

ITEM 6.1 Environmental Sustainability Policy

AUTHOR City Future

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

To seek Council's endorsement for the exhibition of the attached Environmental Sustainability Policy which has completed internal consultation and policy review.

ISSUE

The purpose of the Environmental Sustainability Policy is to set out Council's commitment to integrating sustainable practices into all local government functions and services.

Council policies state Council's official position on an issue that is relevant to the community. This may be in the form of general principles that it will adopt to administer its statutory obligations. A Council policy is formally determined and adopted at a Council meeting. It reassures the public of Council's commitment to the community and transparency in its policy approach.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council endorse the Draft Environmental Sustainability Policy and the policy be placed on public exhibition.
2. A further report be brought back to Council, following public exhibition.

ATTACHMENTS [Click here for attachment](#)

- A. Draft Environmental Sustainability Policy CBCity 2022-11-9

POLICY IMPACT

The Environmental Sustainability Policy (Policy) demonstrates Council's commitment to integrating sustainable practices into all local government functions and services. The Policy supports state and federal commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing waste to landfill, protecting local biodiversity and managing aquatic in terrestrial ecosystems.

This Policy will replace the current Bankstown Environmental Policy (2000).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no immediate financial implications related to the adoption of this Policy.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Policy articulates Council's commitment to leadership and accountability in environmental and sustainability performance.

The Policy confirms Council's commitment to and enhances Council's reputation as a Local Government leader in environmental and sustainability action.

DETAILED INFORMATION

The Environmental Sustainability Policy is an outcome of the policy alignment project, which aligned and superseded the former Bankstown Environmental Policy. Development of this Policy included a comprehensive review of council documents including the 2036 Community Strategic Plan, Connective City 2036 (LSPS), as well as several relevant strategies.

The Environmental Sustainability Policy aims to ensure that Council actively reduces greenhouse gas emissions, reduces waste, and manages aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, to achieve a clean, green, and sustainable city.

The Policy aims to influence the actions of many areas of Council operation. This includes a change to practices in order to achieve improved performance and accountability for environmental and sustainability outcomes of council operations.

Considering ecological sustainable development is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 1993* and embedding sustainability into all functions and services is necessary for the long-term protection of the environment. To achieve this Council will:

- adopt an evidence-based approach to decision making processes and ensure regular review of plans, strategies, targets and benchmarks to ensure they remain consistent with the most recent knowledge and best available science regarding sustainability opportunities and challenges.
- comply with legislation, ensuring sustainability principles are applied to the planning, design and decision-making process. Innovation and continuous improvement are encouraged with a risk managed approach.
- support procurement practices across the whole organisation to procure goods and services that minimise environmental risk and maximise positive sustainable opportunities and benefits for the environment and circular economy.
- work to improve the sustainability awareness of Council staff, Councillors and contractors through regular communication.

Council is committed to environmental sustainability through the following pathways delivering on the Clean and Green Lead destination of *CBCity 2036*. Many of the supporting strategies, management plans and action plans that will help deliver on council's environmental and sustainability commitments are still under development, with a number at final draft stage. Figure 1 shows the relationship of these plans in the Strategic Planning Framework.

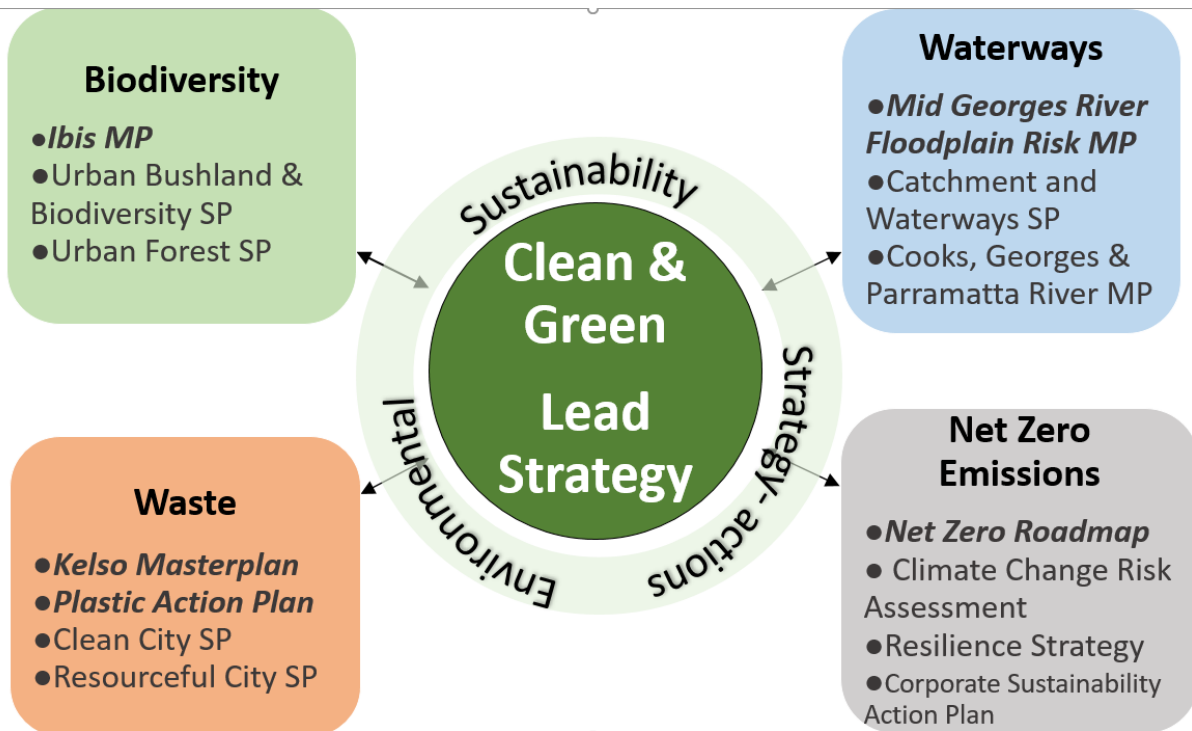


Figure 1. Council Plans (completed and under development) interconnected to Environmental and Sustainability outcomes.

Subject to Council endorsement of the Environmental Sustainability Policy, the Policy document will be placed on public exhibition.

Following the exhibition period, submissions will be considered and where relevant, incorporated into the Policy before a further report is submitted to Council.