of environmental directions, strategies, plans, policies, procedures and actions that:
 - Are connected to the City of Marion Strategic Plan and the Environmental Management System, with necessary resource allocations;
 - Meet the Healthy Environment objectives identified in the City of Marion Strategic Plan;
 - Are consistent with other key directions, strategies, plans, policies, procedures within the organisation;
 - Are regularly reviewed and monitored, through consultation and research, to ensure currency and adaptability to external trends and changes in the environment at the local, regional, state, national and international levels.
- II. Provide comment on external and internal policies and strategies in relation to the principles of a Healthy Environment as defined by Council's strategic planning framework.
- III. Undertake a review process that incorporates the:
 - Objectives of the Healthy Environment theme in the Strategic Plan;
 - The requirements of the ISO 14001 Standard; and
 - Requirements of other relevant environmental projects and programs.

Tools and Systems

To support the environmental planning framework, effective tools need to be in place. The following guiding principles will be used in developing and applying environmental management tools:

- I. Adopt an Environmental Management System approach that integrates the principles of continual improvement in environmental performance that is appropriate to the nature, scale and environmental impacts of the Council's activities, products and services.
- II. Demonstrate a commitment to pollution prevention and compliance with all environmental legislative requirements pertaining to Council operations.
- III. Demonstrate commitment to minimising environmental impact of goods and services through the development

General Environmental Policy.doc Policy

and implementation of contracts and purchasing procedures and guidelines that support Council's Healthy Environment goals and objectives.

- IV. Develop a strong sense of environmental awareness amongst all employees by incorporating environmental priorities within work programs and business plans, and ensuring appropriate environmental information is included in general training and inductions.
- V. Utilise, where appropriate, recognised frameworks and programs for the management of environmental impacts, for example ICLEI program frameworks, risk management frameworks, Business Excellence tools, etc.
- VI. Report on environmental performances through the organisations corporate reporting system.

Project Delivery

Human impacts have caused many of the natural interactions in our environment to become unbalanced. To restore this balance and create a healthy environment for us to coexist we need to...

- **Protect:** existing natural assets so that no further degradation occurs e.g. remnant native vegetation, coastal and marine ecosystems, air quality
- **Enhance/Restore:** improve the condition of natural assets e.g. revegetation activities, rehabilitation of watercourses, soil conservation, etc
- **Control:** pest plants and animals, resource use (energy, water, etc), waste generation, pollution, etc
- **Adapt:** to changing environmental conditions (rainfall, temperature, sea levels, etc.)

In developing projects that impact on the environment, the following guiding principles will be followed:

- I. Encourage environmental responsibility in all areas of Council's operations.
- II. Apply the principles of continual improvement to aim to move beyond simple compliance towards more proactive environmental risk management.
- III. Working towards a Healthy Environment that gives consideration to:
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change;
 - Preserving water quality and maximising water conservation,
 - Protection and enhancement of indigenous ecosystems, and
 - Minimising use of raw materials and generation of waste and pollution.
- IV. Build a partnership with the local community to encourage greater community awareness of and involvement in environmental management issues and activities.
- V. Build a partnership with the Kurna and other Aboriginal people to encourage greater community awareness of and learning from Aboriginal knowledge and expertise in environmental management.
- VI. Develop and encourage a network of partnerships with public and private organisations to deliver the objectives in the Healthy Environment theme identified in the City of Marion Strategic Plan. Insert Body Text Here >

REFERENCES

CITY OF MARION STRATEGIC PLAN:

In particular:

Healthy Environment:

- HE1 Active response to climate change
- HE2 Responsible management of water resources
- HE3 Enhanced landscapes, habitats and local biodiversity
- HE4 Waste and contamination avoided
- HE5 An environmentally aware and engaged community

Excellence in Governance:

- EG2 Policy Making – Maintaining all policies required to provide both Council and management with the necessary guidance to make decisions consistent with our Vision.
- EG3 Monitoring and Supervising – Ensure internal structures and systems provide for the review of decision making and implementation of the Strategic Plan.

AS/NZS ISO 14001: 2004

PROCEDURE REFERENCE:

Environmental Management System Procedures

COUNCIL AGENDA REFERENCE: GC220909R10

OTHER RELATED REFERENCES:

- City of Marion Enterprise Wide Risk Management Framework
- City of Marion Risk Management Policy, GP-25
- City of Marion Environmental Management System Legislative Register
- City of Marion EMS Aspects and Impacts Register
- City of Marion Environmental Risk Register
- Local Government Act, 1999, Objects of the Act, Section 3(g) 'to encourage local government to manage the natural and built environment in an ecologically sustainable manner'.