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Next Review Date:	December 2022
Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Applicable Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1999</i>
Relevant Policies:	
Related Procedures:	
Compliance Standard:	

Policy Statement

The District Council of Robe (Council) provides a range of physical, social and developmental services to the local community, visitors to the Council area and external stakeholders. To ensure effective environmental performance in all activities, Council is committed to achieving a “Health 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

Health Environment – In a health 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. The environment has been identified as one of the Priority Goals in Council’s Strategic Management Plan.

Environmental Aspect – any element of an organisation’s activities, products or services that can interact with the environment.

Continual Impact – 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.

Principles

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

Council 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:

1. Ensure the development and review of environmental directions, strategies, plans, policies, procedures and actions that:
 - ↯ Are connected to Council's Strategic Management Plan with necessary resource allocations.
 - ↯ Meet the Environmental objectives identified in Council's Strategic Management 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.
2. Provide comment on external and internal policies and strategies in relation to the principles of Council's Environmental Strategic Direction.
3. Undertake a review process that incorporates the:
 - ↯ Objectives of the Environment Strategic Direction in the Strategic Management Plan; 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:

1. Adopt an 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.
2. Demonstrate a commitment to pollution prevention and compliance with all environmental legislative requirements pertaining to Council operations.
3. Demonstrate commitment to minimising environmental impact of goods and services through the development and implementation of contracts and purchasing procedures and guidelines that support Council's Environmental Strategic goals and objectives.
4. 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.
5. Report on environmental performance through the organisations corporate reporting system.

Public Delivery

Human impacts have caused many of the natural interactions in our environment to become unbalances. 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 and 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:

1. Encourage environmental responsibility in all areas of Council's operations.
2. Apply the principles of continual improvement and aim to move beyond simple compliance towards more proactive environmental risk management.
3. Working towards a Health 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.
4. Build a partnership with the local community to encourage greater community awareness of and involvement in environmental management issues and activities.
5. Develop and encourage a network of partnerships with public and private organisations to deliver the objectives in the Environmental Strategic Direction identified in Council's Strategic Management Plan.

FURTHER INFORMATION

This policy will be available for inspection at the Council offices listed below during ordinary business hours and available to be downloaded, free of charge, from Council's internet site: www.robe.sa.gov.au

Royal Circus, Robe SA 5276

Copies will be provided to interested parties upon request. Email council@robe.sa.gov.au

Any grievances in relation to this policy or its application should be forwarded in writing addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of Council.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy may be amended at any time and must be reviewed at least every four years since its adoption (or latest amendment).