

Sustainability Position Statement

Policy Principles

This Position Statement relates to the following Policy Principles of LGNSW:

- (6)** *Local government actions reflect Ecologically Sustainable Development principles:*
- a. *Intergenerational equity – today’s actions maintain or enhance the environment for future generations*
 - b. *Precautionary principle – prevent environmental degradation and manage and mitigate risk*
 - c. *Conservation of biological diversity*
 - d. *Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms – recognising the value of the environment to the community.*
- (7)** *Local government services embody the principles of Social Justice:*
- a. *Equity – fair distribution of resources*
 - b. *Rights – equality for all people*
 - c. *Access – to services essential to quality of life*
 - d. *Participation – of all people in their community*
 - e. *Recognition – of the unique place of Aboriginal people in NSW and the right of Aboriginal people to be involved in all decisions affecting Aboriginal communities.*

Background

The *Local Government Act 1993* states ecologically sustainable development requires the effective integration of economic and environmental considerations in decision-making processes. The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework also requires councils to address social, environmental, economic and civic leadership (the quadruple bottom line) issues in an integrated way.

Our Position

LGNSW advocates for:

- Closer coordination between State and Local Government authorities to ensure all decisions made by these two spheres of Government are in harmony and take into account the majority view of residents and the long term environmental, economic and social impact.
- Decision making in land-use planning and urban and regional development strategies to include sustainability objectives to achieve integrated outcomes that enhance community wellbeing and liveability.
- Ambitious but realistic policies and practices that promote council, community, industry and government commitment to environment protection, natural resource management and resource efficiency.
- Commitment to sustainable procurement to drive quadruple bottom line outcomes across local government functions and services including improved efficiency, reduced waste to landfill, financial savings, stimulating markets for innovative and more sustainable products, social responsibility, supporting local communities and businesses and helping to achieve long term environmental and social objectives.

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