

# BARCALDINE REGIONAL COUNCIL POLICY

<b>SYSTEM:</b>	Environment and Heritage Protection
<b>POLICY TITLE:</b>	Environmental Management Policy
<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>	<b>CS004</b>
<b>ADOPTED:</b>	<b>16 September 2015</b>
<b>AMENDED:</b>	<b>10 September 2018</b>
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To preserve and enhance the environmental values of the Barcaldine Regional Council area.

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## 1. Outline

This Policy confirms Barcaldine Regional Council's commitment to environmental management and ecologically sustainable development, and describes Council's intentions and direction in relation to environmental performance, and provides a framework for the setting of objectives and targets.

## 2. Background

This Policy complies with:

AS/NZS ISO 14001:2015 *Environmental Management Systems*  
AS/NZS ISO 9001:2015 *Quality Management System*  
Barcaldine Regional Council Corporate Plan 2015-19

## 3. Scope

The Environmental Management Policy applies to all operations of Barcaldine Regional Council including:

1. Waste collection and disposal and waste infrastructure operations and maintenance
2. Sewerage Treatment Plants and other sewerage infrastructure operations and maintenance
3. Water Treatment Plants and other water infrastructure operations and maintenance
4. Road construction and maintenance activities on State controlled roads, Federal controlled roads, Council controlled roads and private road projects
5. Pest and weed eradication
6. Plant and equipment operations and maintenance
7. Maintenance of parks and gardens
8. Planning assessments and approvals

Council activities may have an impact on different aspects of the environment including:

1. Air contamination
  2. Ground contamination
  3. Noise emissions
  4. Discharges to waterways
  5. Harm to flora and fauna
  6. Harm to Cultural heritage
  7. Wastage of resources
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## 4. Policy Statement

Barcaldine Regional Council will conduct its operations and provide services with respect and care for the environment. To achieve this, Council is committed to:

- complying with applicable legal and other requirements;
- continuously improving its environmental performance through an effective environmental management system;
- reviewing the environmental effects of its activities and setting appropriate environmental improvement objectives;
- integrating environmental considerations into planning and day to day activities;
- minimising the environmental impact of operations and services by preventing pollution and conserving natural resources;
- providing employees and contractors with the information and skills to help achieve Council's environmental responsibilities; and
- communicating openly about its policies, planning and performance.

## 5. Policy Principles

Environmental Management at Council is based on six fundamental principles:

1. **Environmental Commitment** – Council and its employees and contractors actively endorse and demonstrate support for the Environmental Management Policy and foster the development and preservation of an environmentally responsible culture within the organisation.
2. **Environmental Responsibility** - Environmental Management is accepted as the responsibility of all employees, contractors, volunteers, work experience students and trainees of Council.
3. **Environmental Management Employees and Resources** - Employees are trained, supported and resourced appropriately in order to perform their duties in a manner consistent with Council's Environmental Management System.
4. **Environmental Management Data and Information** - Processes are in place to ensure the consistent collection, analysis and retention of environmental management data and information.
5. **Environmental Management Practices** - Consistent and effective practices will be identified and communicated throughout the organisation through Plans, Policies, Procedures, Templates and Forms.
6. **Environmental Management Improvement** - Critical, honest and timely self review and evaluation of practices and processes will be conducted to ensure ongoing suitability and adequacy.

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## 6. Policy Objectives

### 1. *Effective Process & Control*

- Implement and maintain effective processes to ensure our operations and associated activities are planned and undertaken in a way that assures the identification and control of any potential environmental issues.

### 2. *Ensuring Compliance*

- Implement and maintain an environmental management system consistent with legislation and other requirements including the internationally recognised AS/NZS ISO 14001 standard.

### 3. *Consistent Monitoring and Continuous Improvement*

- Continually monitor, review and improve the Environmental Management System to maintain its integrity and to ensure it keeps pace with the evolution of Council, ratepayers, customers and other industry requirements.

### 4. *Effective Reporting & Investigation*

- Establish effective reporting and investigation processes to identify and resolve environmental non-conformities and take relevant action to prevent recurrence.

## 8. Policy Strategies

Barcaldine Regional Council is committed to achieving its environmental principles by adopting the following strategies:

- Implement an Environmental Management System
- Promote waste reduction and recycling within Council and the general community
- Set measurable environmental targets
- Actively reduce resource consumption in all activities of Council
- Ensure environmental outcomes are included in all planning decisions
- Promote the environmental values of the region to the general community
- Educate all employees and contractors to ensure all Council activities are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner
- Implement a system of continuous improvement for environmental management