



Mackay Regional Council

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017-2025

Sustainability is an important priority for our region. It influences our quality of life and the prosperity and liveability of our region.

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017-2025 provides an integrated and coordinated approach to advancing sustainability in the Mackay region.

Purpose

This strategy establishes a framework to advance sustainability in council operations and the region.

This strategy also identifies outcomes, principles and actions that will help to deliver environmental sustainability priorities across the Mackay region.

Economic and community sustainability will be advanced through other council strategies and plans.

Vision

Our region's prosperity, liveability and lifestyle is underpinned by a healthy and sustainable environment managed through council, industry and community partnerships.

What is sustainability?

Sustainability, in the way the term relates to cities, towns, regions and communities is about ensuring the way that we live today doesn't reduce the quality of life of future generations or degrade the quality of the environment they will live in.

Growth and development of communities in line with these principles is often referred to as 'sustainable development'.

Councils and communities pursue sustainability by balancing **economic, community and environmental** priorities through their corporate operations and through government, industry and community partnerships.

This 'triple bottom line' approach is a recognised pathway for local governments seeking to strengthen their corporate sustainability performance and facilitate sustainable development for their communities.

Mission

To advance environmental sustainability within council and across our region.



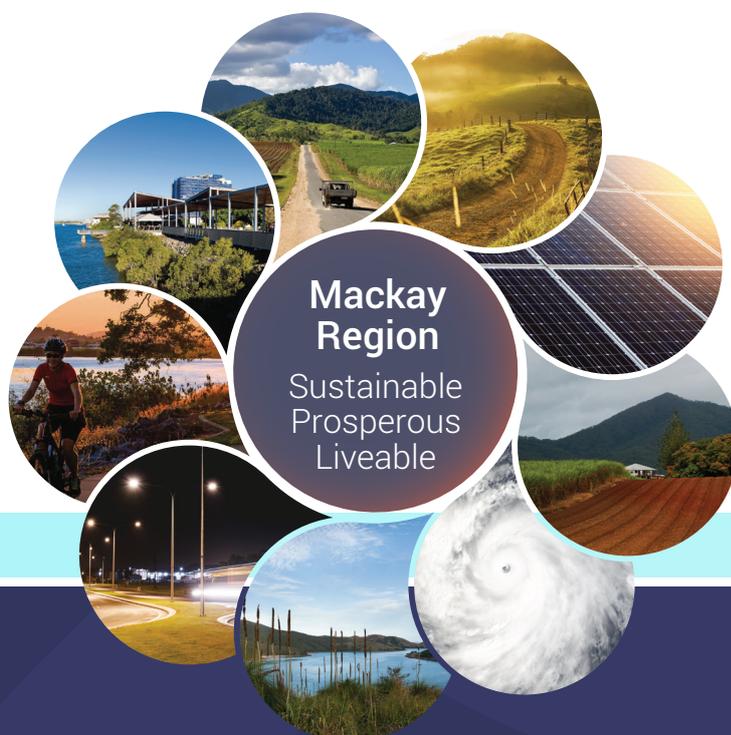
What are the key elements of the strategy?

Council seeks to achieve nine strategic outcomes through the implementation of this strategy. Each strategic outcome is supported by a number of guiding principles that council is seeking to achieve. These principles influence planning and decision making to advance environmental sustainability in council's operations and across the region.

Strategic outcomes and guiding principles:

- Sustainable Region (our vision)**
 - › Our region's prosperity, liveability and lifestyle is underpinned by a healthy and sustainable environment managed through council, industry and community partnerships.
- Low Carbon Region**
 - › Council operations become low carbon to minimise our contribution to climate change.
- Resource-efficient and Productive Region**
 - › Consumption of our natural resources is sustainable to protect and enhance environmental sustainability in our region.
 - › Sustainable local production systems are supported to reduce consumption and reliance on non-renewable resources from outside our region.
- Resilient Region**
 - › Effective planning for climate change enhances the resilience of council and the capacity of our communities, infrastructure and natural areas to recover from stresses while maintaining function and identity.
- A Sustainable Natural Environment**
 - › The sustainability of our region is dependent on our ability to preserve and enhance natural infrastructure and ecological values, while benefiting from the products and services provided by our natural environment.
- Smart Region**
 - › New and emerging technologies will improve council's service delivery and environmental sustainability performance.
- Sustainable Transport**
 - › Connected, active, electric and shared transport options reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption while improving air quality and use of public spaces.
- Sustainable Procurement and Local Economy**
 - › The purchase of products and services achieves value for money and generates environmental, community and economic benefits for our region.
- Regional and Community Partnerships**
 - › Regional cooperation will strengthen influence at the national level to improve environmental sustainability outcomes for our region.
 - › Community partnerships make the best use of finite resources and avoid duplication of effort or missed opportunities.

Figure 1. Strategic Outcomes



Key actions and targets

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy identifies 42 actions that council will lead over the implementation period.

The actions are intended to drive improvements to the environmental sustainability performance of council operations and partnerships with community and industry in the region.

The actions along with 19 targets are aligned under the nine strategic outcomes for the strategy, will help ensure that implementation and progress is

maintained during the life of the strategy.

Action to date has focused on collection of accurate baseline data and improving the ability to measure and monitor performance and improvement.

All of the strategy's actions are included in Part D - Action Plan.



Key actions include:

- › update council policies to embed this strategy's guiding principles into the organisation
- › develop a corporate Energy and Carbon Management Plan that underpins a net zero emissions pathway for council
- › introduce minimum efficiency design standards for new and renovated council buildings
- › join the Queensland Climate Resilient Council program to guide our response to climate change
- › update council's Natural Environment Plan to clarify strategic conservation targets and outcomes
- › implement priority actions to improve freshwater, estuarine and inshore marine water quality
- › develop Local Coastal Plans for all beaches in our region
- › establish baseline data and promote the use of sustainable transport modes by council employees and our community



Strategy implementation

Mackay Regional Council is committed to a healthy, connected and sustainable community and aims to minimise environmental impact by achieving a balance between our built infrastructure and the conservation of our natural resources.

Council puts sustainability into practice through its corporate commitments, governance arrangements, operations and community partnerships which work to protect and enhance our region's natural assets, biodiversity and respond to climate change.

Monitoring progress is critical to achieving the strategy outcomes over the implementation horizon.

Progress towards achieving individual targets will be regularly reviewed by council and reported on as part of council's normal corporate reporting arrangements.

A communication and engagement plan will be implemented and reviewed annually to ensure council employees, stakeholders and partners are engaged during the life of the strategy.

The plan will identify important industry and community partnerships to be pursued during the life of the strategy.



Further Information

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017-2025, and Part D Action Plan, along with a range of information on Council's sustainability activities is available on Council's website.

mackay.qld.gov.au/environment



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