



POLICY			
TITLE:	SUSTAINABILITY POLICY	CODE:	CM194
PURPOSE or OBJECTIVE:	A statement of intent to guide the City of Canning in its efforts to embed sustainability principles in planning and decision making processes at an operational and strategic level.		
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:	<i>Local Government Act 1995 s 1.3 (3)</i>		

POLICY STATEMENT
The City of Canning commits to striving for leadership in sustainability at a local, national and international level. The City aspires to go beyond best practice and look towards becoming a sustaining organisation for the community and an inspiration for the Western Australian local government sector.

1. Scope

This policy applies to City of Canning staff and Elected Members and is designed to ensure sustainable decision-making at a strategic level and meet the goals and objectives of the City's Strategic Community Plan.

2. Definitions

<i>Sustainability</i>	The ability to maintain, or sustain something indefinitely. It is applied in this policy to mean the commitment to living within the carrying capacity and resource limits of the planet, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
<i>Sustainable Procurement</i>	The sourcing of goods and services that have the most positive environmental, social and economic impact across their life cycle. Sustainable procurement aligns with principles such as accountability, transparency, ethical operation, fair opportunity, labour rights and healthy work conditions, economic, environmental and social resource optimisation, and innovative solutions.
<i>Systems Thinking</i>	A holistic approach to analysis that focuses on the way that a system's constituent parts interrelate, and how systems work over time and within the context of larger systems.
<i>Biodiversity</i>	The sum of the variety of all living things on Earth; the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genetic information they contain and the ecosystems they form.
<i>Intergenerational Equity</i>	The commitment to fairness or justice between generations. It can also be applied to fairness between existing generations and generations yet to come. It is applied in this policy to mean the responsibility that current generations have to behave in a manner that ensures the health of the environment, society and economy that future generations will inherit.
<i>Precautionary Principle</i>	The commitment to ensuring that when investigation has found a plausible risk, uncertainty or lack of extensive scientific knowledge is not used as a justification for inaction or delay in addressing the risk.
<i>Community Capital</i>	The term 'capital' is most commonly used to refer to money and material goods. However, in the context of sustainability, communities have several

<p><i>Circular Economy</i></p>	<p>different types of capital that need to be considered - natural, human, social, and built capital. Together, these types of capital are referred to as community capital. All four types of capital are necessary for communities to function. All four types of capital need to be managed by a community. All four types of capital need to be cared for, nurtured and improved over time.</p> <p>An economic system where products and services are traded in closed loops or 'cycles' rather than in a linear 'take-make-waste' system. A circular economy is characterised as an economy which is regenerative by design, with the aim to retain as much value as possible of products, parts and materials. It entails the gradual decoupling of economic activity from the consumption of finite resources, and designing waste out of the system, building economic, natural, and social capital.</p>
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3. Policy Background

There are significant policy drivers for sustainability in Australia and beyond, and the City of Canning strives to meet these commitments and where possible, exceed them.

The Local Government Act 1995

In 2004 the *Local Government Act 1995* was amended to deal with a range of matters including provisions to incorporate sustainability into the content and intent of the legislation. Section 1.3 (3) of the Act now states that:

In carrying out its functions a local government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.

Legislation

There are also a broad range of legislative drivers in the form of Acts of Parliament, Regulations and Policy, at both a state and federal level, which have a direct relationship to the sustainable delivery of local government services.

4. Policy Commitments

The City of Canning is committed to becoming a leader in sustainability. The City makes the following eight commitments to embedding sustainability in decision-making processes across its strategic functions:

1. A commitment to innovation, leadership and continual improvement.

Apply systems thinking, agility and continual learning to respond to rapid innovation in sustainable technology and strive to achieve the City's Smart City Vision.

Stay abreast of global trends and model innovation in policy and practice and take a key role in advocacy around reducing the policy, regulatory and financial barriers to accessing innovative sustainability solutions.

Lead by example and empower employees and community to take a shared leadership approach to sustainability challenges and opportunities.

2. A commitment to intergenerational equity.

Acknowledge the City's responsibility to both current and future generations of our community, and for impacts on communities beyond our boundaries.

Ensure that the City's policies and practices endeavour to meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

3. A commitment to responsible resource management and impact reduction.

Acknowledge the interdependence of economic, social and environmental issues in decision-making, planning and procurement processes.

Acknowledge and address the significant cumulative, whole-of-life impact of local government procurement, operations, consumption and waste management.

Measure, monitor, evaluate and regularly communicate progress in impact reduction and improvements in sustainability against a set of agreed organisational and community sustainability targets.

4. A commitment to climate responsive urban development.

Undertake land-use planning that takes an integrated, transit-oriented design approach to facilitate accessibility, mobility and appropriate local economic growth.

Integrate green infrastructure into the built and natural landscape to future-proof the City against potential impacts of climate change; including heat island effect, water management and drainage infrastructure pressures, energy and fuel poverty and mental and physical health impacts.

Build, maintain and improve our City facilities and assets to ensure operational efficiency and reduce the impact of current and future operations, and ensure their optimal operation by City staff and community users through appropriate education and support.

5. A commitment to protecting environmental integrity and biodiversity.

Acknowledge that the City's unique biodiversity and ecological systems have intrinsic worth beyond their value as a community amenity or economic resource, and play an essential role in the cultural, spiritual, mental and physical health of our employees and community.

Protect, conserve and enhance our natural environment through active environmental stewardship and responsible natural resource management.

6. A commitment to building community capital, social sustainability and a thriving local economy.

Support the development of healthy, thriving and sustainable local economies, and strive to embrace a circular economic model that looks beyond the linear 'take-make-waste' paradigm.

Recognise our potential to influence the local and the broader economy, and work with our supply chains and contractors to ensure our economic impact is more sustainable over time.

Support and nurture local innovation and social entrepreneurship to enable sustainable economic development that prioritises the creation of local employment opportunities.

7. A commitment to risk mitigation, evidence-based governance and observing the precautionary principle.

Acknowledge that not addressing sustainability considerations in decision-making, project planning and practice may present risks to the City and / or to future communities.

Integrate sustainability risk management into decision-making; assessing potential legal, compliance, financial, productivity, and reputational risks against social, environmental and economic objectives.

Apply the precautionary principle to mitigate threats of serious or permanent harm to the environment or society; take account of all available evidence to reduce risk to the City and the community; and avoid using uncertainty as a justification for not addressing risks adequately or in a timely manner.

8. A commitment to developing partnerships and increasing participation in local, state, national and international sustainability opportunities.

Acknowledge that the City cannot be sustainable in isolation from the places and people around it. Sustainability issues are often complex and interdependent, and can benefit from multiple perspectives and approaches.

Collaborate and partner with key stakeholders including: Local, State and Federal governments; research institutions; non-government organisations; industry and advocacy bodies and the business community, to achieve shared sustainability objectives.

Take a knowledge-brokering and capacity-building approach, and facilitate positive relationships with the community to create shared understanding and foster collective responsibility, advocacy and action.

GOVERNANCE REFERENCES

Statutory Compliance	
Process Links	

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate responsible		Officer Title	Date last approved by Exec Team
Canning Community & Commercial		Director, Canning Community & Commercial	18 February 2019
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis	Delegation No
1	OCM 18/03/14 (CR-012-14)	Adopted	
2	OCM 18/06/19 (CC-027-19)	Adopted	
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