

Policy 4.12 Environmental and Public Health

Directorate	Community, Environment and Planning
Responsible Officer	Director Community, Environment and Planning

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Record of Administrative Amendments

Amendment Version No.:	Description of Administrative Amendment	Date Reviewed
<u>1.2</u>	<u>Review of policy in accordance with Section 165 of the Local Government Act 1993</u> <u>Placed on Public Exhibition 23 July 2025</u>	<u>July 2025</u>
<u>1.1</u>	<u>Review of policy in accordance with Section 165 of the Local Government Act 1993</u> <u>Workshopped with Councillors May 2025</u>	<u>May 2025</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Adopted by Council</u>	<u>19 April 2016</u>

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This policy ~~(and associated policies and complementary procedures)~~ sets out the commitment of Council as ~~one~~ a key partner in ~~the~~ provision of ~~effective~~ environmental and public health protection ~~outcomes~~ in our community.

~~encompasses the processes implemented by Council to provide effective environmental and public health outcomes to the local community and visitors to our shire.~~

The content of this policy is relevant to:

- ~~- BVSC officers;~~
- ~~- B~~ b ~~business~~ owners
- ~~—t~~ t ~~The~~ local community.

The scope of this policy demonstrates direct commitment to the following strategic guiding principles::

- Accountable | Clear accountability ~~set for reporting~~; explaining and answering for the consequence of decisions; ~~robust performance management with clear roles and responsibilities; sound asset management driving financial sustainability; commitment to risk management and compliance and proactive consultation and engagement organisation wide~~; proactive consultation and engagement internally between business areas and externally with key stakeholders.
- Financially sustainable - | Provision of services fit for purpose and within adopted budgets, focus on resilience, future capability and sustainability
- Financially sustainable | provision of services is fit for purpose and equivalent to 'best on offer'; continuous improvement in council's financial management; asset management focus on resilience, future capability and sustainability; proactive consultation and engagement with community and stakeholders on defining service standards.
- Transparent | decision making processes are clearly outlined, including how a decision is made and who is involved; stakeholders are informed of progress of actions in line with decisions; accurate and timely financial and asset information; Commitment to open communication; nurturing a trusting and supportive partnership with community and y, local businesses and funding partners.
- Responsive | ~~commitment to serve the needs of the entire community; improved organisational agility to respond to change; advocates the use of technological advancement to improve service delivery;~~ Timely and accurate information sharing with community and stakeholders; adapting better practice in management and service delivery.
- Equitable and inclusive | ~~strong consideration of the needs of all stakeholders; c~~ Commitment to building a connection with stakeholders upon trust and respect; consideration of the needs of the broader community; nurturing a culture of collaboration, consultation and communication in Council business practices and service delivery; fostering deeper community engagement; ~~advance the organisational values; embracing change with an open mind and a positive culture.~~
- Effective and Efficient | ~~proactive improvement to service delivery processes, adapting innovative practices in financial and asset management and service delivery including a focus of effectiveness and sustainability; clear connection between policy and implementation; improved collaboration and partnership with community, business, neighbouring councils and other government bodies.~~

Insert text here

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define Bega Valley Shire Council's role in providing, promoting and maintaining proper high standards of environmental and public health for the local community.

1.3 Definitions

Word or terminology	Description
Sustainability Environmental Health	<p>To live within the limits of what the environment can provide, understanding the many interconnections between the economy society and the environment.</p> <p>Environmental health addresses the physical, chemical and biological factors external to a person, and the related factors that can potentially affect health. It is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments. Environmental health is a discipline of public health practice.</p>
Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD)	ESD is defined as development that uses, conserves and enhances our natural resources so that ecological processes, and in turn the quality of life now and into the future, can be maintained.

2 Legislation

This policy is supported by key legislative instruments and strategies, including:

Local Government Act 1993 and General Regulation

Public Health Act 2010 and Regulation

Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act 1997 and Regulations

Food Act 2003 and Regulation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Regulation

State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

Contaminated Land Management Act 1997

Bega Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013

Bega Valley Development Control Plan 2013

NSW Food Regulation Partnership

Australian Government Department of Health National Preventative Health Strategy 2021-2030

23 Implementation

2.7.3.1 Policy Statements

- 1) Council recognises the health of the community is intrinsically linked to the social and physical environment that exists in the shire, and that without environmental health conditions conducive to good health, such as access to safe food, clean water, and adequate sanitation, all other public health programs and clinical interventions will be seriously undermined.
- 2) Council recognises that whilst the state and federal governments also share responsibility to ensure the health and wellbeing of the population, it is often local government that directly delivers the services that ensure environmental protection, control risks to public health, and prevent spread of infectious disease.
- 3) Council recognises the significant financial benefit of preventative environmental and public health action to the wider community including local health services and our economy.
- 4) Council recognises environmental and public health legislative responsibilities and functions specifically delegated to Local Government including:-
 - Ensuring safety and suitability of food for sale
 - Supply of municipal drinking water and sewage treatment
 - Regulating of:
 - Onsite wastewater disposal
 - Private water suppliers and water carters
 - Public swimming pools and spa pools
 - Specific warm water and cooling water systems
 - Premises on which skin penetration procedures are carried out.
- 5) Council recognises that further public and environmental health legislative responsibilities and functions are undertaken by Local Government in partnership with state agencies and other regulatory bodies including:
 - Contaminated land management
 - Response to and prevention of land, air, and water pollution.
- 6) Council recognises the public and environmental health impact of climate change, including the impact of alterations to rainfall pattern, temperature increase, and sea level rise on microbial and viral growth, drinking water quality, and onsite sewage/drinking water infrastructure vulnerability.

4. Therefore, Bega Valley Shire Council will:

- Appoint authorised officers to enable it to exercise its functions under the above Acts and ensure that its authorised officers duly exercise their functions.
- Undertake enforcement and compliance action in these functions with reference to Council's adopted Enforcement and Compliance Policy.
- Provide education and information on environmental and public health issues.
- Provide access to its environmental and public health services, programs and facilities for the whole community.
- Develop, implement, monitor and review procedures that help maintain, manage and enhance the environmental and public health of the shire.
- Consider and address climate change impact on environmental and public health programs in accordance with Council Climate Change Policy, Risk Management Policy, and Climate Resilience Strategy.
- Engage with the community to improve the environmental and public health of the shire.
- Undertake environmental and public health functions with reference to the legislated principles of ecologically sustainable development, protection of public health and safety, protection of the environment, and management of risk.

Council recognises that individuals, industry and community also have responsibilities for environmental and public health, including:

- eEnsuring that their own actions contribute to the protection of the environment in the interests of their own health and the health of others
- pParticipating in decision making processes on matters likely to affect environment and health
- mMaking use of opportunities and practices that minimise adverse impacts on human health, and reduce risk of pollution.
- monitor and enforce legislative standards as appropriate
- provide access to its environmental and public health services, programs and facilities for the whole community
- develop, implement, monitor and review procedures that help maintain, manage and enhance the environmental and public health of the shire
- engage with the community to improve the environmental and public health of the shire.

3.2 Council Responsibilities

2.1.1

2.1.23.2.1 Elected Council

Ensure an environmental and public health policy is in place.

Continue to recognise and advocate for local government's role in protection of environmental and public health.

Chief Executive Officer and

3.2.2 Leadership Executive Group

Ensure appointment of authorised officers to enable Council to exercise its functions under the above Acts and ensure that its authorised officers duly exercise their functions.

Certification and Compliance

2.1.33.2.3 Manager Certification and Compliance/and Environmental Health Coordinator

-Ensure that effective environmental and public health activities are undertaken in accordance with this policy.

3.2.4 Environmental Health Permanent and Contract Staff

Ensure that effective environmental and public health activities are undertaken in accordance with this policy.

3.4 Supporting documents

3.4.1 BVSC procedures that relate to this policy

Procedure No.:	Procedure Name	External or Internal Procedure
4.05.1	There are no procedures sitting under this Policy Enforcement and Compliance – Enforcement and Compliance Guidelines	

3.4.2 BVSC policies that relate to this policy

Policy No.:	Policy Name
1.01	Community Wellbeing
3.02	Environmental Management
3.07	Climate Change
3.08	Asbestos Management
3.11	Contaminated Land – Land Use Planning
3.14	Flood and Sea Level Rise
4.02	Onsite Sewage Management
4.05	Enforcement and Compliance
4.08	Drinking water supply
6.03	Risk Management
6.10	Communications

Note: Policy details may change from time to time. To ensure you are viewing the most recent version please view Council's adopted Policies and Procedures on Council's website: www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au