

REVISED DRAFT

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Council operations and environmental programs

2015-2020





Environmental Sustainability Strategy - Revised Draft

Version 3 - April 2015

Version Control Table

Version	Description
Version 1 - Draft	Exhibition draft endorsed by Council
Version 2 - Draft	Funding status corrections to actions 4.1, 4.3, 4.6, 4.9. Workplace environmental safety references added to Appendix 2. Minor typos corrected.
Version 3 - Revised Draft	Structure revised, photos replaced, captions added, prioritisation criteria 1.3 revised and moved to 4.3.



Contents

Foreword	iv
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Focus.....	1
2. Environmental Sustainability Strategy summary.....	2
Part A: Council’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy	3
3. Environmental sustainability principles.....	4
3.1 Civic Leadership.....	5
3.2 Supporting community life.....	7
3.3 Strengthening the economy	9
3.4 Caring for the environment.....	10
4. Incorporating environmental sustainability into Council projects.....	12
5. Lead actions	13
Part B: Background.....	17
6. Council's services and environmental sustainability	18
7. Council's environmental sustainability achievements to date	20
8. How the Environmental Sustainability Strategy was developed.....	24
9. Environmental sustainability partnerships	26
10. Integrating environmental sustainability into Council's future decisions and actions	28
11. Implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy	29
12. Reporting of environmental sustainability progress and action	30
Appendices	33
Appendix 1 - Project prioritisation criteria.....	34
Appendix 2 - Related environmental sustainability strategies, plans and policies	37



Foreword



Troy Green
General Manager

Tweed Shire Council has a strong emphasis and a proud history of managing its operations in a way that is environmentally proactive. From our award winning management of conservation areas and sustainable engineering excellence to our sustainable procurement practices, Council has shown great initiative to protect and enhance the environment.

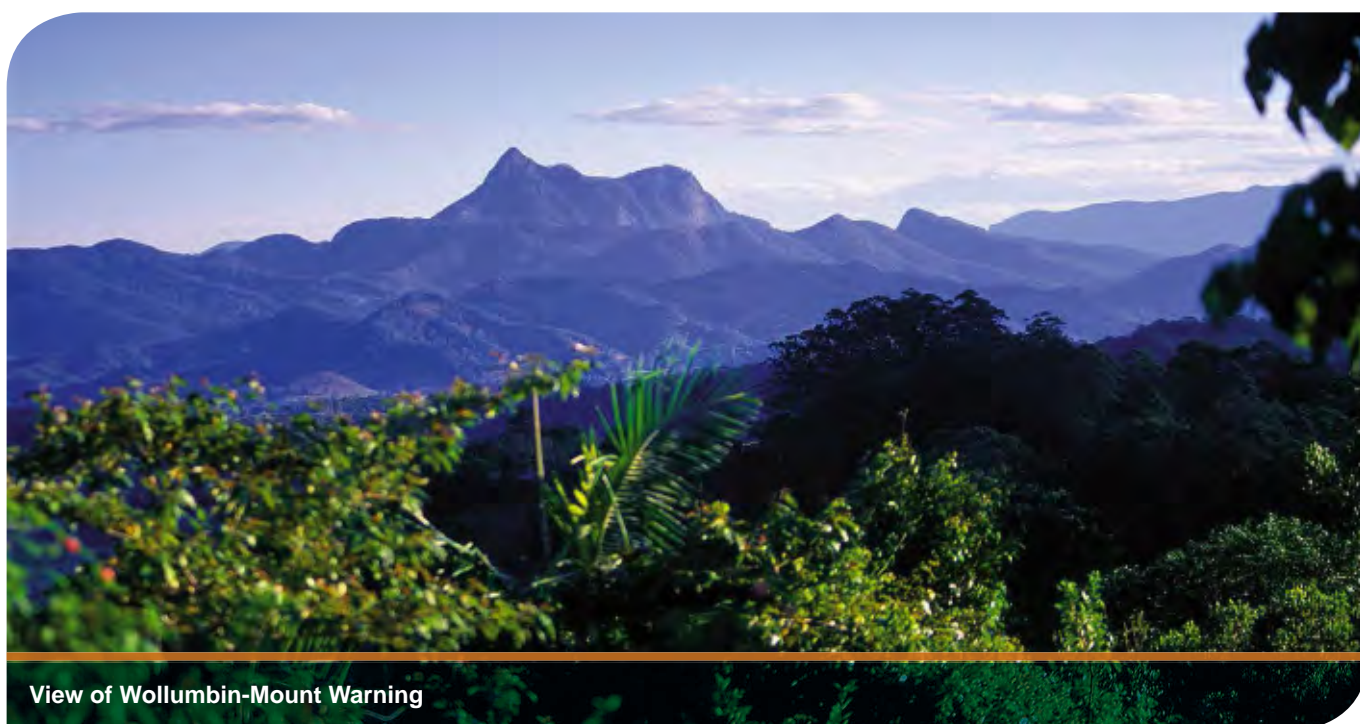
Council already has more than 20 active strategies and policies in place that guide our efforts to preserve Tweed's environmental values. While this is our first overarching environmental sustainability strategy, it builds on the principles and approaches to environmental management that have been embedded in Council's operations over many years.

The strategy consolidates what environmental sustainability means across Council's activities, through a series of principles that reflect the social, economic, environmental and governance considerations that need to inform our decisions and actions for our operations to be sustainable.

The strategy sets out high-level lead actions, including aspirational goals to be pursued over time as more resources become available, and the tangible steps the organisation will continue to take to improve our environmental performance within the scope of our existing staff and budget levels.

The strategy also highlights a set of decision making criteria to help prioritise our efforts so we can achieve the best environmental outcomes, deliver the best value to the community and make the best use of available resources.

Council's environmental management efforts will continue to take a practical and pragmatic approach to meet our community's expectations for the preservation and enhancement of the environmental resources that provide for the fundamental human, economic, social and cultural needs of our community, both now and into the future.



View of Wollumbin-Mount Warning



1. Introduction

Tweed Shire is a diverse region – a unique combination of environmental beauty, lifestyle choices and economic opportunities.

Occupying a unique and complex landform dominated by the remnant caldera of the Wollumbin-Mt Warning shield volcano, home to magnificent World Heritage forests and landscapes, Council has a significant role to play in protecting the natural values and landscapes that our community seeks to preserve as the Tweed's greatest asset.

With over half of the Shire covered by bushland, including 80% with high conservation status, more than 50 distinct vegetation communities endangered or under threat, and over 100 significant animal species, the environment in the Tweed inspires local communities and agencies to preserve and enhance environmental values for the future.

Pressures on the local environment are significant. Our local urban population is growing faster than the state average, leading to increased threats to the environment such as habitat degradation and loss, the spread of invasive species and diseases, pollution, and our collective contribution to climate change.

Beautiful beaches and coastal habitats, fresh and saltwater waterways and wetlands and fertile soils combine to create an environment that plays a central role in the Tweed's identity, prosperity and desirable lifestyles. Degradation of riparian vegetation, erosion and inundation risk, mixed water quality results and poor fish health highlight the risks to the health of our waterways.

Finding the balance where environmental values are enhanced while supporting the economic and social needs of the region is the key to ensuring the Tweed continues to thrive both in the short and long term.

Striving for this balance is an underlying objective of the Community Strategic Plan and a key focus for Tweed Shire Council. Achieving this balance and delivering environmental sustainability with finite Council and community resources is a challenge that requires deliberate planning, prioritisation and integration of Council service delivery.

1.1 Focus

This strategy focuses on how Council's operations and services can improve environmental outcomes and identifies:

- how environmental considerations can be integrated with Council's decisions and actions,
- Council's environmental initiatives and achievements to date,
- what new and ongoing environmental actions Council will pursue over the next five years, and
- how Council will keep track of performance.

This strategy builds on a substantial history of action by Council in environmental management which provides a solid foundation for continued Council action through the implementation of this strategy and other related Council strategies.

This strategy is structured in two parts. **Part A** outlines the key elements that describe Council's environmental sustainability framework. **Part B** provides detailed information about the background to the strategy, environmental management progress to date, an outline of how we work in partnership with others and how the strategy will be put into practice.



2. Environmental Sustainability Strategy summary

Tweed Shire Council will prioritise resources and activities that improve environmental sustainability if we:
 ...apply these principles in our actions and decision-making:

Principles:

Civic Leadership

- Governance Framework
- Social and cultural impacts
- Skills development
- Council leadership
- Responsible procurement
- Climate change action and preparedness
- Stakeholder engagement
- Project prioritisation
- Regional coordination

Supporting Community Life

- Communities safe from hazards
- Community connection with nature
- Indigenous and Traditional Owner partnerships
- Exemplar infrastructure and facilities
- Water demand management
- Reduce waste to landfill
- Regional coordination
- Public transport
- Sustainable development

Strengthening the Economy

- Business as a partner in environmental sustainability
- Low carbon economies
- Effective technologies
- Local food
- Gas Field Free
- Rural subdivision
- Prosperity of the Shire

Caring for the Environment

- Managing important environmental and natural resource values
- Protection and enhancement of biological diversity
- Integrated water management
- Urban stormwater
- Coastal estuaries
- Riverbank erosion
- Coastline development
- Integrated coastline management
- Sustainable agriculture

...apply these criteria to prioritise our efforts to achieve the most effective outcomes:

Project prioritisation criteria:

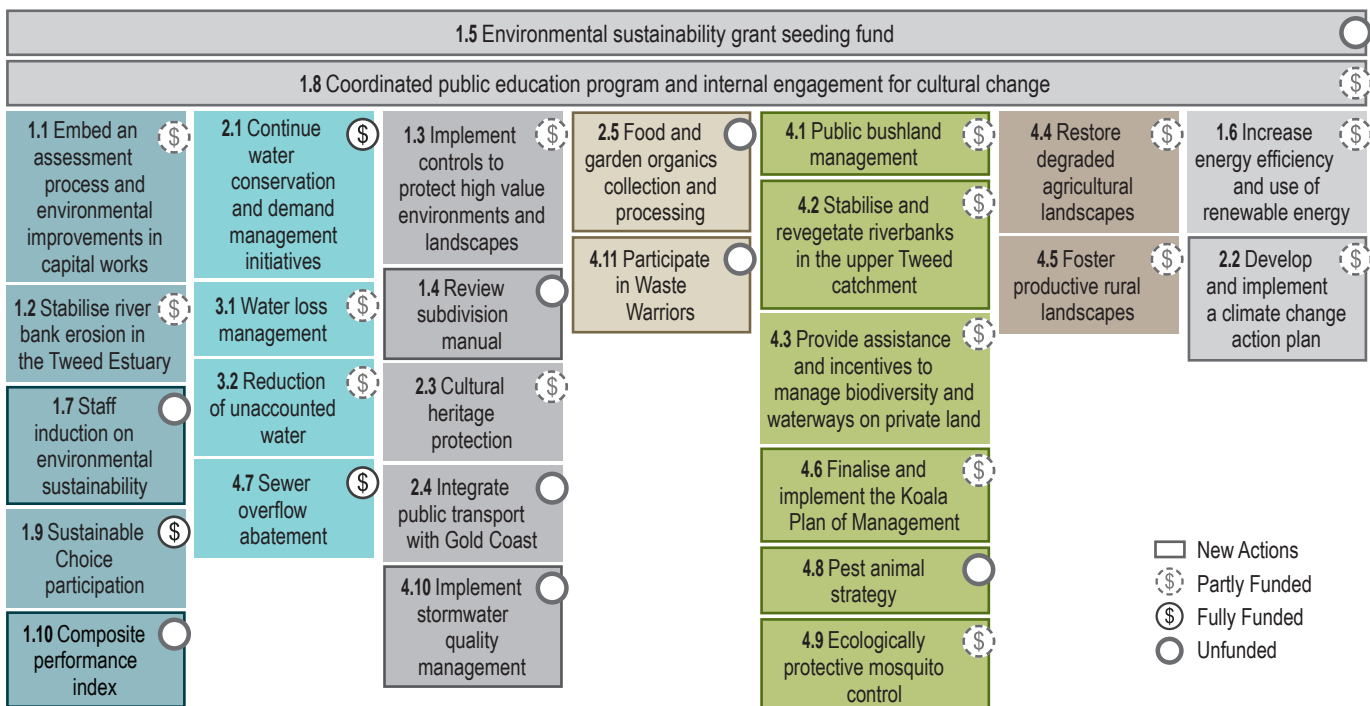
Alignment	Impact	Co-benefits	Cost and value for money	Success
-----------	--------	-------------	--------------------------	---------

...implement these lead actions in key environmental impact areas:

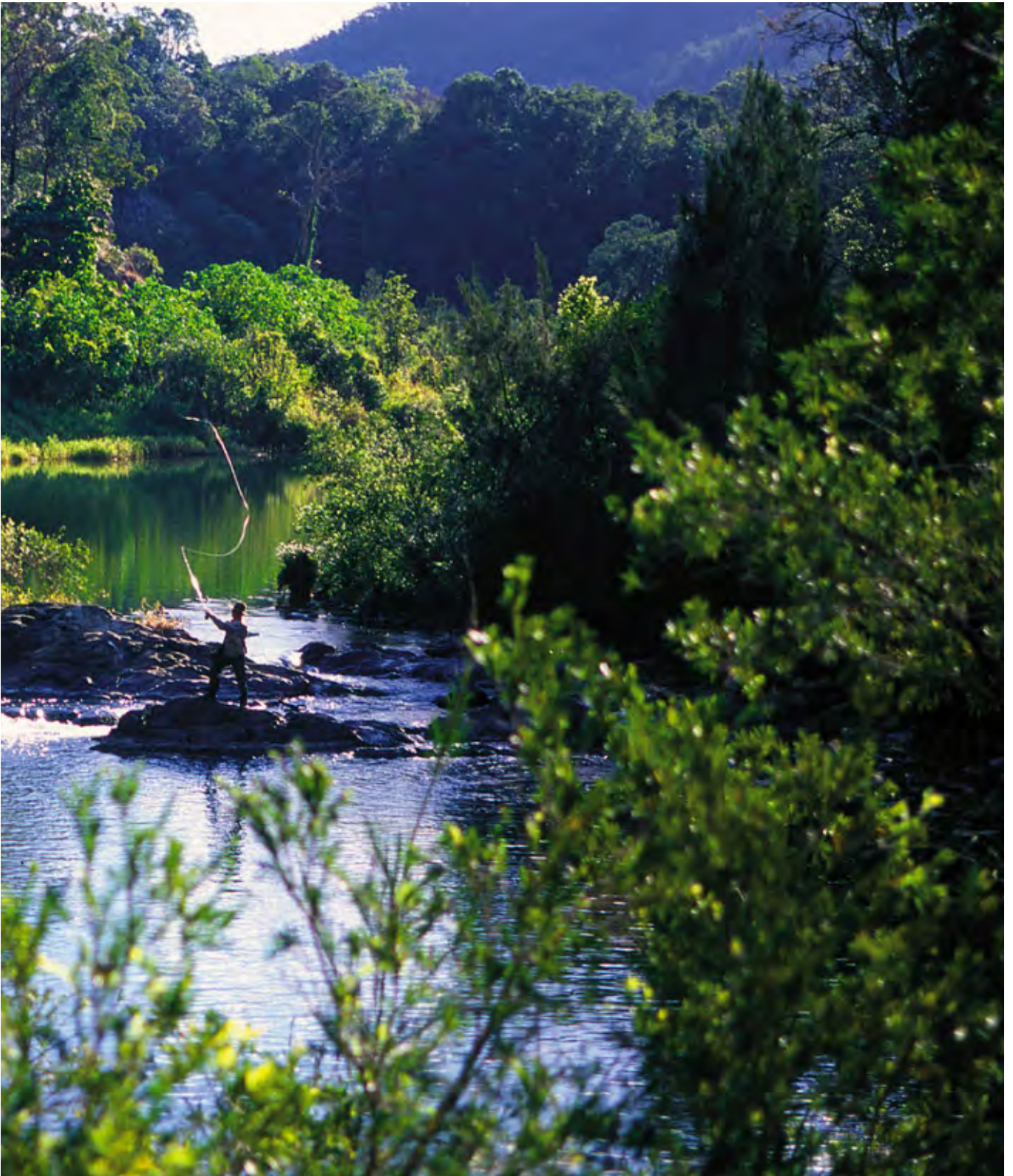
Environmental impact areas:

Council operations and assets	Water	Built environment and transport	Resource use and waste minimisation	Biodiversity	Sustainable agriculture	Energy and climate
-------------------------------	-------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------	-------------------------	--------------------

Lead actions by environmental impact area:



Part A: Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy



3. Environmental sustainability principles

The Community Strategic Plan vision is that the Tweed will be recognised for its desirable lifestyle, strong community, unique character and environment and the opportunities its residents enjoy.

Council understands that environmental sustainability is central to the liveability, prosperity and identity of the Tweed both now and in the future and appreciates that it has a key role in advancing environmental sustainability.

As Council makes decisions and delivers services to the community, the Environmental Sustainability Principles will guide the integration of environmental considerations into Council's thinking and actions.

The community's desire for positive environmental outcomes is reflected throughout the Community Strategic Plan. The Environmental Sustainability Principles are therefore aligned with the themes and objectives of the Community Strategic Plan, to provide additional clarification about how to align Council policies and practices to meet community environmental expectations.

In the future, the Principles can guide environmental sustainability initiatives that come forward from within Tweed Shire Council or the community during the life of the Strategy and can provide an input to the Community Strategic Plan when it is refreshed in the future.



Tweed Heads, commercial boat harbour, with Fingal Head in the distance





3.1 Civic Leadership

Council has a key responsibility for delivering the services anticipated by residents. Environmental sustainability can be advanced by integrating environmental sustainability considerations in the planning and delivery of those services in a practical and affordable way.

The environmental sustainability principles that will guide Council are:

Community Strategic Plan Objectives	Environmental Sustainability Principles
<p>Ensure actions taken and decisions reached are based on the principles of sustainability.</p>	<p>Governance framework The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework integrates environmental sustainability considerations. Appropriate revenue opportunities for environmental initiatives are identified and pursued. Community reporting provides information on performance and achievement against indicators.</p> <p>Social and cultural impacts Decisions made around environmental sustainability include social and cultural impacts, such as inclusivity, affordability, accessibility, equality and impact on Aboriginal culture and Tweed Shire heritage.</p> <p>Skills development Council develops environmental management skills and expertise within the organisation and supports environmental sustainability leadership by staff.</p> <p>Council leadership Council operations model good environmental sustainability practices and incorporate opportunities for environmental education and continuous improvement.</p> <p>Responsible procurement Council procurement is ethical, accountable and considers the purchase of goods and services that have less impact on the environment.</p> <p>Climate change action and preparedness Develop resilience to changing climate conditions and minimise greenhouse gas emissions.</p>



Community Strategic Plan Objectives	Environmental Sustainability Principles
<p>Improve decision making by engaging stakeholders and taking into account community input.</p>	<p>Stakeholder engagement Planning and implementation of projects and actions that will impact on stakeholders and community are informed by community consultation and engagement activities in line with the Community Engagement Strategy.</p>
<p>Delivering the objectives of this plan</p>	<p>Project prioritisation Council applies its staff time and funding to environmental initiatives that align with statutory obligations, community priorities, have co-benefits, provide value for money and can be delivered effectively.</p>
<p>Manage and plan for a balance between population growth, urban development and environmental protection and the retention of economically viable agricultural land.</p>	<p>Regional coordination State and regional stakeholders collaborate to respond to growth challenges, encourage economic opportunities and manage the Shire's unique assets, values and resources.</p>



Planting at Hogan's Park. Image includes Council staff, Green Corps team, Virida Sylvis bushland restoration contractors and Coolangatta Tweed Lions Club volunteers





3.2 Supporting community life

The natural environment is central to the culture and life of the Tweed community. Advancing environmental sustainability in the delivery of Council services will contribute to and enhance the quality of life experienced by residents.

The environmental sustainability principles that will guide Council are:

Community Strategic Plan Objectives	Environmental Sustainability Principles
<p>Foster strong, cohesive, cooperative, healthy and safe communities.</p>	<p>Communities safe from future hazards Development responds to risks from future natural hazards including sea level rise, bushfire, coastal erosion and flooding. Adequate plans and guidelines for climate change adaptation support Council and community action.</p> <p>Community connection with nature The community is able to connect with the local natural environment. Opportunities for lifelong learning are provided through information and involvement in environmental projects.</p> <p>Indigenous and Traditional Owner partnerships Traditional Owners and local indigenous people share, where appropriate, and gain knowledge on local environmental and cultural values and opportunities.</p>
<p>Provide well serviced neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Exemplar infrastructure and facilities New infrastructure and facilities are designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water use, reduce waste and facilitate active transport.</p> <p>Existing infrastructure and facilities are progressively retrofitted to reduce emissions and minimise energy and water use as part of asset maintenance and renewal.</p> <p>Water demand management Council and community potable water consumption is reduced through initiatives such as behavioural change, installation of rainwater tanks and infrastructure design.</p> <p>Reduce waste to landfill Landfill waste is diverted through initiatives such as recycling, removal of organics from the waste stream and educational programs encouraging reduced consumption and waste.</p>

Community Strategic Plan Objectives	Environmental Sustainability Principles
<p>An integrated transport system that services local and regional needs.</p>	<p>Coordinated regional transport Cross border state and local government collaboration enhances integrated public and active transport services and infrastructure.</p> <p>Public transport Land use patterns and the urban design of town centres support the success of active and public transport systems.</p>
<p>Improve urban design.</p>	<p>Sustainable development Development incorporates design considerations which promote climate sensitive buildings and subdivisions.</p>



Bush Stone-Curlew, Cabarita endangered species (Photo: A. Doyle)





3.3 Strengthening the economy

A vibrant environment underpins a successful tourism and agriculturally based economy and in turn a vibrant economy can support enhanced environmental sustainability activities. In a community where environmental quality is central to culture and lifestyle, new complementary business and industries present opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

The environmental sustainability principles that will guide Council are:

Community Strategic Plan Objectives	Environmental Sustainability Principles
Expand employment, tourism and education opportunities.	<p>Business as a partner in environmental sustainability Encourage businesses that can deliver environmental sustainability outcomes as a co-benefit of their operations, for example Ecotourism.</p> <p>Low carbon economies Assist businesses to reduce their environmental impacts through information, advice and education.</p> <p>Effective technologies Encourage businesses to reduce waste, water and energy consumption and increase the use of renewable resources and landfill waste streams with alternative and innovative technologies.</p> <p>Local food Encourage local food initiatives that reduce the environmental burden associated with producing, transporting, storing and disposing of food.</p>
Retain prime agricultural land, farm viability, manage rural subdivision and associated landscape impacts.	<p>Gas Field Free Retain the Tweed's rural areas as 'Gas Field Free' to avoid impacts on the region's agricultural, landscape and environmental values.</p> <p>Rural subdivision Rural subdivision supports regional development and avoids the fragmentation of valuable farmland.</p>
Maintain and enhance the Tweed lifestyle and environmental qualities as an attraction to business and tourism.	<p>Prosperity of the Shire Council decisions and actions incorporate an appreciation of the importance of the environment to the prosperity of the Shire.</p>



3.4 Caring for the environment

Council delivers a range of core services which directly contribute to the management of important natural assets and resources. Integrating environmental sustainability considerations into the delivery of these services will contribute to enhanced protection of the natural environment in addition to improved community and economic outcomes.

The environmental sustainability principles that will guide Council are:

Community Strategic Plan Objectives	Environmental Sustainability Principles
Protect the environment and natural beauty of the Tweed.	<p>Managing important environmental and natural resource values Areas identified with important environmental or natural resource values are effectively managed, consistent with regional strategies and catchment management plans.</p>
Conserve native flora and fauna and their habitats.	<p>Protection and enhancement of biological diversity Biodiversity protection occurs through a range of initiatives including private land conservation programs, management of Council conservation areas, community programs and education.</p>
Maintain and enhance Tweed's waterways and its catchments.	<p>Integrated water management Water cycle considerations are integrated in land-use and infrastructure planning.</p> <p>Urban stormwater Stormwater management planning and design incorporates ecological and catchment management considerations.</p> <p>Coastal estuaries Tweed estuaries and their catchments' ecological health and resilience are enhanced and their ecosystem services are protected.</p> <p>Riverbank erosion Riverbank erosion stabilisation on public lands includes the use of vegetation and bio-engineered design that maximise ecological and amenity values. Landholders contribute to sustainable riverbank management and erosion control initiatives on private land.</p>

Community Strategic Plan Objectives	Environmental Sustainability Principles
<p>Manage the Tweed coastline to ensure a balance between utilisation and conservation.</p>	<p>Coastline development Land release for urban and rural residential development within the coastal area protects fragile and vulnerable areas and ecosystems.</p> <p>Integrated coastline management Plans for key locations and activity nodes integrate the planning and management of beaches and coastline reserve.</p>
<p>Improve the environmental capacity of Tweed agricultural lands.</p>	<p>Sustainable agriculture The environmental quality and natural resource base which underpins the agricultural economy is enhanced. Ecosystem services and other natural processes are used on-farm to reduce reliance on non-renewable and off-farm resources.</p>



Revegetated cane drain to reduce soil erosion and runoff



4. Incorporating environmental sustainability into Council projects

Finite resources and competing demands means that Council's environmental sustainability actions need to be prioritised, planned, evaluated and timed to ensure Council's effort goes into delivering the best environmental results and the best value for the community.

Appendix 1 contains a suite of Project Prioritisation Criteria that will enable Council to consider the merits of environmental activities which are seeking staff resources and funding allocation.

The criteria are arranged under five areas of:

1. Alignment

How the action contributes to the delivery of Council and community priorities.

2. Impact

The environmental impact the action is anticipated to have.

3. Co-benefits

The extent to which the action can deliver multiple benefits to the community and the efficient use of finite resources.

4. Cost and value for money

The extent to which the action will have positive budget and funding benefits.

5. Success

The likelihood of success of the action.

The Project Prioritisation Criteria can be integrated into Council's operational planning and budgeting functions to evaluate new proposals seeking funding and resources to ensure projects in Council's Delivery Program contribute to environmental sustainability. The criteria can also help ensure new and emerging projects are planned and evaluated with environmental sustainability in mind.



5. Lead actions

Tweed Shire Council has adopted and is implementing numerous actions in many strategies and plans that aim to deliver environmental sustainability outcomes. For Tweed Shire Council to be successful in advancing environmental sustainability in Tweed Shire in the future, Council needs to continue implementing these sound policies and programs (see Appendix 2).

The following Lead actions draw upon Tweed Shire Council's existing body of policies and strategies and present a list of high profile and high impact areas for Council to focus on in enhancing environmental outcomes in its operations.

Implementation of actions is dependent on the availability of staff capacity and funding. So as work programs and budgets are developed, some actions may be delayed or others brought forward. Some may be reconsidered as knowledge improves, circumstances change and experience is gained in implementation.

#	Lead Action	Description	Status	Funding	Timing
Civic Leadership					
1.1	Embed an assessment process and environmental improvements in capital works	Include assessment of potential environmental improvements in all capital works and services, through project briefs and designs	Existing	Partly funded	2015 - 2020+
1.2	Stabilise river bank erosion in the Tweed Estuary	Stabilise erosion at priority sites in the Tweed estuary, using techniques that protect and enhance river ecology and visual quality	Existing	Partly funded	2015 - 2017
1.3	Implement controls to protect high value environments and landscapes	Continue to review and implement planning and regulatory controls for the protection of high value environments and landscapes, character and vistas through vegetation and habitat protection, preventing beach overshadowing, controlling building heights and maintaining urban/rural distinctions	Existing	Partly funded	2015 - 2017
1.4	Review subdivision manual	Undertake a review to identify and implement best practice land use controls that impact on the environment including landforming, visual landscape, integrated catchment management, water sensitive urban design and public and active transport	New	Unfunded	2017 - 2020+
1.5	Environmental sustainability grant seeding fund	Establish a fund to enable Council to make cash contributions to co-funded and grant based initiatives where they align with Environmental Sustainability Strategy priorities	New	Unfunded	2017 - 2020+



#	Lead Action	Description	Status	Funding	Timing
1.6	Increase energy efficiency and use of renewable energy	Implement initiatives that will reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources for Council's operations. Take the opportunity of facility upgrades to review energy efficiency and introduce renewables. Also consider use of biofuels and alternative fuels in Council fleet.	Existing	Partly funded	2015 - 2020+
1.7	Staff induction on environmental sustainability	Augment the Tweed Shire Council new staff induction program to inform and motivate staff involved in environmental sustainability action incorporating Council aspirations and legislative responsibilities for environmental sustainability	New	Unfunded	2015 - 2020+
1.8	Coordinated public education program and internal engagement for cultural change	Develop and implement a communication, engagement and coordinated education program internal to Council and with the public that presents priority sustainability messages	New	Partly funded	2015 - 2020+
1.9	Sustainable Choice participation	Continue active participation in the Local Government NSW Sustainable Choice Program and conduct regular staff training on the program	Existing	Funded	2015 - 2020+
1.10	Composite performance index	Develop and implement an index that consolidates data on the corporate performance of Council on advancing environmental sustainability to inform management decision making	New	Unfunded	2017 - 2020+
Supporting community life					
2.1	Continue water conservation and demand management initiatives	Continue and enhance Tweed's water demand management program, aiming to achieve Target 170L	Existing	Funded	2015 - 2020+
2.2	Develop and implement a climate change action plan	Develop and implement a climate change action plan which includes strategies to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change	New	Partly funded	2015 - 2017
2.3	Cultural heritage protection	Manage Indigenous and Non-Indigenous cultural places and values	Existing	Partly funded	2015 - 2017
2.4	Integrate public transport with Gold Coast	Work with state and neighbouring local governments to improve public transport services for Tweed residents including integration with the Gold Coast	Existing	Unfunded	2015 - 2017
2.5	Food organics and garden organics collection and processing	Provide co-mingled food organics and garden organics collection and associated infrastructure for processing organic waste and other suitable waste streams	New	Unfunded	2017 - 2020+

#	Lead Action	Description	Status	Funding	Timing
Strengthening the economy					
3.1	Water loss management	Investigate, address and prevent water leaks in the municipal water system	Existing	Partly funded	2015 - 2017
3.2	Reduction of unaccounted water	Improve metering and tracking of bulk water use	Existing	Partly funded	2015 - 2017
Caring for the environment					
4.1	Public bushland management	Develop and implement an ongoing program of works to restore and maintain bushland and other natural areas under Council ownership or management	New	Partly funded	2017 - 2020+
4.2	Stabilise and revegetate riverbanks in the upper Tweed catchment	Progressively stabilise and revegetate riverbanks in the upper Tweed catchment	New	Partly funded	2015 - 2020+
4.3	Provide assistance and incentives to manage biodiversity and waterways on private land	Continue to provide information, financial and other incentives to landholders and the community to manage biodiversity and waterways	Existing	Partly funded	2015 - 2020+
4.4	Restore degraded landscapes	Collaborate and regulate to achieve remediation of acid sulfate soils and heavily degraded agricultural land to reduce environmental impacts on estuaries	Existing	Partly funded	2015 - 2017



Council working with the community to plant and maintain koala habitat, Pottsville Wetland

#	Lead Action	Description	Status	Funding	Timing
4.5	Foster productive rural landscapes	Promote and incentivise good land management and farming using better management practices that integrate farming systems with the natural environment in order to protect and enhance environmental assets and support farmers to improve their productivity and reduce their environmental footprint	Existing	Partly funded	2015 - 2017
4.6	Finalise and implement the Koala Plan of Management	Finalise and implement the Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management including development control, strategic planning, koala habitat restoration, managing threats from roads, dogs, fire and disease, community engagement, implementation, and ongoing monitoring, reporting and review	New	Partly funded	2017 - 2020+
4.7	Sewer overflow abatement	Develop and implement next five year plan for protecting water quality through improving sewer overflow abatement	Existing	Funded	2015 - 2020+
4.8	Pest Animal Strategy	Develop and implement a strategy to mitigate undesirable impacts of feral and domestic animals on the natural environment	New	Unfunded	2015 - 2020+
4.9	Ecologically protective mosquito control	Enhance control of mosquitoes and invertebrate pests using ecologically sensitive means. Undertake monitoring, awareness, land planning and control agents where required	New	Partly funded	2017 - 2020+
4.10	Implement stormwater quality management	Encourage innovative stormwater management design in new development and expand and improve Council's stormwater drainage asset management capabilities, including Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices	New	Unfunded	2017 - 2020+
4.11	Participate in Waste Warriors	Participate in the Business Waste Reduction Project and apply the toolkit to Council activities to reduce the amount of waste disposed of to landfill by the commercial and industrial sector	New	Unfunded	2015 - 2020+



Part B: Background



6. Council's services and environmental sustainability

In the day to day delivery of Council services to the community Council's operations interact with the environment in a number of ways. The management of potential impacts on the environment are a key consideration in the delivery of these services. The following table outlines the relationship between the services and the potential impacts they can have.

Council services:

Civic Leadership	Supporting Community Life	Strengthening the Economy	Caring for the Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Business • Civic Centres • Communication and Customer Services • Design Services • Development Planning and Assessment • Executive Management • Finance • Governance and Corporate Performance • Human Resources and Workplace Health and Safety • Information Technology • Infrastructure Planning • Stores Purchasing and Works Depots • Quarries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches • Cemetery • Community Services • Cultural Services • Drainage • Emergency Services • Flooding • Open Space • Public Facilities • Wastewater Services • Swimming Centres • Transport Services • Water Supply • Waste Management Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airfields • Business, Property and Economic • Management • Holiday Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Management • Building Control • Coastal Management • Environmental Health • Environmental Sustainability • Natural Resource Management • Pest Management • Regulatory Services • Sustainable Agriculture • Waterways Management

Activities with potential environmental impacts:

General activities	Office based activities	Operation of assets and infrastructure	Environmental management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumption of resources • Consumption of energy • Consumption of water • Storage, use and disposal of chemicals/dangerous goods • Generation of waste • Generation of traffic • Generation of noise • Discharges to air • Discharges to water • Discharges to soil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer use • Paper and other stationery use • Photocopying • Toilet and shower use • Kitchen use • Lighting use • Vehicle and fuel use <p>Purchasing activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services and products have environmental impacts throughout their supply chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle and fuel use • Chemical/fertilizer storage and use • Refrigerant use • Use of machinery associated with maintenance • Maintenance of parks including vegetation clearing and planting • Water use and treatment • Wastewater treatment and discharge • Waste collection and management • Street cleaning • Drainage • Stormwater management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed control • Insect/pest animal management • Revegetation • Habitat protection • Native animal protection • Erosion management • Soil health enhancement
<p>Capital works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle and fuel use • Use of construction machinery • Vegetation clearing 			

Environmental impacts:

• Greenhouse gas emissions	• Air quality	• Natural resource use	• Biodiversity	• Water availability	• Water quality	• Soil health
----------------------------	---------------	------------------------	----------------	----------------------	-----------------	---------------





7. Council's environmental sustainability achievements to date

Council has been active in delivering environmental programs and achieving environmental improvements and protection for many years.

These actions have been delivered with guidance from a range of environmental and natural resource management plans and strategies prepared and implemented by Tweed Shire Council over time. A full list of relevant plans and strategies is included in **Appendix 2**.

These achievements provide the foundation for the next five years of Council's activities guided by this strategy.

For more details about these and more environmental initiatives prior to 2009, see Council's annual reports and state of environment reports online at <http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/ManagementPlan>.

2009

Council-Supported Environmental Committees

Committees that seek to improve environmental outcomes include: Tweed River Committee, Tweed Coastal Committee, Koala Beach Wildlife Habitat Management Committee, Tweed Coast Dunecare Advisory Committee.

Northern Rivers Carpool

Council developed a community carpool website in partnership with six other Northern Rivers councils, to provide commuters with a practical alternative to travelling alone in their vehicles.

Rates Incentive Program

Residents who pay their rates in full enter a draw to win energy and water-efficient retrofits of their homes.

Waste-Wise Schools

The program provides support for schools to establish school-wide recycling and composting systems and includes activities such as litter-free lunches.

On-line Water Consumption Calculator

Residents can use data from their biannual water bills to calculate how much water they use each day. The calculator allows householders to benchmark their water consumption against the shire average and daily target.

Energy Monitoring Equipment for High Schools

Support for high schools to conduct energy and greenhouse gas audits of their schools using free energy monitoring equipment.

Environmental Education Strategy

The strategy helps effectively allocate educational resources and drive progress towards the long-term vision for environmental education and community capacity building.

Tweed Link

Council's weekly newsletter discusses local environmental issues and management initiatives. It is printed on 100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper.

Estuary Ecosystem Health Report Card

A detailed investigation into the estuary ecosystem health of the Terranora and Cobaki Broadwater, including a review of water quality, fish populations, seagrass and mangrove uptake of effluent-related nutrients with an overall rating of 'fair' highlighted the need to improve management of upper catchments and urban runoff to maintain broadwaters as healthy habitats for biodiversity and recreational use.

Bilambil Creek and Charles Bay Reserve Riparian Corridor Project

Council, Landcare and landholders worked to revegetate the northern bank of the Bilambil Creek estuary, from Bilambil Village to Terranora Broadwater to establish a riparian corridor approximately 3km long.

Cudgera Creek Baseline Ecological Assessment

A study into the Cudgera Creek estuary ecosystem showed it was not as healthy as a comparable, undeveloped coastal creek, because of a combination of agricultural and urban development.

Byrill Creek Riparian Rehabilitation Project

An Environmental Trust Grant allowed Council to expand its Byrill Creek Riparian Rehabilitation Project to conserve and enhance one of the best examples of riparian vegetation in the Tweed. Weed and cattle control on 19 properties equated to 19km of stream length and 48 hectares of weed suppression.

Sustainable Agriculture Program

Council expanded its Floodplain Program to build the environmental capability of agricultural landholders to enhance the social, economic and ecological values of farmland in Tweed Shire.

Biodiversity Grants Program

Grants for eligible landowners in priority sub-catchments for projects that maintain and improve biodiversity values.

2010

Water Supply Demand Management Strategy

Water Supply Demand Management Strategy three year implementation plan and budget adopted.

Invasive Species Officer

Council expanded an Indian Myna monitoring and control officer role to include other pest animals including rabbits, foxes, wild dogs and cane toads.

Revised Environmental Strategy for Local Environmental Plan

Council reviewed environmental zonings and related provisions as part of its response to the NSW Government planning reform requirements.

Recovery of Threatened Species in Priority Implementation Areas

Partnership to conserve threatened species and abate threatening processes in selected sub-catchments including the Bilambil, Duroby and Byrill Creek catchments.

Plastic Bag Free Villages

The program supplies village retailers with a batch of reusable bags to kick-start their move away from plastic, while working with store owners and the community to reduce plastic bag usage.

Native species guide

A native species planting guide for the Tweed and Byron areas was released with comprehensive listings of more than 1580 species and useful information for every level of planting, from landscape-scale restoration to suburban garden planting.

Tom Grant Bridge, Mount Burrell

A single-span bridge was installed to minimise the impact on fauna and flora in and around Snake Creek.

River Health Grants

Grants to 41 landholders to improve riparian health.

Updated Council's Tweed Urban Stormwater Quality Management Plan

Sustainability Gap Analysis

Review of Council's operational activities to identify and prioritise areas of improvement.

Tweed Shire Solar Community

400 private property owners installed solar photovoltaic systems at affordable prices.

Solar Power for Community Halls

20 solar photovoltaic systems were installed on Council-owned community-managed facilities.

Solar Streetlights

14 solar streetlights were installed at bus shelters along the Tweed Coast.

Tweed Coast Cycleway

Final section completed of a 28km cycleway/shared path along the ocean foreshore from Fingal Head to Pottsville.



Corey Togo and Aaron Bryant working at Stotts Island

2011

Draft Urban Release Development Code for 'Area E'

Draft code allowed for an estimated yield of 1,799 homes, while protecting significant bushland, wetlands and other land of high ecological value on a 296 hectare greenfield development site.

Housing code review

A comprehensive engagement campaign to describe how housing design could look and respond to the Tweed climate and localities, community values and natural amenity.

Tweed's Top 20

Program launched to help Tweed Shire's biggest non-residential water users curb their consumption.

Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy

A whole-of-catchment strategic framework with a long-term focus for maximum benefits to the community and the environment.

Tweed Byron Bush Futures Project

The project undertook bushland restoration works on more than 225 hectares of urban bushland at more than 50 sites, to address threats to bushland integrity in the Tweed and Byron shires. This project won the Local Government Landcare Partnership Award 2011 and Natural Environment Protection and Enhancement: On-ground Works Award at the 2010/11 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards.

Residential Water Saving Rebate

Program launched offering Tweed home owners financial assistance to install water efficient shower heads and taps in their houses.

Jack Evans Boat Harbour

Energy-efficient lighting around the harbour provides a spectacular night-time display, improves pedestrian safety and discourages vandalism.

Efficient street lights

Council nearly halved the energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions from Tweed Shire's streetlight network, by replacing nearly 4,000 energy-hungry lights with more efficient technology.

Waste less food

Council participated in the Love Food Hate Waste program, an initiative of the North East Waste Forum to raise awareness about the impact of food waste in NSW and reducing how much food goes to waste.

Broad-acre composting trials

35 landholders trialled the use of compost and manure to enhance long-term soil health and crop yields.

Public Transport Study

The study recommended a rapid transit corridor bus system as the best fit for the Tweed.



Blossom Bat monitoring (Photo: D. Hannah)

2012

Water efficient toilet rebate

More than 1,600 Tweed households participated in the program saving nearly 49 million litres of water.

Water efficient shower rebate

Water efficient shower rebate was extended to 2014.

'Meet your Meter' campaign

Campaign to educate residents about their water meters and challenged them to curb their consumption to a target of 180 litres or less per person per day.

Burringbar-Mooball Sewerage Scheme

The scheme connected more than 180 properties to a reticulated sewerage service to improve environmental quality of aquifers and surface waters.

Koala Connections

The program aims to create better wildlife corridors for koalas and other endangered native species.

Upper Rous River revegetation

Planting and weed removal was undertaken on 30 hectares of Crown and private land to reduce erosion and sedimentation and improve water quality.

Land for Wildlife

80 local landholders were actively involved in nature conservation on rural properties.

Tweed Byron Bush Futures Project

The project won the Local Government Landcare Partnership Award at the 2012 National Landcare Awards.

Bitou Bush Containment

Prevalence of bitou bush reduced to less than 10 per cent infestation along the Tweed coastline.

Sustainable procurement

Council's Environmental Performance Schedule for suppliers won the Sustainable Procurement in Practice - Best Project 2012 award at the Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA) Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards.

Cudgen Plateau topsoil retention

WetlandCare Australia and local farmers working together on revegetation and weed control to protect wetland and riparian environments and retain valuable soil for the farming community on Cudgen Plateau.

2013

Tweed's Top 100

The top 100 water users cut their consumption resulting in nearly 40 million litres water saved per year.

Home Power Savings Program

Over 16,000 households in the Tweed Richmond area participated in the free energy audit program.

'Living for the Future' Community Summit and Home Expo

Over 600 people visited the inaugural event to join panel discussions, contribute ideas and find out more about sustainable living.

2014

Sustainable Agriculture Strategy

Development of the strategy included workshops with local producers to better understand the issues they face and develop solutions.

Waste Warriors

Over 80 business completed waste assessments.

Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management

Draft management plan prepared and community input sought to help the Tweed Coast koala population recover to more sustainable levels over the next two decades.

Koala Connections Program

Joint initiative with Byron Shire Council wins the 2014 Green Globe Award.

North Coast Energy Forum

Over 100 people identified energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives across the Northern Rivers region and participated in masterclasses in bioenergy, storage, community energy and energy retailing.

8. How the Environmental Sustainability Strategy was developed

A comprehensive cross section of senior Tweed Shire Council staff responsible for the delivery of Council's services have worked collaboratively to develop the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

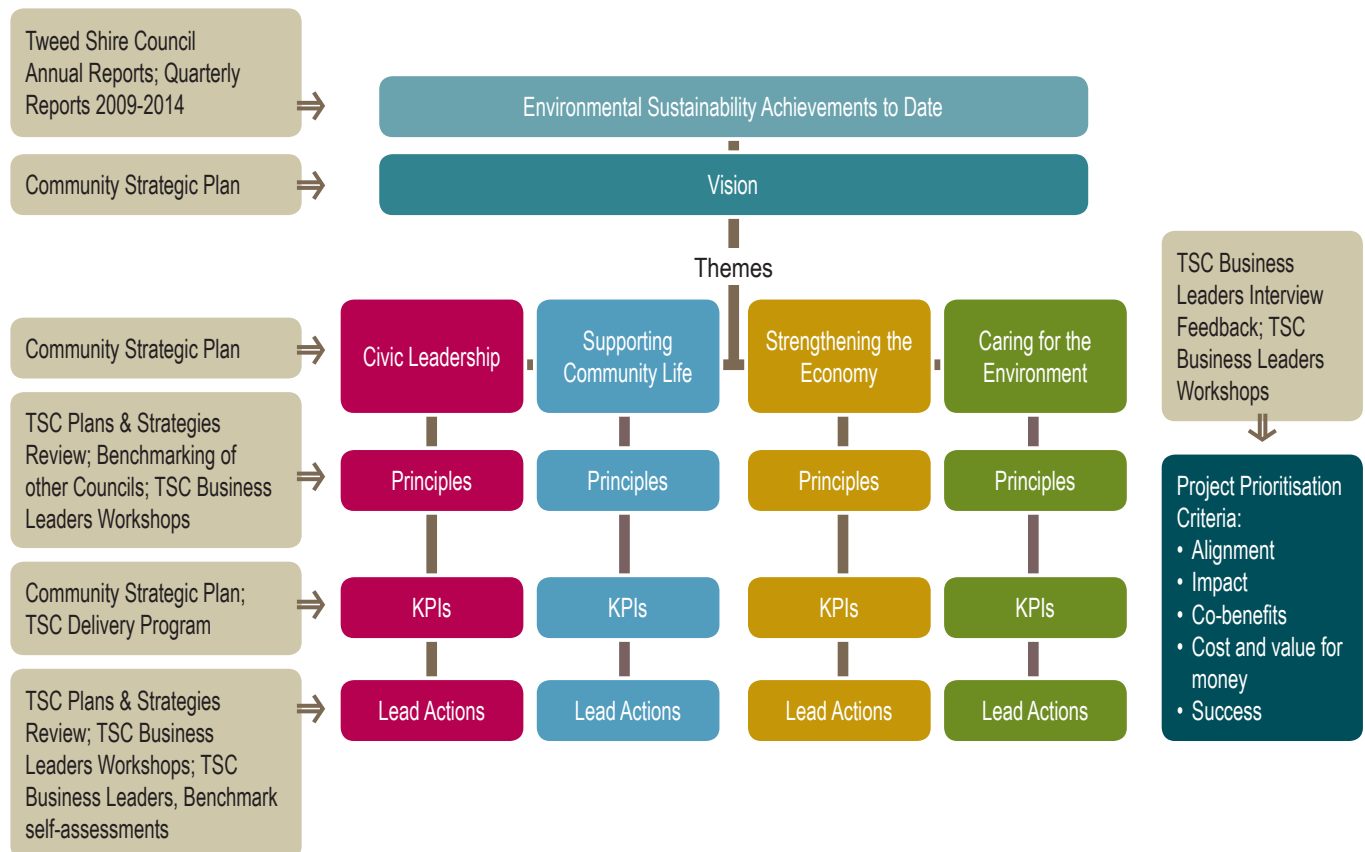
Consultants were engaged to analyse a range of Council's existing source documents that guide environmental management in Council's current operations.. The analysis identified a range of guiding principles that direct environmental management in Council, and highlighted the range of actions that are in place or in need of funding.

This analysis and the emerging strategy elements were further developed with Council's Corporate Management Team (the General Manager, Directors and Managers) and other senior staff responsible for the delivery of Council's existing strategies and programs related to environmental sustainability (as per Appendix 2).

Through one-on-one discussions and workshops, senior staff and managers have identified environmental sustainability issues related to their operations, and have benchmarked themselves against the environmental sustainability initiatives of other local councils to identify any gaps that needed to be addressed in this Strategy.

The following diagram provides an overview of the key inputs to the Strategy's development.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy Development Inputs





9. Environmental sustainability partnerships

Whilst the focus of this strategy is on enhancing the environmental sustainability performance of Council's operations, Council acknowledges that the environmental sustainability of the Tweed region requires residents, businesses, community groups, and other agencies to each play their role and collaborate with Council as partners.

As environmental sustainability is everyone's responsibility, partnerships, sharing of knowledge, learning and supporting each other's efforts is essential to ensure finite resources are targeted to best effect.

Partners each play unique, shared or complementary roles in environmental sustainability. Common roles include leaders, providers, regulators, partners, supporters and promoters.

The diagram below identifies how each partner can contribute to the environmental sustainability of the Tweed.

This strategy will provide the foundation for Council to continue to develop as a key partner in enhancing the environmental sustainability of the Tweed.

Council's website can assist partners in finding information and understanding what action they can take to enhance the environmental sustainability of the Tweed.



Spangled Drongo (Photo: A. Doyle)



Environmental sustainability partners

Residents and Landowners

- **Leader** of individual action for environmental sustainability
- **Provider** of land, labour, finance, time knowledge and experience in environmental sustainability action
- **Partner** in projects and action with others to enhance environmental sustainability
- **Supporter** of funding allocations Council provides to environmental sustainability

Government and Other Agencies

- **Leader** of regional, state and national policy, action and advocacy for environmental sustainability
- **Provider** of services, infrastructure, resources, knowledge and other information which advance environmental sustainability
- **Regulator** of major activities and impacts on the environment
- **Partner** in action with others through grants and funding
- **Supporter** of environmental sustainability action through best practice advice and research
- **Promoter** of environmental sustainability achievements through regional state and national awards

Council

- **Leader** of local policy, action and advocacy for environmental sustainability
- **Provider** of services, infrastructure, resources, knowledge and other information which advance environmental sustainability
- **Regulator** of localised activities and impacts on the environment
- **Partner** in projects and action with others to enhance environmental sustainability
- **Supporter** of environmental sustainability action by partners through information, programs and grants and other funding
- **Promoter** of local environmental sustainability achievements



Community Groups

- **Leader** of community action and advocacy for environmental sustainability
- **Provider** of labour, knowledge and experience in environmental sustainability action
- **Partner** in projects action with others to enhance environmental sustainability
- **Supporter** and advocate for funding allocations for environmental sustainability action

Business

- **Leader** of action and advocacy in the business community for environmental sustainability
- **Provider** of services, industries, employment, knowledge and experience which advance environmental sustainability
- **Partner** in projects and action with others to enhance environmental sustainability
- **Supporter** and sponsor of environmental sustainability action by partners



10. Integrating environmental sustainability into Council's future decisions and actions

Council's planning, resourcing, service delivery and reporting functions are all brought together and coordinated through the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework is the system that helps Council deliver the Community Strategic Plan through the planning and funding of services and actions as part of the four year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan.

The key elements of this strategy that integrates and enhance environmental sustainability outcomes in Council decisions and the delivery of services are:

- A series of **environmental sustainability principles**, that link to the Community Strategic Plan objectives. The principles do not duplicate the Community Strategic Plan objectives; they provide environmental sustainability guidance to Council as it makes decisions and delivers services to implement the Community Strategic Plan.
- A set of **project prioritisation criteria** which will assist Council to evaluate and prioritise projects based on the extent to which they support environmental sustainability. The criteria will also help Council, when it is planning actions and projects, to ensure that environmental sustainability is integrated to the greatest extent possible.
- The **existing Quarterly and Annual Reports and the State of the Environment Report** will provide information on Council's environmental sustainability performance and inform future planning and action. These reports will use the key performance indicators within the Delivery Program and Community Strategic Plan as the indicators of achievement and progress.

The strategy also incorporates a suite of **Lead actions** that Council will pursue between 2015-2020, that will build on and enhance Council's existing and ongoing environmental sustainability activities.

The NSW government is working with local governments across the state to implement the 'Fit for the Future' local government reforms. These reforms are intended to ensure local governments, like Tweed Shire, are financially sustainable and can continue to deliver the services and infrastructure required by the community into the future.

This strategy has been prepared with an appreciation of the need for finite council and community resources to be directed to achieve tangible improvements in environmental outcomes priority actions which can be sustained over time and deliver value for money to the community.



11. Implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The success of the Strategy in advancing environmental sustainability will be dependent upon how effective the plan's implementation arrangements are.

Effectively harnessing the wealth of enthusiasm, knowledge, skill and commitment that the Tweed Shire Council staff holds in environmental sustainability will be a key to the Strategy's success.

Council staff in their day to day roles in delivering services to the community have the opportunity, together with other partners in the community, to make a difference in the way in which environmental sustainability is advanced in the Tweed.

This strategy seeks to support and empower Council staff to continuously improve the ways in which environmental sustainability is integrated into their daily operations and to play their roles in ensuring the environment can continue to support the identity, prosperity and desirable lifestyles of the Tweed now and in the future.

An important key lead action in this strategy, therefore is to 'establish implementation arrangements within Council to oversee the delivery of the strategy and to support integrated environmental sustainability action across Council'.

Whilst these arrangements are yet to be established some key components may include:

- Establishment of a staff group to:
 - keep track of and guide the strategy's implementation across Council
 - support Lead Action owners in the planning and implementation of their actions
 - oversee staff development and engagement and involvement in environmental sustainability initiatives
 - encourage the integration of the environmental sustainability principles into Council's day to day service delivery.
- The integration of the Project Prioritisation Criteria with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework in particular the Delivery Program and Operational Planning processes.
- Integrating environmental sustainability into Council's project management and delivery arrangements.
- Refreshing the Delivery Program's Key Performance Indicators when next reviewed to enhance the integration of environmental sustainability into those KPIs.
- Integrating strategy progress reporting into the corporate Annual and Quarterly Reports.
- A mid term review of the strategy in 2017 to respond to challenges and priorities for environmental sustainability at that time.



12. Reporting of environmental sustainability progress and action

Community reporting of progress and action on environmental sustainability will continue to be undertaken through a range of Council reports, which form an important component of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

The Statutory Annual Report provides an overview of Council's progress and achievements in the delivery of services. The Annual Report provides a summary of action undertaken by Council each year in implementing the Delivery Program and the Community Strategic Plan.

The Delivery Program contains a number of Key Performance Indicators against Council services to enable progress to be tracked.

The 2013-2017 Delivery Program incorporates the following KPIs relevant to environmental sustainability.

Civic Leadership	
Community Strategic Plan Objectives	2013-2017 Delivery program KPI
Ensure actions taken and decisions reached are based on the principles of sustainability.	Total gigajoules of electricity consumption by Council facilities and street lighting Tweed Shire Council Sustainability Strategy
Improve decision making by engaging stakeholders and taking into account community input.	<i>No current environmental sustainability KPI</i>
Delivering the objectives of this plan.	Energy efficiency per workstation per day Implementation of best practice development: number of specifications updated
Strengthen coordination among Commonwealth and State governments, their agencies and other service providers and Statutory Authorities to avoid duplication, synchronise service delivery and seek economies of scale.	<i>No current environmental sustainability KPI</i>
Manage and plan for a balance between population growth, urban development and environmental protection and the retention of economically viable agricultural land.	Rural Land Strategy Urban Design Charter Local Environmental Plan Implementation of Environmental Zones



Supporting community life	
Community Strategic Plan Objectives	2013-2017 Delivery program KPI
Foster strong, cohesive, cooperative, healthy and safe communities	<i>No current environmental sustainability KPI</i>
Improve opportunities for housing choice	<i>No current environmental sustainability KPI</i>
Provide well serviced neighbourhoods	Residential water consumption Recycled water use Household (kerbside) recycling rate per annum Recycling per household per annum Total waste diverted from landfill per annum Volume of landfill gas captured for renewable electricity generation per annum Maintain gross pollutant traps; cubic metres of waste removed per annum Implementation of Tweed Valley Floodplain Risk Management Plan
An integrated transport system that services local and regional needs	Length of constructed cycleway per 1000 population
Provide vibrant and accessible town, community and business centres	<i>No current environmental sustainability KPI</i>
Improve urban design	<i>No current environmental sustainability KPI</i>

Strengthening the economy	
Community Strategic Plan Objectives	2013-2017 Delivery program KPI
Expand employment, tourism and education opportunities.	<i>No current environmental sustainability KPI</i>
Retain prime agricultural land, farm viability, manage rural subdivision and associated landscape impacts.	<i>No current environmental sustainability KPI</i>
Maintain and enhance the Tweed lifestyle and environmental qualities as an attraction to business and tourism.	<i>No current environmental sustainability KPI</i>
Provide land and infrastructure to underpin economic development and employment.	<i>No current environmental sustainability KPI</i>



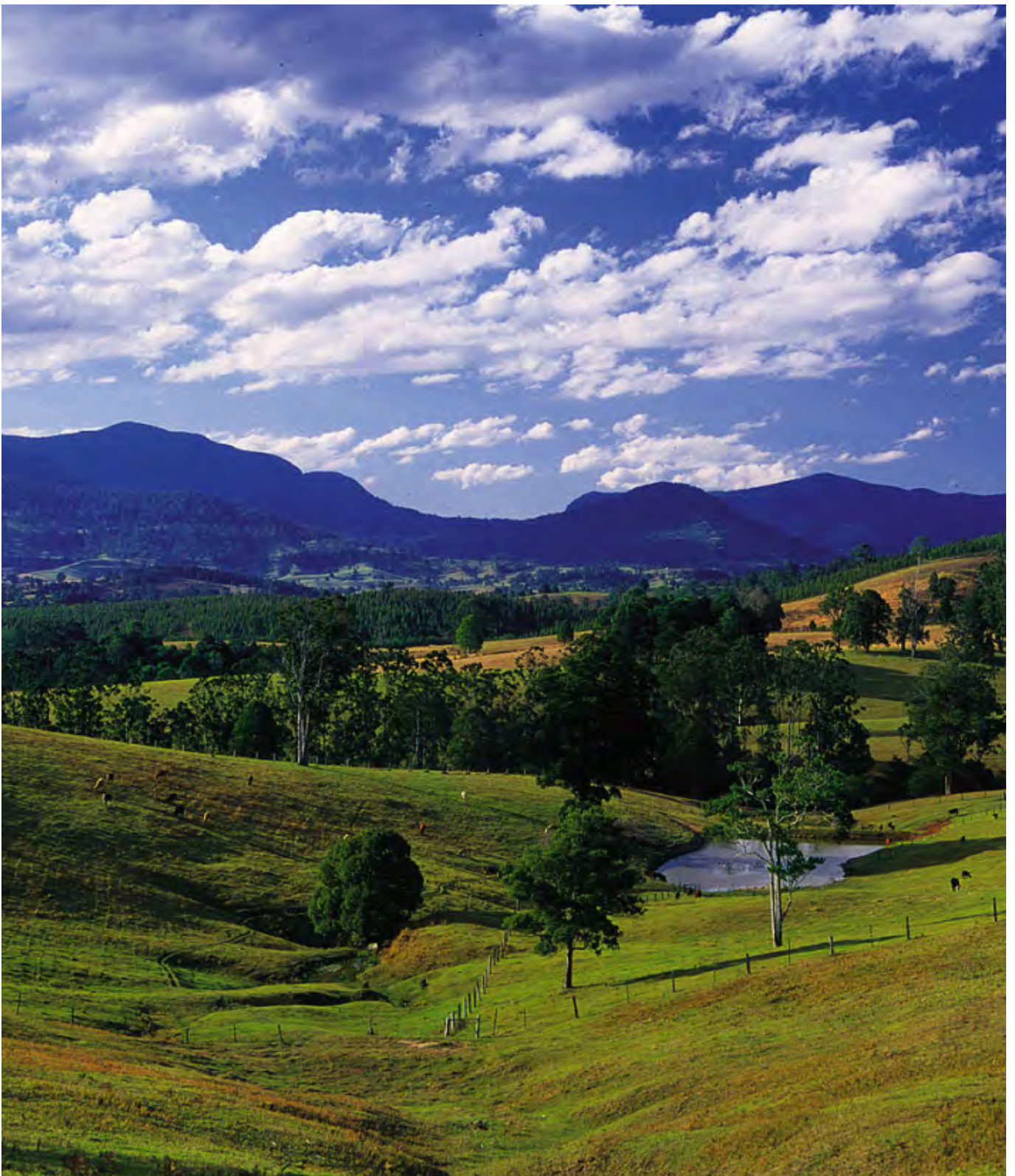
Caring for the environment	
Community Strategic Plan Objectives	2013-2017 Delivery program KPI
Protect the environment and natural beauty of the Tweed.	Total value of external grants under administration across all Natural Resource Management programs
Conserve native flora and fauna and their habitats.	Area of Council bushland actively managed Area of private land with improved biodiversity values Develop a comprehensive Koala Plan of Management Area of Council bushland actively managed for vertebrate pest species Number of private landholders assisted with pest management issues
Maintain and enhance Tweed's waterways and its catchments.	Kilometres of waterway improved through rehabilitation works
Manage the Tweed coastline to ensure a balance between utilisation and conservation.	Area of public coastal dune actively managed
Improve the environmental capacity of Tweed agricultural lands.	Area of agriculture land under improved sustainable management practices

The Regional (Northern Rivers) State of the Environment Report and the Tweed Shire Supplement will continue to report on the status of the Shire's environmental condition every four years in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993. These reports will track the change in the Shire's environmental quality over time and provides a useful benchmark to monitor the effect of Council's actions to improve the environmental quality of the Tweed.



Canoeing along Tweed River, Mt Warning National Park (Photo: Destination NSW)

Appendices



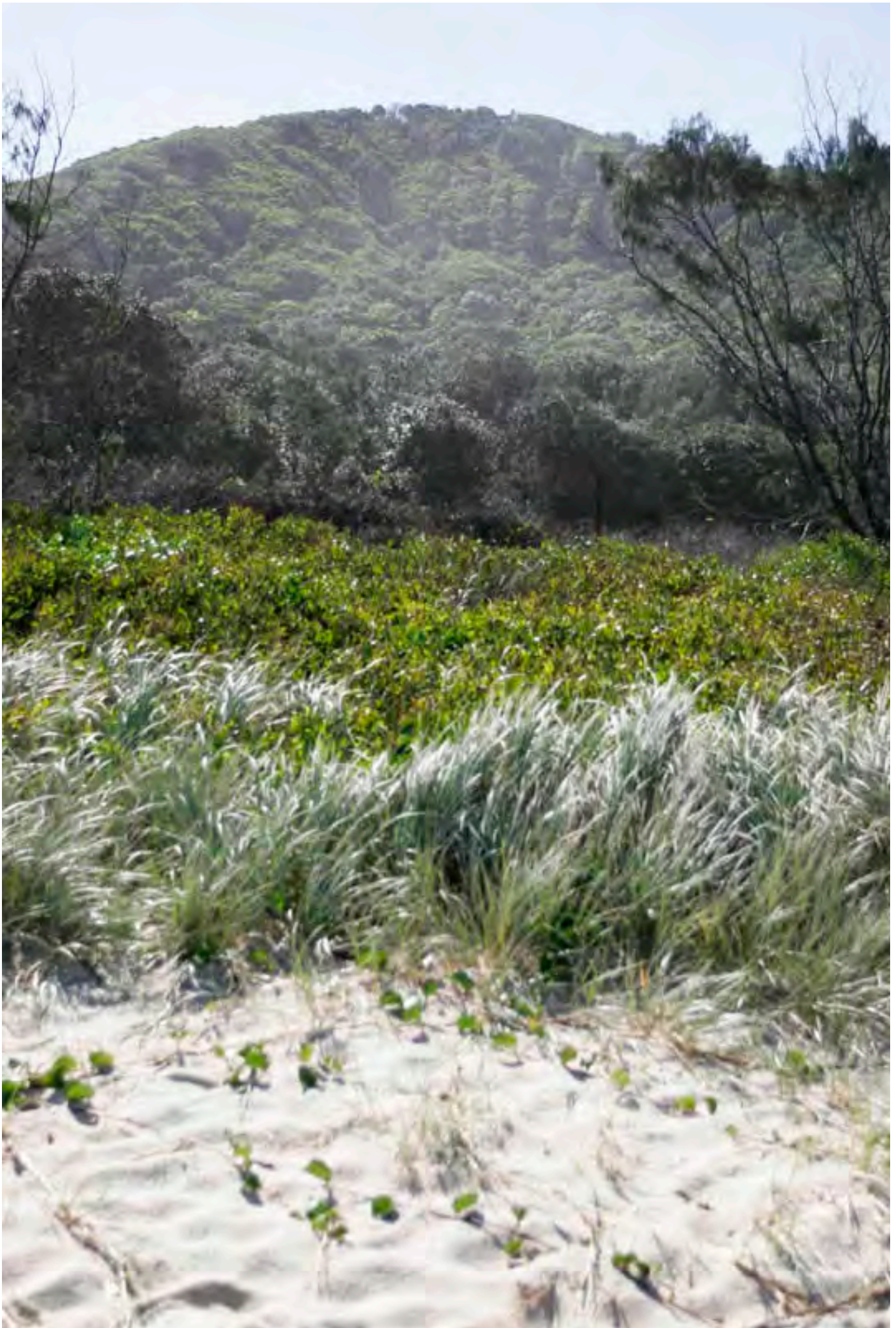
Appendix 1 - Project prioritisation criteria

Finite resources and competing demands means that Council's environmental sustainability actions need to be prioritised, planned, evaluated and timed to ensure Council's effort goes into delivering the best environmental results and the best value for the community.

The Project Prioritisation Criteria will enable Council to consider the merits of environmental activities which are seeking staff resources and funding allocation.

Criteria	Description	Project Assessment Rating			
		3	2	1	0
1. Alignment	1.1 How does the action support the implementation of the CSP? <i>(This criterion will encourage actions that deliver against Council's existing stated environmental priorities and community commitments.)</i>	Directly delivers against a Delivery Program KPI.	Directly delivers against one or more CSP Key strategies.	Contributes to the delivery of one or more CSP Objectives.	Does not support or conflicts with CSP objectives and strategies.
	1.2 How does the action support the implementation of an existing endorsed environmental strategy or plan that incorporated community input? <i>(This criterion will encourage actions that deliver against Council's existing stated environmental priorities and community commitments, and encourages the development/ re-evaluation of strategies with community input.)</i>	Specifically listed as an action in a strategy or plan endorsed by Council after 2012.	Aligns to the Principles contained in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy but is not a listed action.	Specifically listed as an action in a strategy or plan endorsed by Council before 2012.	Does not contribute to an existing strategy or plan.
	1.3 How does the action address a legislative obligation related to the environment? <i>(This criterion will encourage actions that respond to Council's statutory risks and obligations related to the environment.)</i>	Directly mitigates a serious legal risk to Council.	Addresses a specific legal obligation.	Addresses a general legal obligation.	No legal obligation.
2. Impact	2.1 What short and long term environmental impact will the action have? <i>(This criterion will encourage the consideration of the level of impact an action may have on the environment of Tweed Shire.)</i>	Sustainably mitigates an existing environmental risk or hazard and improves long term environmental resilience.	Enhances environmental values to improve long term environmental resilience.	Will create a detrimental environmental impact that can be sustainably mitigated.	Creates a detrimental impact which can't be sustainably mitigated.
3. Co-benefits	3.1 Does the action integrate multiple social, economic and environmental benefits? <i>(This criterion will encourage the achievement of integrated solutions to environmental challenges, where they are possible, and the efficient use of finite resources.)</i>	Multiple co-benefits have been identified and incorporated into an integrated action.	More than 1 co-benefit has been identified and incorporated into an integrated action.	No co-benefits can be identified or potential, feasible co-benefits are not incorporated.	Action conflicts with or detracts from the benefits anticipated by other endorsed actions.

Criteria	Description	Project Assessment Rating			
		3	2	1	0
4. Cost and value for money	4.1 Have the action's whole-of-life costs been identified and considered in the evaluation of the project? <i>(This criterion will encourage decisions and actions that leave a positive legacy for future communities of Tweed Shire.)</i>	Whole-of-life costings have been calculated based on an accepted methodology and are included in Council's Delivery Program and Long Term Financial Plan.	Whole-of-life costings have been calculated based on an accepted methodology.	Whole-of-life costings have been estimated.	Costings do not consider the whole of life costs.
	4.2 Can the action contribute a 'value for money' benefit? <i>(This criterion will encourage actions that have positive funding and budget benefits.)</i>	Council funding commitment will attract contributions from another source and the action will deliver ongoing budget savings.	Council funding of the action will deliver ongoing budget savings.	Council funding commitment will attract contributions from another source.	Action does not generate ongoing savings or attract external funding.
	4.3 Is the action included within the Long Term Financial Plan? <i>(This criterion will encourage actions that are already allowed for in Council's 10-year financial plan)</i>	Resources are set aside in the Long Term Financial Plan for this action.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Is not included in the Long Term Financial Plan.
5. Success	5.1 Does the action have a successful implementation track record with similar LGAs to Tweed Shire? <i>(This criterion will reduce the risk of project failure through leveraging off the experience of other LGAs.)</i>	Action has been successfully implemented by one or more LGAs for more than 3 years.	Action has been successfully implemented by one or more LGAs for less than 3 years.	Action is new and as yet untried by other LGAs'.	Action has failed or been discontinued in one or more LGAs'.
	5.2 Does the action build on existing project success or a technical strength of Tweed Shire? <i>(This criterion will increase the potential for project success through aligning project needs with staff capability and experience.)</i>	Action is an extension of an existing successful project and Tweed Shire staff have significant technical expertise in the areas required to support the action.	Tweed Shire staff have significant technical expertise in the areas required to support the action.	Tweed Shire staff have related capabilities but require training and development to support the action.	Project requires Tweed Shire to acquire staff with specific technical skills and capabilities to implement the action
	5.3 Can the ongoing implementation of the action be sustained within available resources? <i>(This criterion will encourage project success and sustainability through the understanding of organisational change implications associated with project implementation.)</i>	Implementation can occur within existing systems and process, staff capability and financial and human resources.	Implementation requires minor organisational change (i.e. systems and process, staff capability and financial and human resources).	Implementation is contingent upon a major, unprogrammed, change to staff capability or IT systems.	Implementation requires significant change management action and additional resources.



Appendix 2 - Related environmental sustainability strategies, plans and policies

Council operations and assets

[Tweed Shire Community Strategic Plan 2013-2023](#)

[Procurement Policy, 2013](#)

[Environmental Design Guidelines for Council Facilities, 2008](#)

Environmental Due Diligence Duty of Care

Environmental Risks Managing Workplace Hazards

Environmental Safety Standard Operating Procedure

Workplace Environmental Safety Protocol

Water

Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy, 2014

[Rainwater Tanks in Urban Areas Policy, 2011](#)

Tweed Urban Stormwater Quality Plan, 2000

Demand Management Strategy, 2009

Drought Management Strategy Final Report, 2009

Built environment and transport

[Far North Coast Regional Strategy 2006-2031](#)

[Tweed Local Environment Plan, 2014](#)

[Rural Land Strategy: Issues Summary Paper, 2013](#)

[Tweed Energy Smart Homes Policy](#)

Public Transport Strategy, 2012

Urban Land Release Strategy, 2009

[Draft Floodplain Risk Management Plan, 2013](#)

[Development Design Specification D7 - Stormwater Quality, 2005](#)

Resource use and waste minimisation

Integrated Waste Management Strategy

Land and water biodiversity

[Draft Tweed Riverbank Erosion Management Plan, 2014](#)

[Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management \(draft\), 2014](#)

[Coastal Zone Management Plan for Tweed Coast Estuaries, 2014](#)

[Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, 2013](#)

[Riverbanks Policy, 2009](#)

[Tweed Coastline Management Plan, 2005](#)

[Tweed Vegetation Management Strategy, 2004](#)

Sustainable agriculture

[Sustainable Agricultural Strategy Discussion Paper, 2011](#)

Energy and climate

[Renewable Energy Think Tank Action Plan, 2014](#)

[Local Action Plan for Greenhouse Gas Reduction, 2003](#)

Business

Economic Development Strategy, 2014



