

## HEAD OF POWER

- *Local Government Act 2009*, section 9(1)

## INTENT

The purpose of this policy is to guide Council and the Bundaberg region toward the goal of net zero carbon emissions, in line with the Queensland and Australian Government emissions reduction targets.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees and contractors at Council's facilities, events, parks and open spaces. It also applies to Council's interaction with businesses, residents and visitors as stakeholders where their activities impact or influence regional carbon emissions.

## DEFINITIONS

**Employee** means a local government employee as defined pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009*.

## POLICY STATEMENT

1. Council is focused on five themes for supporting the Bundaberg region's transition to a low-carbon economy. Where practical, these themes span across the whole of Council's operations to support a sustainable and resilient pathway towards net zero emissions.
  - **Circular economy**

Circular economy represents a shift away from linear economic models based on the 'take-make-dispose' approach to better managing products and resources. Council's move towards a circular economy means applying three key principles across the whole of its operations:

    - Design out and reduce waste and pollution;
    - Keep products and materials in use; and
    - Regenerate natural systems.
  - **Social responsibility**

Social responsibility refers to an open and transparent approach toward environment, social and governance (ESG) issues and performance. Social responsibility and ESG are important factors in Council's ability to provide community services and conduct business that supports long term financial and environmental sustainability.
  - **Energy**

Energy includes the supply of electricity (from both renewable and non-renewable sources) that powers our facilities and electrified infrastructure. Within this context, transport fuels are excluded and are addressed in the Transport theme below.

Printed copies are considered uncontrolled. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the current version.

- **Transport**  
Transport refers to Council's fleet assets, including supporting infrastructure, and the fuel required to power these assets. Transport encompasses fuel and vehicle types that are supported by both renewable energy technology and internal combustion engines.
  - **Built environment**  
The built environment refers to all Council owned buildings, facilities, urban spaces and infrastructure, including above and below-ground services.
2. Council will ensure our strategic and operational activities are planned and conducted to embed sustainability principles and minimise (or reduce) carbon emissions.
  3. In accordance with the Sound Contracting Principles defined in section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council's purchasing will ensure regard is had to environmental protection when entering into a contract for the supply of goods or services, or the disposal of assets.
  4. Council will lead and advocate for a whole-of-region approach that prioritises carbon emission reductions through the following actions:
    - Collaboration with local industry and community to facilitate and encourage emissions reductions initiatives.
    - Environmental, social and economic resilience throughout the transition to a low carbon economy.
    - Increased education, engagement and awareness around the importance of sustainability.

## ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- *Climate Change Act 2022*
- Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan
- Bundaberg Regional Council Corporate Plan 2021-2026
- Towards Net Zero Bundaberg Strategy
- Procurement Policy

## DOCUMENT CONTROLS

Council will review this policy biennially or in response to changes in law or best practice.

## POLICY OWNER

Director Strategic Projects and Economic Development.