



Environmental Policy

As at 6 December 2006

TITLE:	Environmental Policy
DATE OF ADOPTION:	6 December 2006
REF:	Minute 262/06
RELEVANT LEGISLATION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Government Act (NSW) 1993• Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979• Protection of the Environment Operations Act (NSW) 1997
RELEVANT POLICIES/DOCUMENTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strathfield Council Vision 2020• Strathfield Council Management Plan• Strathfield Council Motor Vehicle Policy• Strathfield Council Purchasing Policy• Strathfield Council Business Ethics Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 Title and Commencement

This policy is titled *Strathfield Council Environmental Policy*. This policy was reported and adopted by Council at its meeting on 6 December 2006.

1.2 Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the policy is to provide a framework for action and for the setting of Council's environmental objectives and targets.

1.3 Objectives and Coverage of the Policy

Strathfield Council aims for environmental excellence and to be a leader in sustainability initiatives, as stated in Council's *Vision 2020* plan. Council is the primary manager of the environment in the Strathfield Municipality and our decisions and operations affect local and regional environments.

Council intends to operate in a responsible and accountable manner and achieve our goals and objectives through a whole of Council approach, continuous improvement and engagement of our local community in our activities.

This policy applies to all functions and operations of Strathfield Council and specifically includes the following activities:

- development of organisational environmental management systems
- environmental responsibility training
- risk assessments
- operating procedures
- purchasing policies
- staff induction procedures
- development of an environmental legal register (eg register of legal responsibilities of Council in relation to environment)

- efficient and cost effective management of Council resources with aim to minimise waste.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Environmental Priority

Environmental management is among the highest priorities of Strathfield. Council will endeavour to conduct all Council functions in a manner consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD), which includes the four principles of ESD:

i. Inter-generational equity

Provision of high quality services that meets the needs of the current generation whilst planning for and without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their needs.

ii. Biodiversity

Recognising the essential role of biodiversity in maintaining a sustainable healthy environment. The protection of biodiversity is among our most important roles.

iii. Precautionary Principle

Adopting the precautionary approach in all aspects of our work in order to prevent environmental degradation.

iv. Products, services and purchasing

Consider the sustainability of non-renewable resources, eco-efficiency, waste minimisation and prevention of pollution associated with all activities, products and services.

2.2 Prior Assessment

Council will assess the environmental, social and economic consequences before starting any new activity or project.

2.3 Training

Staff will be trained and resourced to perform jobs in an environmentally responsible manner.

2.4 Extension of Knowledge

Council will encourage others to adopt environmentally sustainable practices, by sharing our knowledge and through leading by example.

2.5 Contractors and Suppliers

Council will promote the adoption of these principles by contractors acting on behalf of Council, encouraging and, where appropriate, requiring improvements in their practices to make them consistent with those of Council.

2.6 Communication

Council will communicate openly with the community and staff on issues related to our environment and environmental performance.

2.7 Compliance and Reporting

Council will regularly measure and report on our own environmental performance by conducting regular environmental assessments and by monitoring our use of natural resources.

2.8 Continual improvement

Council is committed to improving our environmental performance, taking into account technical developments, scientific understanding, and community expectations.

2.9 Community participation

Council recognises that community participation is essential to the aim of achieving a sustainable healthy environment.

3. Status of Policy

This policy will be included on Strathfield Council's policy register and made available to the public on Council's website. Copies will be made available upon request under s.12 of the Local Government Act 1993.