

City of Greater Geraldton

1.1 TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DECISIONS

SUSTAINABILITY THEME

Community

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this policy is to establish a simple framework to inform sustainable decision making in delivering the City's Strategic Community Plan future direction and four major goals. Towards sustainable decisions will guide the development of future policies, strategies, actions, and operations.

POLICY STATEMENT

Sustainability is the ability of the City of Greater Geraldton's community, environment, economy and leadership systems to maintain their health and resilience in perpetuity. The City's Strategic Community Plan is committed to the vision of being "Home of WA's Regional Capital" – encompassing a diverse, inclusive, adaptive and sustainable community.

There are four dimensions to sustainable decision-making that influences sustainable development. These align with the City's Strategic Community Plan four major goals.

- **COMMUNITY** Creating a harmonious and inclusive society allows for the development of cultural identity, a sense of place and community values to grow communities and promote stability, diversity, and a high quality of life for all. An effective sustainable community system is where services are resilient to change and able to meet fundamental human needs whilst celebrating vibrant and festive communities, lifestyle, creativity, and freedom;
- **ECONOMY** Ensuring diversity and local productivity creates a flourishing and diverse economy. An effective sustainable economic system creating conditions conducive to economic development and fostering communities where people want to live and do business;
- **ENVIRONMENT** Striving for a natural and built environment preserves quality and minimises the negative impacts of development. An effective sustainable environmental system does not systematically degrade the environment through over-extraction, pollution or physical means;
- **LEADERSHIP** Providing transparent, collaborative, and inclusive decision-making ensures both representation and leadership are accountable to the community. An effective sustainable leadership system is participatory, inclusive and empower local decision-making and regional autonomy.

POLICY DETAILS

Three questions are presented for each dimension to test if decisions are taking the City towards or away from sustainability. For each of these four dimensions of sustainability:

- **Goals** are set that the City of Greater Geraldton can aspire to achieve; and

- **Guiding Questions** are presented to test if decisions and actions are actually taking the City of Greater Geraldton towards the sustainability goal.

1. Community Dimension

1.1. Goal

A tolerant, safe society with a strong sense of local and cultural identity that embraces diversity and creativity. Services are equitably available to satisfy our communities' needs.

1.2. Guiding Questions

Does the decision:

- Provide essential services to our communities in ways that are timely, equitable and recognise our communities' culture, identity and heritage?
- Create conditions more conducive to our communities to satisfy their recreation and leisure needs, and enhance wellbeing and quality of life?
- Demonstrate a culture of learning and development and contribute to low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour?

2. Economy Dimension

2.1. Goal

A healthy thriving local economy that provides diverse, resilient local, and innovative business and employment opportunities.

2.2. Guiding Questions

Does the decision:

- Provide certainty for business and investors through consistent and transparent policies?
- Encourage diverse, innovative, and competitive businesses, partnerships and investments?
- Reduce our economy's vulnerability to future changes that are beyond our control?

3. Environment Dimension

3.1. Goal

A valued natural and built environment that can be maintained sustainably, and in balance with nature.

3.2. Guiding Questions

Does the decision:

- Take a precautionary approach by ensuring proponents bear the burden of proving that the action moves us towards sustainability?
- Consider the net benefit to the environment and mitigating system degradation?
- Increase investment in infrastructure and buildings that are sustainable long-term assets, adaptable for multiple uses, and valued by the community?

4. Leadership Dimension

4.1. Goal

Decision-making processes and institutions that are participatory, inclusive and recognise local autonomy.

4.2. Guiding Questions

Does the decision:

- Empower our local government and in-turn empower citizens to make decisions that support our community's vision?
- Demonstrate transparent, collaborative and inclusive decision-making?
- Build capacity for good leadership, governance and management across all socio-economic and cultural groups?

KEY TERM DEFINITIONS

Resilience means the ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning.

Sustainability means the ability of our city-region's community, environmental, economic, and leadership systems to maintain their health, integrity, and resilience in perpetuity.

Sustainable Development means development that meets the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Vulnerability means the degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This policy applies to all City staff, and elected members involved with decision-making.

WORKPLACE INFORMATION

Local Government Act 1995

Greater Geraldton 2031 Strategic Community Plan

Council Policy 3.1 Climate Change

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Infrastructure Services		Manager Engineering Services	Biennially	2023
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis		
3.	TBA	Policy Review		