

Council Policy – Aboriginal Environmental Health

Responsible Directorate	Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Responsible Business Unit/s	Regulatory Services
Responsible Officer	Manager Regulatory Services
Affected Business Unit/s	Regulatory Services

Objective

The objective of this policy is to guide the Shire of Ashburton’s (the Shire) engagement with Aboriginal Communities and stakeholders in collaborating on identified environmental health issues.

Scope

This policy applies to Aboriginal Communities within the Shire of Ashburton and relevant stakeholders engaged in environmental health management.

Policy Statement

The Shire:

- Acknowledges that environmental health programs serve to prevent illness, injury and even death. Such programs can result in an overall net social and economic gain for the community including disease prevention, extended lives, enhanced productivity and less time lost from family, education and work by materially reducing environmental risk factors to health and wellbeing.
- Acknowledge that environmental health programs can also help to reduce the vulnerability of communities against emergency situations such as acts of nature (bushfire, cyclones etc.) and epidemics etc.
- Will work collaboratively with Federal and State government agencies, Aboriginal Corporations and other key stakeholders to improve Aboriginal environmental health outcomes within the Shire.

Definitions

Aboriginal means a person of Aboriginal descent who identifies as an Aboriginal and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.

Community/Communities – in Aboriginal culture, community is primarily about country, (extended) family ties, and shared experience. Community is about inter-relatedness and belonging and is central to Aboriginal culture.

Environmental Health means the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related factors impacting behaviours. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health. It is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments. This definition excludes behaviour not related to environment, as well as behaviour related to the social and cultural environment, and genetics.

Relevant policies/documents

Department of Health information - [Aboriginal environmental health](#)

Relevant legislation/local laws

Public Health Act 2016

Office use only			
Relevant delegations	Nil		
Council adoption	Date	9 May 2023	Resolution # 074/2023
Reviewed/modified	Date		Resolution #
Next review due	Date	2025	Resolution #