



STRATEGIC POLICY  
**MOUNT ISA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Environmental Charge Policy**

RESOLUTION NO. **OM13/08/19** VERSION **V1**

**APPLIES TO STATUTORY POLICIES ONLY**

This an official copy of the **Environmental Charge Policy**, made in accordance with the provisions of *Local Government Act* and *Local Government Regulations 2012.*,

Strategic policies are adopted by Council due to its desire to influence the direction of an issue or assist in the delegated decision making of Council officers. Strategic policies should follow the jurisdiction provided to Council through its Corporate Plan; the **Environmental Charge Policy** is approved by the Mount Isa City Council for the operations and procedures of Council.

.....  
 Sharon Ibardolaza

**Chief Executive Officer**

DOCUMENT VERSION CONTROL					
Governance/Policies/Strategic Folder# 1208 Policy Register			<b>POLICY TYPE</b>	Strategic (Council)	
VERSION	DATE	RESOLUTION NO.	DETAILS		
V1	27/11/2019	OM13/08/19	Responsible Officer - Environmental Services Coordinator		
			<b>REVIEW DUE</b>	01/07/2020	

DISTRIBUTION AND DISSEMINATION			
Internal email to all employees	<b>X</b>	Section meetings / Toolbox talks	
Internal email to all Councillors		Included in employee inductions	
Staff noticeboards		Uploaded to Council website	
Internal training to be provided		External training to be provided	
Registered in Magiq	<b>X</b>		

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and details on how Mount Isa City Council (“Council”) will manage and allocate the revenue collected through the separate Environmental Charge to achieve Council’s environmental management initiatives including rehabilitation across the region.

**2. COMMENCEMENT**

It applies to all programs, activities or incentives that are directly or indirectly funded or supported, wholly or partly, by the separate charge.

**3. APPLICATION**

This policy applies to employees, agents and contractors (including temporary contractors) of Council, collectively referred to in this policy as “employees”.

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL CHARGE GUIDELINE/MANAGEMENT**

The management of Environmental Charge revenue allocation and Programs will be guided by the following principles:

- a) Environmental Charge funds will primarily be generated from a separate charge levied on all property assessments within the jurisdiction of Mount Isa City Council.
- b) The annual review of the Environmental Charge per rateable property will be undertaken by Council to determine any remission/commissions of the separate charge as a part of adopting Council’s annual revenue statement.
- c) All revenue collected and raised through the Environmental Charge is held and accounted for separately from Council’s general revenue.
- d) Environmental Charge revenue including restricted cash is not to be made available at any time from Council’s general revenue.
- e) Any unspent funds from one financial year are to be placed in an environmental reserve fund set aside specifically to fund environmental charge projects in subsequent years.
- f) Environmental charge funds will be allocated across the funding themes identified below based on an assessment of annual priorities and emerging needs and endorsed by Council.
- g) If an endorsed project can demonstrate a need for additional funds during the financial year, anticipated underspends from other endorsed projects within the same funding theme can be used. These budget amendments will be reflected through the quarterly budget reporting process to Council.
- h) Environmental Charge will not fund costs associated with Council’s obligations:
  - (i) As an administering authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and subordinate legislation;
  - (ii) Required through any development undertaken by Council; or
  - (iii) As an administering authority to deliver environmental offset through the *Planning Act 2016* and subordinate legislation.
- i) An annual Environmental Charge report on income, expenditure and appropriation will be prepared highlighting key achievements, initiatives and services.

**5. FUND ALLOCATION**

The allocation of the funds will be limited to the following categories:

5.1 Acquisition or management of environmentally significant land.

5.2 Environmental Grant Programme:

- a) Provide funding support, that can assist or enable community groups through the Environmental Grant specific criteria to undertake environmental projects in the community.

5.3 Environmental Projects:

- a) School Based Environmental Educational programmes;
- b) Bushfire Management;
- c) Flying Fox Management;
- d) Support for voluntary Conservation Agreements;
- e) Water quality preservation;
- f) Management of local riverine area and waterways;
- g) Native fish restocking;
- h) Native Tree Plantation.

**5.4 Environmental Operational Management:**

- a) Implement Council's Environmental Management Plan activities to meet the environmental outcome and protect natural environment.
- b) Support operational expenditure relevant to employee costs, materials and services costs and on-costs and overheads associated with the delivery of those nominated environmental operational management activities.

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL CHARGE WORKING GROUP**

The committee consisting of the following officers will make recommendations to Council on the spending of Environmental Charge funds:

- One Councillor appointed by Council;
- Director Compliance and Utility Services;
- Coordinator Environmental Services;
- Manager Development and Land Use;
- Community Liaison Officer (Promotion and Development); and
- Manager Corporate and Financial Services.

**7. REPORTING**

Council will report at the end of each financial year the total expenditure for the revenue collected through the separate environmental charge.

**8. RESPONSIBILITIES**

Council will review the Environmental Charge and the associated Policy and Program annually. Council officers will implement the Environmental Charge Program and report on achievements in accordance with the endorsed Policy and associated guideline.

**9. VARIATIONS**

Council reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this policy from time to time.

**10. COMMUNICATION AND DISTRIBUTION**

10.1 Council will make available to the public, the Environmental Charge Policy on our website at [www.mountisa.qld.gov.au](http://www.mountisa.qld.gov.au).

9.2 Supervisors will ensure the policy is distributed as per the Distribution and Dissemination table on this policy.

**DEFINITIONS**



- a) **Environment** - refers to the term used to describe the natural (not man-made) environment of the region and includes the natural ecological systems of air, water, soil and associated species of flora and fauna.
- b) **Environmental Charge** - refers to the separate charge levied by Mount Isa City Council (in accordance with section 94 of the *Queensland Local Government Act 2009*) and s103 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, on all rateable properties within its jurisdiction, to meet the objectives in the policy.
- c) **Environmentally Significant Land** - refers to lands identified due to their environmental. Biodiversity values, including their contribution to strategic ecological linkages and consolidated of core habitat areas.
- d) **Sustainable Development** - refers to the principle of ensuring a continued quality of life now and for future generation.

#### **ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION AND POLICIES**

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- Council's Environmental Management Plan
- Council's Corporate Plan