

# Sustainability Policy

## Council Policy

### Responsible Directorate: Governance and Strategy

**Objective:** To outline the City's commitment to integrating sustainable practices into all local government functions and services.

#### 1. Definitions:

**“sustainability”** means meeting the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement, and economic prosperity.

**“Precautionary Principle”** means the avoidance of the risk of serious or irreversible environmental damage will not be postponed because of a lack of full, scientific knowledge.

#### 2. Statement:

In carrying out its functions as a local government, the City of Joondalup will use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through the integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity within a sound framework of governance.

The City will achieve this by:

- demonstrating community leadership through commitment to adopting improved sustainable practices;
- ensuring all policies, strategies and services are financially sustainable over the long-term to ensure intergenerational equity;
- ensuring economic development, environmental sustainability and social development contribute to a thriving business environment and community wellbeing; and
- adoption of the “Precautionary Principle” in decision-making processes to ensure the long-term protection of the environment.

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**Creation Date:** December 2005

Formally:

- *Sustainability Statement Policy*

**Amendments:** CJ065-04/06, CJ238-12/06, CJ115-06/13

**Related Documentation:** • *Local Government Act 1995*

## SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT POLICY

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>STATUS:</b>                  | <p><del>Council Policy – A strategic policy that sets governing principles and guides the direction of the organisation to align with community values and aspirations.</del></p> <p><i>Council policies are developed by the Policy Committee for approval by Council.</i></p>            |
| <b>RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE:</b> | Governance and Strategy  |
| <b>OBJECTIVE:</b>               | <p><del>To contribute to a better future for the local and regional communities by embedding sustainability principles into all Council policies.</del> <u>To outline the City's commitment to integrating sustainable practices into all local government functions and services.</u></p> |

### 1. DEFINITIONS:

“sustainability” means meeting the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement, and economic prosperity.

“Precautionary Principle” means the avoidance of the risk of serious or irreversible environmental damage will not be postponed because of a lack of full, scientific knowledge.

### 2. STATEMENT OF INTENT:

~~The purpose of this policy is to set a direction that will, over time result in the achievement of outcomes consistent with the principles of sustainability. The Council is also mindful that in some instances there may be constraints through the need to act within legislation.~~

#### **Policy Statement**

In carrying out its functions as a local government, the City of Joondalup will use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through the integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity within a sound framework of governance.

The City will achieve this by:

- demonstrating community leadership through commitment to adopting improved sustainable practices;
- ensuring all policies, strategies and services are financially sustainable over the long-term to ensure intergenerational equity;
- ensuring economic development, environmental sustainability and social development contribute to a thriving business environment and community wellbeing; and
- adoption of the “Precautionary Principle” in decision-making processes to ensure the long-term protection of the environment.

The City adopts the following definition of sustainability:

*Meeting the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement, and economic prosperity.*

To achieve this, all Council policies will contain a statement identifying the manner in which the policy contributes to the City's sustainability.

The following interconnected principles will inform and underpin all council policies:

1. The overarching principle of *Sustainable Development* (integrating the economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions);
2. *Effective Democratic Participation* (with a substantial set of key competencies, and commensurate financial resources);
3. *Good Governance* (effective ethical leadership, transparency, accountability, probity, proper management and effective services, equitable access to services, a commitment to partnership working, and institutional capacity building); and
4. *Co-operation and Solidarity* (partnerships for exchange of good practice, information, support and mutual learning, and the establishment and nurturing of networks.)
5. An understanding of the effects that local activities have on the community, the nation and the world.

### **Sustainability Statement**

This Policy promotes the sustainable social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the community by requiring all Council Policies to consider sustainability outcomes.

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Issued: **Creation Date:** December 2006 **2005**

Amendments: CJ065-04/06, CJ238-12/06, **CJ115-06/13**

**Formerly:**

- **Sustainability Statement Policy**

Related Documentation:

- ~~City Sustainability Policy 5-4~~
- ~~Local Government Act 1995~~
- ~~The Local Government Declaration to the World~~
- ~~Summit on Sustainable Development 2002.~~
- ~~Sustainability Discussion Paper~~

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>STATUS:</b>                  | <del>City Policy – A policy that is developed for administrative and operational imperatives and has an internal focus.</del>            |
|                                 | <del>Developed by the Policy Committee and/or the administration and adopted by Council.</del>   |
| <b>RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE:</b> | Office of the CEO  |
| <b>OBJECTIVE:</b>               | <del>To establish the City's position on its responsibility towards developing, achieving and maintaining a sustainable community.</del> |

### STATEMENT OF INTENT:

~~The purpose of this policy is to set a direction that will, over time result in the achievement of outcomes consistent with the principles of sustainability. The Council is also mindful that in some instances there may be constraints through the need to act within legislation.~~

### Policy Statement

~~In carrying out its functions as a local government the City of Joondalup will use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity<sup>4</sup>.~~

~~In achieving this, the following guiding principles will be incorporated into the development of policies and strategies:~~

- ~~1. Management, planning and development decisions will be based on an integration of economic, environmental and social/cultural considerations.~~
- ~~2. Avoidance of the risk of serious or irreversible environmental damage will not be postponed because of a lack of full, scientific knowledge (the 'precautionary principle').~~
- ~~3. An understanding of the effects that local activities have on the community, the nation and the world.~~

<sup>4</sup> Local Government Act 1995 S 1.3 (2005)

4. ~~Development of a strong, growing and diversified economy that enhances the capacity to protect the environment.~~
5. ~~Policy measures will encourage voluntary, cost effective achievement of environmental goals and responses to environmental problems.~~
6. ~~Acknowledgement will be made of the need for community consultation and participation in decision making to achieve a cooperative response to environmental, economic and community issues<sup>2</sup>.~~

To achieve this objective, the City will:

1. ~~Adopt a best practice approach to policy development and implementation, based on the overarching principle of Sustainable Development (integrating the economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions) and ensure that this overarching principle is recognised in all policies developed by the City.~~
2. ~~Assess its own activities on the basis of minimising adverse environmental impacts while effectively delivering services to the community, particularly in decisions affecting development, planning, economic development programs and capital works.~~
3. ~~Establish and enforce local laws in order to control activities that may have adverse environmental, social, cultural or economic impacts.~~
4. ~~Act to raise awareness and understanding of the community and other stakeholders by seeking more effective arrangements and outcomes, engaging in effective public participation processes and supporting community involvement in sustainable activities.~~
5. ~~Show leadership and community influence by demonstrating commitment and the benefits of improved sustainable practices.~~
6. ~~Recognise and acknowledge the importance of effective community engagement in the policy development and decision-making process.~~

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Amendments: CJ269-12/05, CJ238-12/06, CJ207-10/07

Related Documentation: Local Government Act 1995  
1992 Rio Conference Principles  
Sustainability Discussion Paper

Issued: October 2007

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<sup>2</sup> 1992 Rio Conference Principles