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| <b>Policy Title</b>           | Environmental Policy    |
| <b>Responsible Manager(s)</b> | Director Infrastructure |
| <b>Contact Officer(s)</b>     | Director Infrastructure |
| <b>Directorate</b>            | Infrastructure          |
| <b>Approval Date</b>          | 21 August 2025          |
| <b>Strategic Focus Area</b>   | EN. Environment         |

## 1. Introduction

Hilltops Council is committed to environmental excellence and sustainable development. This policy outlines our dedication to integrating environmentally responsible practices into all aspects of Council operations and decision-making. It reflects our commitment to ecologically sustainable development, social equity, and sound financial management, in accordance with Chapter 3 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

## 2. Objectives

Hilltops Council is committed to:

- **Minimise Environmental and ecological Impacts**  
Plan and conduct operations to reduce environmental risks and eliminate adverse impacts where practicable.
- **Continually Improve Performance**  
Set, monitor, and regularly review environmental objectives and targets.
- **Consider Whole-of-Life Impacts**  
Evaluate environmental effects throughout asset lifecycles-design, construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- **Promote Sustainable Waste Practices**  
Implement best practices in waste minimisation, reuse, recycling, and resource recovery.
- **Prevent Pollution**  
Take all reasonable steps to prevent and minimise pollution.
- **Enhance Water and Energy Efficiency**  
Apply best practices to conserve water and energy across Council operations.
- **Protect (and enhance) Biodiversity**  
Conserve, enhance, and promote the region's natural ecosystems.
- **Engage Stakeholders**  
Collaborate with the community and regulators to raise awareness of environmental issues, promote best practice and demonstrate continuous improvement.
- **Track and Reduce Emissions**  
Monitor carbon emissions and reduce greenhouse gases from Council assets and activities to inform decision making.
- **Integrate Sustainability**  
Embed environmental, economic, social, and governance principles into Council processes, procurement, and reporting.

- **Ensure Legal Compliance**

Adhere to all relevant environmental laws, regulations, standards, and codes of practice.

- **Partner with Responsible Suppliers**

Work with contractors and suppliers who share Council's environmental values.

### **3. Governance and Review**

This policy will be reviewed:

- Within 12 months following a Council election.
- At least once every four years.
- As needed to meet statutory and operational requirements.

This policy takes effect from the date of adoption by Council.

## Relevant Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1993* NSW, Chapter 3

## Document History

| Date           | Status | Version | Resolution | Description                                                                                                   |
|----------------|--------|---------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 2025      | Draft  | 0.1     |            | Draft Hilltops Council Environmental Policy - created                                                         |
| 23 July 2025   | Draft  | 0.2     |            | Draft Hilltops Council Environmental Policy presented to Council for 28 day public exhibition and submissions |
| 23 July 2025   | Draft  | 0.3     | 25/229     | Draft Hilltops Council Environmental Policy approved for 28 day public exhibition and submissions             |
| 21 August 2025 | Final  | 1.0     | 25/229     | No submissions received<br>Environmental Policy - adopted                                                     |

- This Policy shall be reviewed within 12 months of an election, and thereafter at intervals of no greater than four years. Any review will ensure this Policy continues to meet all statutory requirements and the operational needs of Hilltops Council.
- The Policy may also be reviewed at other times as determined by Hilltops Council.
- This Policy commences on and from the date of adoption by Hilltops Council as listed in the document history and replaces all previous versions.