



# ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

## SCOPE

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This Policy applies to all Banana Shire Council (Council) operations, employees, councillors, contractors, and volunteers, and in all decisions and activities undertaken.

## LEGISLATION

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*Environmental Protection Act 1994*  
*Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*  
*Fisheries Act 1994*  
*Forestry Act 1959*  
*Local Government Act 2009*  
*Nature Conservation Act 1992*  
*Planning Act 2016*  
*Vegetation Management Act 1999*  
*Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*  
*Water Act 2000*

## OBJECTIVE

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Banana Shire Council is committed to sound environmental practice and the integration of ecologically sustainable development principles into Council activities.

Council seeks opportunities to achieve positive environmental outcomes and the continuous improvement of the environmental management system. Environmental controls and values will be integrated into Council general business to drive innovation and encourage collaboration between staff and departments.

Council aspires to minimise its environmental impact and maximise the effective use of resources. This will be achieved by fostering environmentally responsible behaviour among staff, community members and business partners.

## DEFINITIONS

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Best practice environmental management	The management of the activity to achieve ongoing minimisation of the activity's environmental harm through cost-effective measures assessed against the measures currently used nationally and internationally for the activity ( <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> , s210).
Council	Banana Shire Council

Environmental management system	A management system framework based on ISO 14001 used to enhance an organisation's environmental performance, meet compliance obligations, and achieve environmental objectives
General environmental duty	A person must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm unless the person takes all reasonably practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm ( <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> , s319(1)).
Principles of ecologically sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inter and intra-generational equity</li> <li>• Sustainable and wise use of natural resources</li> <li>• Precautionary approach</li> <li>• Conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity</li> <li>• Integration of long and short-term environmental, social, and economic considerations in decision-making</li> </ul>

## POLICY

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To protect, maintain and enhance the quality of the natural environment, Banana Shire Council will:

- Fulfill legal and regulatory environmental compliance obligations and strive for best practice environmental management.
- Meet the general environmental duty by carrying out activities in an environmentally responsible manner to prevent pollution and minimise harm to the environment.
- Implement, maintain and continually improve an environmental management system that aligns with international standards to enhance environmental performance.
- Ensure decision-making for all Council operations and approvals takes into consideration the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- Implement strategies to minimise waste to landfill, enhance recycling opportunities and improve resource efficiency.
- Preserve natural habitats and ecological corridors through land use planning and regulation to positively support biodiversity and healthy waterways.
- Incorporate climate change implications, resilience, and adaptation into decision-making processes as appropriate.
- Promote sustainability through community engagement and targeted internal training programs.

## PROCEDURE

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Procedures as approved and issued by the Chief Executive Officer, and subject to further revision, amendment and issue under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer.

## CERTIFICATION

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 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
 BANANA SHIRE COUNCIL

6/9/24  
 DATE