



CUMBERLAND  
COUNCIL



# Cumberland Council

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## Environmental Management Framework 2019

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# Introduction

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Environmental management is the decision-making process that guides an organisation towards desirable environmental outcomes. This is achieved through recognising challenges and constraints and identifying the most feasible options for achieving these environmental goals.

The Environmental Management Framework is a requirement from Cumberland Council's Delivery Program 2017 - 21. The Framework will help support Council to deliver Community Strategic Plan Goal 3: 'A Clean and Green Community'. The Framework demonstrates Council's commitment to keeping Cumberland clean, green and environmentally sustainable for our residents, businesses and the wider community. To achieve this, we will incorporate ecologically sustainable development principles in our decision-making processes to balance the economic, social, environmental and governance needs of the community. This will ensure that we deliver the most value for money outcome whilst improving the quality of life for our community, both now and into the future.

The Environmental Management Framework summarises Council's plans, strategies and policies to

provide guidance and inform decision-making, to help Council address current and emerging environmental issues. The Framework does this by aligning environmental issues with plans and actions, which will also help demonstrate how Council is delivering on its environmental outcomes and meeting its statutory commitments.

As part of the development of the Framework, a rigorous literature review of Local, State and Federal legislation, strategic documents and environmental issues was completed. This process identified common themes and issues in five key environmental areas:

- Biodiversity;
- Water and Energy Efficiency;
- Waste and Litter;
- Water and Air Quality; and
- Corporate Sustainability.

The Framework lists Council's strategies, plans and policies to address these five key environmental themes.



# Our Environmental Vision

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“Cumberland Council will **LEAD BY EXAMPLE** to deliver a **CLEAN, GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT** for current and future generations”

We will lead by example by reducing our environmental footprint through more effective water and energy usage across our facilities. We will apply continuous improvement initiatives to:

- Ensure our waterways are protected, clean and healthy by improving our waterways and riparian corridors;
- Deliver great natural and green spaces that serve our local biodiversity through managing our open spaces, parks and vegetation; and
- Deliver clean and attractive public places by providing an efficient waste collection service for the community; and
- Achieve positive environmental outcomes and value for money.

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## Ecologically Sustainable Development

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The *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*, Section 8A states that Council, as part of its decision-making process, should consider the principles of ecological sustainable development (ESD):

‘to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development.’

### What is Ecologically Sustainable Development?

Ecologically sustainable development is about maintaining the ecological processes on which our environment depends to improve the quality of life, both now and into the future. Put simply, we aim to meet the environmental needs of the Cumberland community today, while ensuring that future generations enjoy the same benefits.

Sustainable development can be achieved by following key principles during the decision-making process:

- Lead by example to proactively minimise and mitigate environmental damage
- Recognise that current actions and policies have an environmental impact for future generations
- Protect the natural environment and value the importance of a diverse and healthy ecosystem
- Implement a decision-making process that produces positive environmental outcomes that are value for money and considers the pillars of the ‘Quadruple Bottom Line’:
  - Economic
  - Social
  - Environmental
  - Governance
- Involve the community in decisions and actions that affect them

# What is an Environmental Management Framework?

Cumberland Council's Environmental Management Framework is designed to be visionary, clear and concise. Its purpose is to demonstrate how we will deliver a cleaner and greener community. It does this by bringing together Council's environmental strategies, plans and policies to address current and emerging environmental issues.

The Framework aligns Council's strategies, plans, policies and actions with key environmental themes of Biodiversity, Waste and Litter, Water and Energy Efficiency, Water and Air Quality and Corporate Sustainability. In doing so, it will provide guidance for our environmental actions and decision-making to ensure that we protect and improve the local environment.

The Environmental Management Framework demonstrates how Council meets a range of legislative requirements, supports regional plans and fulfils our commitment to the community, as outlined in our Community Strategic Plan, to deliver 'A clean and green community'.

- Set out relevant legislation, policies and strategies;
- Explain key drivers and emerging trends that will impact Cumberland Council; and
- Summarise existing environmental plans, strategies, policies and actions to achieve Council's environmental vision.

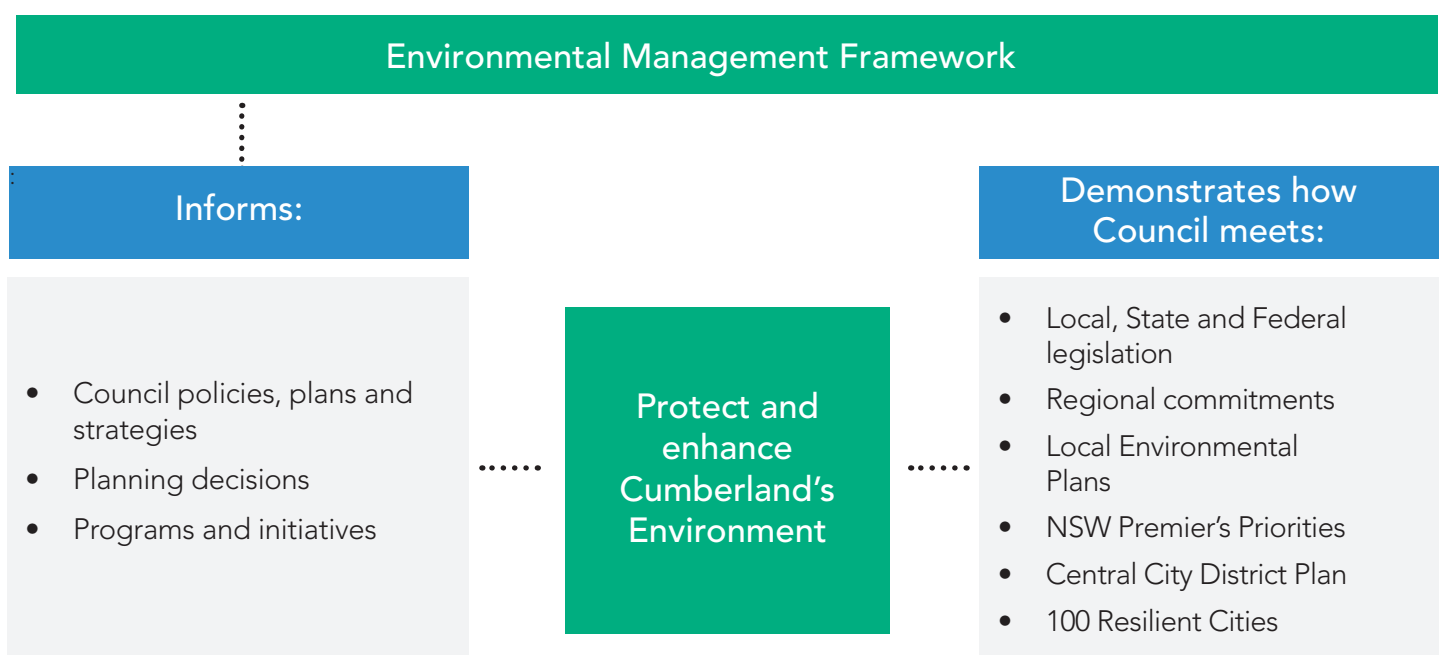
An Environmental Management Framework differs from a strategy. A framework provides an overview and guide for how Council will deliver a clean and green environment for the community. It ensures that strategies and plans are in place to address environmental issues. It summarises how business units within Council fit together to guide the bigger 'clean and green' picture, and how they work together to address the key environmental themes through strategies.

Unlike a framework, a strategy is a specific plan of action to achieve a specific goal. It is a detailed analysis of a current theme and any future associated changes and challenges. A strategy helps to ensure that Council's day-to-day activities are moving Council in the right direction.

Environmental actions and objectives are found within Council's strategies, plans and policies set against key environmental themes of Biodiversity, Water and Energy Efficiency, Waste and Litter, Water and Air Quality and Corporate Sustainability. These are listed in the table on pages 11 - 12.

## The Purpose of the Framework

- Link our environmental actions to demonstrate how Council will deliver Community Strategic Plan Goal 3: 'A Clean and Green Community';



# Council's Role

More than ever before, Council recognises the important role it plays in delivering its environmental commitments. In order to deliver these commitments, we will act in various roles:

COUNCIL'S ROLE	ROLE OBLIGATIONS / DESCRIPTION
Statutory Authority	Council is obliged under NSW legislation to ensure compliance and delivery of environmental services. While performing this role, Council will use its powers to ensure compliance or to regulate activities of residents and businesses to deliver environmental outcomes.
Service Provider	Council plays a key role in providing important services that protect its surrounding environment. These services will ensure that the environment remains healthy for the community, and that development occurs in a sustainable manner.
Partner	Where Council cannot provide the services needed to fulfil its environmental commitments, Council will partner, work with and share its responsibilities with other organisations to help deliver environmental outcomes for the community.
Advocate	In situations where Council has no direct environmental responsibilities, Council will assess the impact of the plan or activity on its environment. Where applicable, Council will act as an advocate for the community, lobbying other levels of government and other stakeholders to help inform policy decisions.



# Meeting Our Legislative and Regional Commitments

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Federal, state, local and regional legislation, policies and strategies impact the functioning of Cumberland Council:

## Federal

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*  
Australia's Native Vegetation Framework Australian  
*Renewable Energy Agency Act 2011*  
Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030  
Energy Efficiency in Government Operations Policy  
Australia's 2030 Emissions Reduction Target  
Plan for a Cleaner Environment

## State

*Native Vegetation Act 2003*  
*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*  
*Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*  
*Local Government Act 1993*  
*Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*  
NSW Energy Efficiency Action Plan  
*Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001*  
NSW Climate Change Policy Framework  
Government Resource Efficiency Policy (GREP)  
*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*

## Regional

NSW Premier's Priorities  
Central City District Plan  
Greater Sydney Regional Plan  
100 Resilient Cities  
Western Sydney Regional Waste Strategy  
WSROC Turn Down the Heat Strategy and Action  
Plan 2018  
Parramatta River Catchment Group Masterplan

## Local

Auburn Local Environmental Plan 2010  
Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011  
Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013  
Council Plans of Management  
Cumberland Local Environmental Plan (Planned)  
*Cumberland 2030: Our Local Strategic Planning  
Statement*



# Key Drivers and Emerging Issues

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Over the coming years, Cumberland Council will be driven to act in response to emerging issues that will impact our community and environment. Some of the impacts are already being realised while others are emerging.

We are working proactively to address these issues through our Operational Plan and Delivery Programs.

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## Population Growth

Cumberland Council's population is expected to increase by 30% from 228,308 in 2017 to 296,848 by 2036, with households increasing from 71,435 in 2016 to 98,858 over the same period. This will put pressure on Council services and our natural and physical environment. Some of the impacts include:

- Pressure on local biodiversity and natural areas, with loss of wildlife habitat;
  - Loss of green space;
  - Traffic congestion and parking issues;
  - Increase in water and energy use;
  - Increase in waste generation; and
  - Increase in greenhouse gases.
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## Energy Demands

NSW uses approximately one-quarter of Australia's total energy. In 2012-13, NSW met 94% of its energy demand using non-renewable sources, consisting mainly of coal, gas and petroleum.

The production and use of non-renewable resources are the main source of greenhouse gas emissions. Not only does this have impacts on the environment, it also exposes Council to financial risk if there are energy price fluctuations.

Some of these environmental impacts include:

- Contribution to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, trapping heat and contributing to a rise in global surface temperatures;
- Compound effects of climate change-related events, such as bushfires and the urban heat island effect; and
- Increasing air pollution across Sydney, which could exacerbate respiratory problems.





# Urban Heat Stress

Human activities, such as burning fossil fuels through driving cars, using electricity and gas contribute to urban heat and climate change.

Urban heat stress and climate change effects are already evident. Cumberland Council will need to prepare for:

- Increasing temperatures with hotter, drier conditions increasing the urban heat island effect in Western Sydney;
- Increased frequency and severity of heatwaves, floods, droughts and intensity of storms;
- Changing rainfall patterns leading to reduced average annual rainfalls;
- More intense and extreme rainfall events leading to localised flooding;
- Disruption of electricity supply due to added pressure on energy use during hot weather events and distribution networks limitations;
- Impact on the health and well-being of vulnerable groups (particularly the elderly and very young) as hotter days add to heat-related illnesses; and
- Impact on vulnerable species and ecosystems resulting in a change to local biodiversity.

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# Biodiversity Loss

“Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms on Earth. It is the different plants, animals and microorganisms, their genes and the terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystem of which they are a part” (Australia’s Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030).

Cumberland Council’s biodiversity can be found in our parks, bushland, creeks and rivers, and around our built environment. Our local government area lies within the Cumberland Plain Woodlands which once covered 107,000 hectares, or 30%, of the Sydney Basin. Today, only 6% remains fragmented across Western Sydney, totalling 6,400 hectares. Twenty threatened species of flora and fauna reside in the plains.

Conserving biodiversity is an essential part of safeguarding the biological life-support systems on Earth. All living creatures, including humans, depend on these systems for the necessities of life.

Collectively, these necessities are critical to our environment and ecosystem, which support the community's health and wellbeing.

Biodiversity is under threat from a number of human-induced pressures, in particular:

- Habitat loss due to urban development and the disturbance of native vegetation, leading to land degradation and the fragmentation of ecological communities;
- Introduction and spread of invasive pest and weed species that compete with native species for food and habitat;
- Climate change, as some species may not be able to adapt to the changing climate;
- Greater demand on natural resources; and
- Urban runoff from roads, houses and industry.

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# Consumption Behaviours

Waste generation is closely tied to population and economic growth and Cumberland Council is expected to experience both. It is therefore important that we manage the waste and recycling systems to minimise the impact on the community and environment.

Some of the challenges Council faces are:

- Collecting and treating problem waste, including toxic and hazardous waste, particularly at the end-of-life stage;
- Changing composition of waste due to complex products and packaging that combine polymers, alloys or material types that require new technologies in order to separate and recycle products;
- Influence consumer and residential behaviour to improve their waste and recycling behaviour for the better;
- Change community attitudes towards litter and illegal dumping;
- Influence consumer patterns towards more environmentally friendly choices such as purchasing environmentally sustainable products; and
- Increase cost to dispose of and treat waste and recycling material.

# Current and Future Strategies, Plans and Policies

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We are committed to protecting and improving Cumberland Council's environment. Our vision for a clean, green and sustainable environment will be realised through actioning Council's four-year Delivery Program and the annual Operational Plan. The Delivery Program is structured into 12 key service areas, which work together to achieve the goals outlined in the Community Strategic Plan"

Below is a list of Council's current and future plans and strategies found in the current four year Delivery Program (2017-2021). Together, these initiatives address five key environmental themes: Biodiversity, Waste and Litter, Water and Energy Efficiency, Water and Air Quality and Corporate Sustainability. This list will be updated progressively as new strategies, plans and policies are developed.



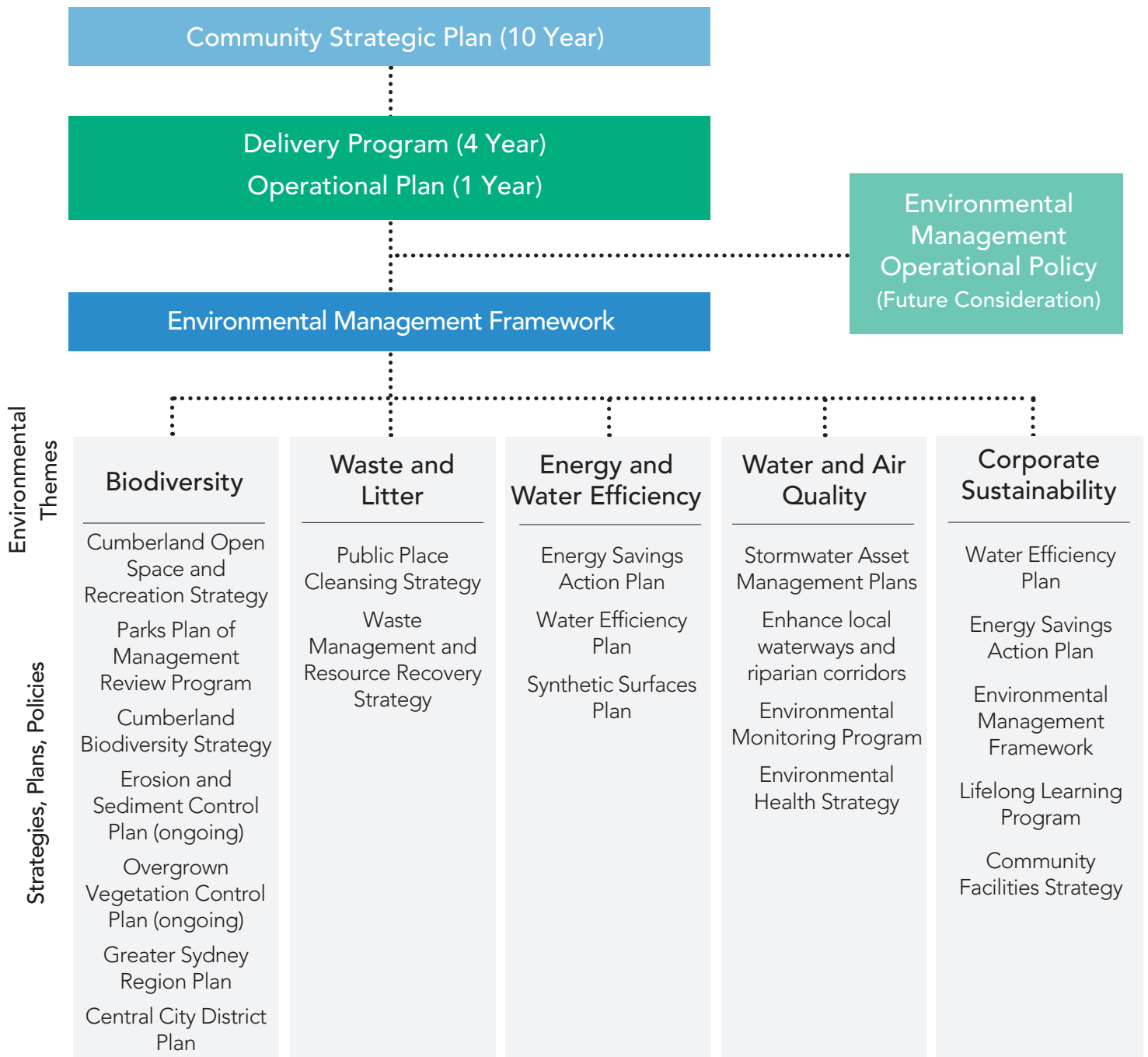
# Environmental Strategies, Plans and Policies

THEME	OPERATIONAL PLAN (1 Year) DELIVERY PROGRAM (4 Year)	KEY SERVICE AREA <i>*detailed in Council's Delivery Program 2017-21</i>	RESPONSIBILITY	RELEVANT DOCUMENTS
Biodiversity	Cumberland Open Space and Recreation Strategy Parks Plan of Management Review Program	3. Parks and Recreation	Works and Infrastructure 8 jfVWc fUjY	Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030
	Cumberland Biodiversity Strategy Protect Cumberland's natural environment (ongoing)	4. Environmental Programs	Environment and Planning 8 jfVWc fUjY	Australia's Native Vegetation Framework Threatened Species Strategy Greater Sydney Region Plan
	Erosion and Sediment Control Program (ongoing) Overgrown Vegetation Control Program	8. Regulatory programs	Works and Infrastructure Directorate	Central City District Plan
Waste and Litter	Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy	5. Household waste and recycling	Environment and Planning Directorate	Waste less, Recycle More WSROC Waste Strategy Western Sydney Regional Waste Strategy
		8. Regulatory programs		
Energy and Water Efficiency	Water Efficiency Plan Energy Savings Action Plan Synthetic Surfaces Plan	4. Environmental Programs	Environment and Planning Directorate	Australia's 2030 Emissions Reduction Target
		3.Parks and Recreation	Works and Infrastructure Directorate	Government Resource Efficiency Policy Energy Efficiency Action Plan

THEME	OPERATIONAL PLAN (1 Year) DELIVERY PROGRAM (4 Year)	KEY SERVICE AREA <i>*detailed in Council's Delivery Program 2017-21</i>	RESPONSIBILITY	RELEVANT DOCUMENTS
Water and Air Quality	Stormwater Asset Management Plans	2. Roads, stormwater and street cleaning	Works and Infrastructure Directorate	National Clean Air Agreement Plan for a Cleaner Environment
	Enhance local waterways and riparian corridors	4. Environmental Programs	Environment and Planning Directorate	
	Environment and Health Strategy	8. Regulatory programs	Works and Infrastructure Directorate	
Corporate Sustainability	Lifelong Learning Program	1. Community programs and events	Community Development Directorate	Plan for a Cleaner Environment Energy Efficiency in Government Operations Policy Government Resource Efficiency Policy (GREP) NSW Climate Change Policy Framework
	Water Efficiency Plan Energy Savings Action Plan Environmental Management Framework Reduce environmental footprint (ongoing)	4. Environmental programs	Environment and Planning Directorate	
	Promote and Enhance Sustainable Environments	6. Children's services	Community Development Directorate	
	Cumberland Community Facilities Strategy	12. Community facilities and property	Community Development Directorate	

# Framework Implementation

The implementation approach of the Environmental Management Framework is outlined below. This is based on the identified environmental themes of: Biodiversity; Waste and Litter; Energy and Water Efficiency; Water and Air Quality; and, Corporate Sustainability.



# Future Considerations

As part of our continuous improvement philosophy, we will continue to explore and investigate opportunities to make Cumberland Council the leader in corporate sustainability, delivering a clean, green and environmentally sustainable area for our community.

The following initiatives have been identified for consideration by Council.

- Sustainable Purchasing
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Sustainable Buildings

- Sustainable Transport
- Sustainable Events
- Green Living
- Urban Heat Mitigation

Further work will be investigated on these initiatives, aligned with Council's service delivery priorities and available funding.

# Procedure for Review

Council operates in a highly dynamic environment and is impacted by changes to legislation, policies and strategies. To ensure the Framework both supports the Delivery Program and reflects current legislation, policy and strategic direction, the Framework will be reviewed in line with the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The Framework review process will be as follows:

STAGE		ACTION
1	Initial Desktop Review	<p>The desktop review should examine and review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to relevant legislation, policies, strategies, plans and regional commitments;</li> <li>• Key drivers and emerging environmental issues;</li> <li>• Council's Delivery Program; and</li> <li>• Council's Environmental Vision.</li> </ul>
2	Consultation	Consult with relevant staff and managers.
3	Draft Revision	Incorporate changes found in Stages 1 and 2. The revised Framework should be shared with relevant staff and managers for final review. If required, the Framework would be placed on public exhibition as per Council policy.
4	Communication	The revised Framework should be shared with staff and our community in line with Council's policies.

# Communication, Reporting and Monitoring

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Council will communicate information about its actions towards improving the environment both internally and externally through Council's website and community newsletters. Progress of Council's initiatives in the Environmental Framework will also be reported as part of the Quarterly Performance Report.





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