

# Environmental Sustainability Strategy

A consolidated approach to environmental sustainability across all of Council's activities



Tweed Shire Council is preparing an Environmental Sustainability Strategy to reduce the organisation's environmental footprint and improve the way we protect the natural environment.

Have your say and help us be as effective as we can in improving our environmental outcomes.

## What is the strategy all about?

The environmental impact of Council's activities and operations is significant. We want the strategy to establish a comprehensive approach to getting our own 'house in order' to give a stronger basis on which we can help our partners, stakeholders and community to reduce their environmental footprint.

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.

## Defining what 'environmental sustainability' means for Council

Environmental sustainability is about minimising our impacts on the earth's natural resources to maintain environmental health, build healthy communities and ensure resilient economies into the future. For Council, this means applying the following principles - as set out in the draft strategy - to our actions and decision-making:

### Civic Leadership

- Embedded in governance
- Social and cultural impacts
- Responsible procurement
- Skills development
- Council leadership
- 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
- Gasfield free
- Rural subdivision
- Prosperity of the Shire

### Caring for the Environment

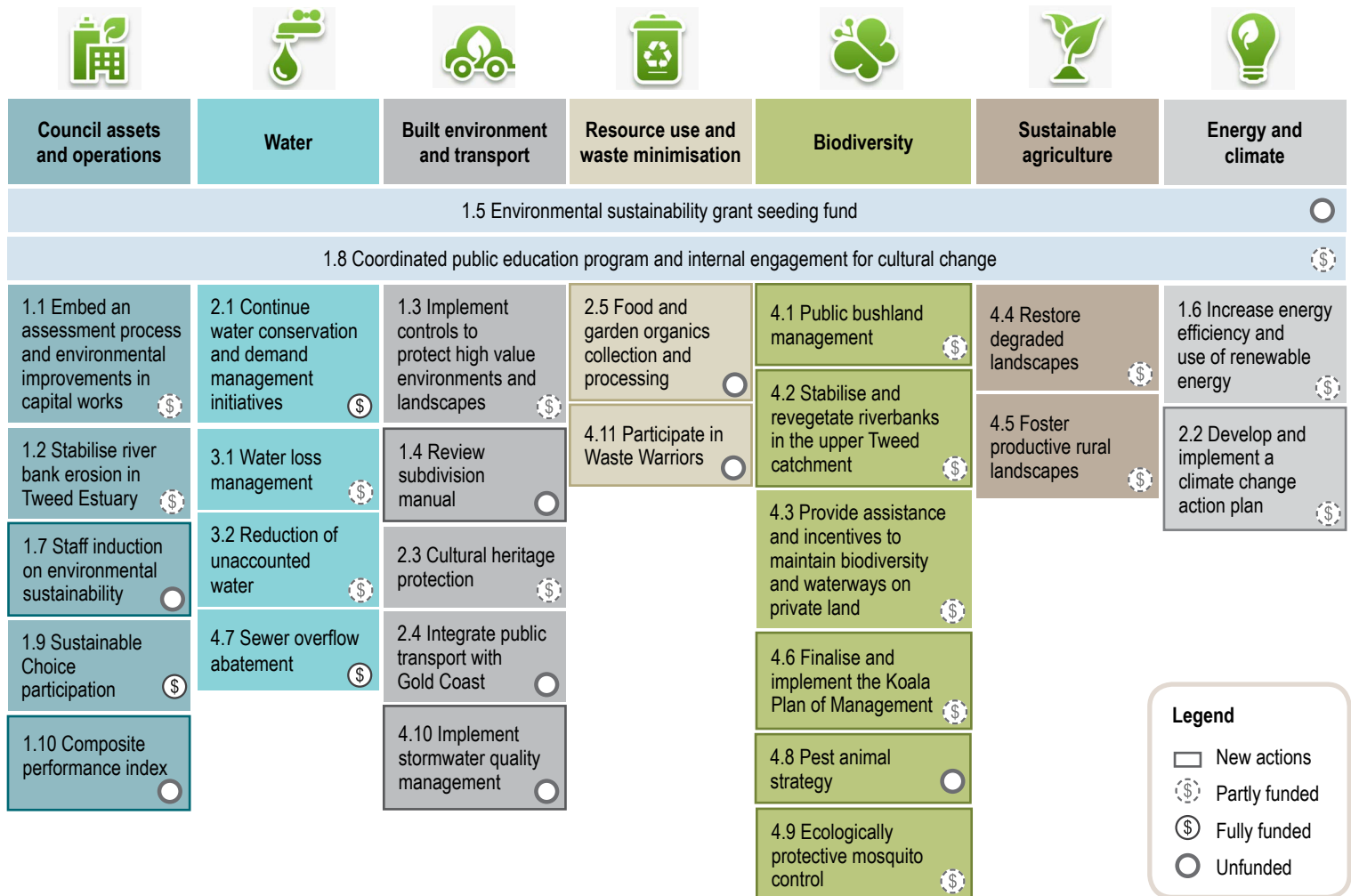
- Managing important environmental and natural resource values
- Protection and enhancement of biological diversity
- Integrated water management
- Urban stormwater
- Coastal estuaries
- Riverbank erosion
- Coastline development
- Integrated coastline management
- Sustainable agriculture

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## Helping Council ensure we're making good use of limited resources

As Council operates on a limited budget and with limited staff resources, it's important that we focus our efforts on activities that have maximum impact, benefits and value for money. This strategy establishes a framework to evaluate and prioritise both existing and emerging environmental sustainability opportunities. Identified key impact areas and lead actions include:



## Find out more and have your say

### View the draft plan

Copies of the draft plan can be viewed at Council's offices at Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads, or online at Your Say Tweed, [www.yoursaytweed.com.au/EnvironmentalSustainability](http://www.yoursaytweed.com.au/EnvironmentalSustainability).

### Attend an information session

Tuesday 24 February, 5-6pm, Canvas and Kettle, Murwillumbah Civic Centre, Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah

Wednesday 4 March, 5-6pm, South Tweed Community Hall, Heffron Street, Tweed Heads

RSVP to 02 6670 2400 or email [dfirestone@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dfirestone@tweed.nsw.gov.au).

For more information, visit [www.yoursaytweed.com.au/EnvironmentalSustainability](http://www.yoursaytweed.com.au/EnvironmentalSustainability).

### Make a submission

Post to The General Manager, Tweed Shire Council, PO Box 816, Murwillumbah NSW 2484, email [tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au) or online [www.yoursaytweed.com.au/EnvironmentalSustainability](http://www.yoursaytweed.com.au/EnvironmentalSustainability). Submissions close 8am on Monday 23 March 2015.

### Contact us

To make an appointment to discuss the plan or for any further details, contact Debbie Firestone, Program Leader - Sustainability, on 02 6670 2555.