

Environmental Management Information



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General Environmental Policy

The City of Marion is committed to a healthy environment. The development of a 'General Environmental Policy' demonstrates this commitment and provides a framework for action.

Introduction

The General Environmental Policy establishes principles of action for the Council, and sets the level of environmental responsibility and performance. It is in line with the *Local Government Act 1999* and helps to ensure compliance with relevant environmental legislation.

What does the General Environmental Policy cover?

The General Environmental Policy Statement describes the philosophy, values and future directions of the City of Marion in relation to the environment. The following is an extract from the Policy:

*'To ensure effective environmental performance in all activities, the **City of Marion** is committed to achieving a **Healthy Environment** and aims to integrate environmental considerations with economic and social factors.*

This policy provides the guiding principles for setting and reviewing environmental directions, strategies, plans, policies, procedures and actions.'

What does 'Healthy Environment' mean?

The environment contains many natural assets: air, land, water, and living things. Interactions between natural assets are diverse and yet occur with a stability causing changes to happen over very long periods of time. In a Healthy Environment natural assets are protected and restored; impacts are controlled; and the capacity to adapt to a changing environment is enhanced.

The term 'Healthy Environment' is identified as one of the four community vision themes of the *City of Marion Strategic Plan 2006-2020*.

What does this mean for Marion's General Environmental Policy?

The policy describes a number of principles on how the Council will work towards achieving a Healthy Environment and are grouped as follows: Strategic Planning; Tools and Systems; and Project Delivery.

- **Strategic planning** for a healthy environment is achieved through an effective environmental planning framework;



- To support the environmental planning framework, effective **tools and systems** need to be in place. The City of Marion as adopted an Environmental Management System (EMS) approach that is certified to the international standard AS/NZ ISO14001. The EMS provides a framework that embraces continual improvement in the management and coordination of our environmental activities.



- Human impacts have caused many of the natural interactions in our environment to become unbalanced. To restore this balance and create a healthy environment Council **delivers** a wide variety of **projects** to:

- **Protect** existing natural assets so that no further degradation occurs e.g. remnant native vegetation, coastal and marine ecosystems, air quality;
- **Restore** or improve the condition of natural assets e.g. revegetation activities, rehabilitation of watercourses, soil conservation, etc;
- **Control** pest plants and animals, resource use (energy, water, etc), waste generation, pollution, etc; and
- **Adapt** to changing environmental conditions (rainfall, temperature, sea levels, etc.).

How often is the General Environmental Policy reviewed?

The policy is reviewed annually by the Environmental Management System (EMS) Steering Committee.

Who does the General Environmental Policy affect?

The policy raises awareness of responsibilities of Elected Members (individually and as a whole Council), Council staff and volunteers, and suppliers of goods and services to Council, in relation to environmental management and protection.

The City of Marion is responsible for ensuring that the Policy is communicated to all Elected Members, employees, volunteers, and suppliers of goods and services, and is publicly available.

Where can I get a copy of the General Environmental Policy?

Copies of the General Environmental Policy are available from Customer Service Centre and on the City of Marion internet site.

Need more Information?

City of Marion

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Environmental Planner

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