

## 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.

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.