

RMCC EMS - Environmental Policy

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City of
Newcastle

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Part A Preliminary

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy has been prepared in accordance with *ISO 14001:2015 Environmental management systems – Requirements with guidance for use* to support City of Newcastle's (CN) Roads Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) Environmental Management System (EMS).

2 Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to outline CN's commitment to the environment when delivering works under the RMCC. Our goal is to minimise the impact of CN's operations on the environment and provide leadership and direction for continuously improving our environmental performance.

3 Scope

- 3.1 This policy applies to all CN employees, volunteers, and any person or organisation contracted to, or acting on behalf of, CN under an RMCC contract.
- 3.2 A breach of this policy is a breach of CN's Code of Conduct.

4 Principles

- 4.1 CN commits itself to the following:
- Ecologically Sustainable Development** – considering the principles of ecologically sustainable development in all of CN's activities under an RMCC contract, including when undertaking works, providing services, and procuring goods and services.
 - Protecting the Environment** – protecting the environment, including the prevention of pollution.
 - Compliance** – complying with all relevant environmental legislation.
 - Continuous Improvement** - continually improving our environmental management systems to enhance environmental performance.

Part B Roles and Responsibilities

5 Executive Leadership Team

- 5.1 CN's Executive Leadership Team are responsible for overseeing the establishment, implementation and maintenance of this policy.
- 5.2 CN's Executive Leadership Team are responsible for determining the Responsibility, Authority and Accountability's for implementing this policy. The Executive Leadership Team are also responsible for identifying and providing the resources required to implement this policy.

6 Other

- 6.1 All CN employees, volunteers, and any person or organisation contracted to, or acting on behalf, of CN under an RMCC contract are responsible for implementing the principles of this policy.

ANNEXURE A - DEFINITIONS

CEO means Chief Executive Officer of the City of Newcastle and includes their delegate or authorised representative.

References to the Chief Executive Officer are references to the General Manager appointed under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).

City of Newcastle (CN) means Newcastle City Council.

CN Staff means employees of CN (including full time, part time, fixed term and casual) or Specific Talent Contractor who is engaged under a CN position description.

Council means the elected Council.

Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) is defined in *Australia's National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development* as 'using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased'. ESD requires the effective integration of social, economic and environmental considerations in decision-making processes. ESD can be achieved through the implementation of the following principles and programs:

(a) the precautionary principle—namely, that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

In the application of the precautionary principle, public and private decisions should be guided by:

(i) careful evaluation to avoid, wherever practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment, and

(ii) an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options,

(b) inter-generational equity—namely, that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations,

(c) conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity—namely, that conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration,

(d) improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms—namely, that environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services, such as:

(i) polluter pays—that is, those who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance or abatement,

(ii) the users of goods and services should pay prices based on the full life cycle of costs of providing goods and services, including the use of natural resources and assets and the ultimate disposal of any waste,

(iii) environmental goals, having been established, should be pursued in the most cost effective way, by establishing incentive structures, including market mechanisms, that enable those best placed to maximise benefits or minimise costs to develop their own solutions and responses to environmental problems.

EMS means Environmental Management System.

Executive Leadership Team comprises CN's CEO and Directors, who are considered to be 'top management' as defined in AS/NZS ISO 14001:2016.

Unless stated otherwise, a reference to a section or clause is a reference to a section or clause of this Policy.

RMCC means the Roads Maintenance Council Contract CN has with Transport for NSW.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Guideline or Procedure owner	Nil
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Relevant legislation/codes (reference specific sections)	This Policy supports CN's compliance with the following legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ISO 14001: 2015 Environmental management systems – Requirements with guidance for use – RMCC's with Transport for NSW – Local Government Act 1993
Other related documents	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for RMCC works.
Related forms	Nil.
Required on website	Yes
Authorisations	Nil.