

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 is part of our community and is fundamental to community health and wellbeing.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

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.

3. OBJECTIVES

The City of Marion will deliver 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.
- **Building human connections** to the natural world whilst respecting cultural, social, and economic values.

The City of Marion will manage the natural and built environment in an ecologically sustainable manner through the following environmental objectives:

- **Expanding biodiversity.** We will protect, enhance, and restore local biodiversity and ecosystems through restoration ecology and biodiversity sensitive urban design.
- **Connecting with nature.** We will create opportunities for people to learn about and connect with nature. We will provide environmental education and engagement services that support valuing nature.
- **Greening.** We will deliver arboricultural and horticultural services that create beautiful, climate resilient, sustainable urban environments that help enhance our local ecological identity.
- **Water management.** We will ensure efficient and sustainable management of waterways and water resources through water sensitive urban design, water recycling and provision of water for the environment.
- **Sustainable living.** We will encourage and support sustainable living in our community including through ecologically sustainable development and urban design.

- **Climate resilience.** We will increase resilience to climate change through hazard identification and adaptation planning for both council operations and in response to community priorities.
- **Carbon neutrality.** We will mitigate climate change by managing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations.
- **Waste management.** We will provide services to the community that seek to minimise waste, maximise resource recovery and build a circular economy.

4. POLICY SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Scope

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

4.2 Implementation

Council will take a lead in delivering these objectives where land or activity is under the direct control of Council. Council will implement this Policy through:

- **Environmental leadership:** demonstrating leadership to our community by striving for ecological sustainability in Council operations. Ensuring employees, suppliers, contractors, and volunteers are aware of and respond to Council's environmental priorities.
- **Education and engagement:** Delivering services in education, engagement and capacity building that support positive environmental outcomes in the community (residents, schools, businesses etc).
- **Collaboration:** Developing positive relationships with our community, partners, and customers to enhance environmental quality. Working particularly closely through local government and state government partnerships.
- **Working regionally:** Progressing environmental priorities across regions to ensure efficient planning and allocation of resources. Particularly the southern Adelaide region and water catchments that cut across the council boundary.
- **Advocacy:** Advocating at regional, state and federal level on environmental matters that may impact on Council's operations, activities, and services.
- **Sustainable asset management:** Ensuring council asset creation and management is ecologically sustainable throughout the asset management lifecycle from design through to disposal.
- **Sustainable procurement:** Ensuring our procurement processes give preference to the use of environmentally sustainable products, services, and supply chains where possible.
- **Innovation and technology:** Embracing innovation and technology to support improved environmental outcomes particularly for waste reduction and climate resilience.
- **Monitoring and measurement:** Improving our environmental performance through setting and reviewing measures for our environmental objectives.

- **Reporting:** Regularly assessing, auditing and publicly reporting on our environmental performance and the effectiveness of our environmental management systems.
- **Compliance:** Complying with all relevant environmental legislation and standards and, where practical, exceeding these requirements.

5. DEFINITIONS

<i>Nature Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
<i>Biodiversity</i>	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.
<i>Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design (BSUD)</i>	An approach to the planning and design of urban environments focussed on improving biodiversity and ecosystem health.
<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.
<i>Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD)</i>	<p>Development that meets the needs of present generations while not compromising the ability of future generations to also meet their needs. (Brundtland Report definition)</p> <p>ESD is a long-standing internationally recognised concept in environmental law. The term "ecologically sustainable" is used in the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> particularly in reference to the principal role and functions of a council.</p>
<i>Ecosystem</i>	A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. A healthy ecosystem includes high biodiversity and shows resilience and adaptability to change.
<i>Greening</i>	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>Nature and natural environment</i>	"Nature" or "natural environment" refers to the living and non-living environment including plants, animals, fungi, and all life forms as well as landforms, geology, water, and the atmosphere.
<i>Resilience</i>	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

<i>Nature Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
	capacity to adapt to stress and change. Often used in relation to climate change i.e., “climate resilience.”
<i>Waste</i>	Product that no longer has a use. Waste is managed according to a “ <i>waste management hierarchy</i> ” which prioritises waste management practices with the objective of achieving optimal environmental outcomes. It sets out the preferred order of waste management practices, from most to least preferred, namely: avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, treat, and dispose.
<i>Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)</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.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

<i>Role</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<i>Environmental Sustainability Team</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for coordinating the implementation, monitoring, and review 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"> Ensuring the objectives of this Policy are implemented Council’s activities, operations, services, programs, and partnerships relevant to council area.

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 Team.