

Creation Date & Authority Resolution		16 December 2016 / FRACA000046	
Version	2.0	Review Frequency	Triennial
Review Date	28 May 2021	Next Review Due	May 2024
Related Documents	City of Victor Harbor Environmental Management Plan 2019-2024; Alexandrina Council A2040 Four Year Plan; Alexandrina Council Environmental Action Plan 2014-2018; Southern and Hills Local Government Association – Resilient Hills & Coasts – Adaptation Plan 2016 and Action Plan 2020-2025		
Applicable Legislation	Local Government Act 1999		

1. Purpose

The Authority endeavours to provide services and facilities, develop its resources and to manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance, and conserve the environment in a socially just and ecologically sustainable manner. This policy seeks to:

- Facilitate sustainability and the protection of the environment.
- Demonstrate the Authority's commitment to sustainability and the protection of the environment, and to ensure a proper balance between economic, social, environmental and cultural considerations.
- Increase understanding of the key considerations of sustainability.
- Provide guidance in the application of the principles of sustainability to the Authority in decision making and activities.

This Policy is relevant to all decisions of the Authority and to employees and contractors in the delivery of services and provision of facilities for the community.

2. Definitions

In this policy, unless the contrary intention appears, these words have the following meanings:

- **Environment** will be defined the same as in s528 of the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Act to be:
 - (a) Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities;
 - (b) Natural and physical resources;
 - (c) The qualities and characteristics of locations, places, and areas; and
 - (d) The social, economic, and cultural aspects of a thing mentioned in (a), (b) or (c)

This definition allows for the inclusion of a number of specific human factors as aspects of the environment, for example, the economic or social value of natural resources, humans and human communities where they are part of an ecosystem, and the cultural aspects of a place, either built or natural. It also allows for natural resources management to be considered as a 'sub-set' of environmental management.

- **Biodiversity** means the variety of all life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems they form. It is a concept that emphasises the inter-relatedness of the biological world. It is often considered at three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.
- **Community Engagement** means the involvement of people, businesses and stakeholders in decision-making. There is a spectrum of ways in which we can involve people – from informing and consulting them, to collaborating and partnering with them.
- **Ecological** means the interdependence of living organisms in an environment.
- **Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD)** means development that aims to meet the needs of society today, while conserving ecosystems for the benefit of future generations.
- **Natural Resources** means all the resources that are produced by the earth's natural processes including mineral deposits, fossil fuels, soil, air, water, plants and animals and are used by people for agriculture, industry and other purposes.
- **Quality of Life** means the level of enjoyment and fulfilment derived by humans from the life they live within their local economic, cultural, social and environmental conditions.
- **Sustainability** means balancing social, economic and environmental goals to maintain or improve the quality of life. To do this will require using environmental resources, finance and social capital in ways that maintain and, where possible, improves their value, capacity and integrity. Sustainability is an outcome of balanced management processes.
- **The Act** relates to the Local Government Act 1999.

3. Legislation & Compliance

Whilst the Authority derives its principle powers from the Local Government Act 1999, there are a wide range of Acts of State and National legislation which assign roles, responsibilities and powers to Local Government in areas of sustainability. Key legislation includes:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984
- Australian Heritage Council Act 2003
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- National Environment Protection Council Act 1994
- Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007
- Coast Protection Act 1972
- Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016
- Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005
- National Environment Protection Council (South Australia) Act 1995
- Native Title (South Australia) Act 1994
- Native Vegetation Act 1991
- Landscape South Australia Act 2019
- South Australia Public Health Act 2011
- Water Act 2007
- Green Industries SA Act 2004

4. Policy Principles

To determine if a decision or action is likely to make a positive contribution to sustainability, the Authority needs a basic understanding of the key considerations or criteria of sustainability. The following principles build on the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development. They provide a set of core issues for consideration and broad objectives to be pursued as part of the Authority's decisions. The Authority's decisions and actions should aim to:

- Integrate long and short-term economic, environmental, and social considerations. Decisions need to consider the linkages between economic, environmental, and social dimensions, and take account of impacts that may occur over several years.
- Enhance and maintain biodiversity and natural environmental systems. Natural systems, and the plants and animals that inhabit them, have important benefits to the community. We need to build a relationship between people and the environment that will maintain the long-term integrity of these systems.
- Act cautiously when there is a risk of serious or irreversible impacts on the environment or the community. This is the 'precautionary principle'. We should avoid causing serious or irreversible damage and not use uncertainty as a reason to not protect the environment or community.
- Recognise dimensions beyond our border while concentrating on issues we can influence. Environment and development issues operate on a global scale. Our local actions should connect with regional, national, and global scale activities and directions. For example, although we cannot single-handedly stop climate change, we can demonstrate leadership by taking actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of a global effort.
- Provide for broad public involvement on issues that affect the community. We need to engage individuals, communities, stakeholders, and businesses and adopt more open deliberations to build an understanding of sustainability and promote collective responsibility.

Application of Sustainability Principles

The Authority will place sustainability at the forefront of decision making by assessing the environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of decisions and practices through the following actions:

- The Authority will endeavour to undertake its activities taking into account the principles of sustainability in order to maintain or improve the social, environmental and economic values in the design of facilities and the delivery of services.
- The Authority will develop and apply a method for the principles of Sustainability to be applied to the decision-making processes of the Authority by incorporating sustainability within report and budget preparation processes.
- The Authority will seek to continuously improve its systems, activities, and operations to better contribute towards achieving Sustainability.
- The Authority will endeavour to develop and apply methods that demonstrate how its activities have contributed to the social, environmental, or economic outcomes consistent with the Alexandrina Council and City of Victor Harbor Environmental Management Plans, the Authority's Charter, and the principles of Sustainability.
- At appropriate times the Authority will amend as necessary, existing policies, or develop new policies, to enable them to make better contributions towards achieving Sustainability

5. Delegations

The Authority Executive Officer has the authority to implement this policy.

6. Availability of this Policy

This Policy will be available on the Fleurieu Aquatic Centre website.

7. Review

This Policy shall be reviewed by the Authority triennially.

Document History

Version	Document	Action	Date
1.0	Approved	FRAC Authority Board	16 December 2016
2.0	Approved	FRAC Authority Board	28 May 2021