



POLICY MANUAL

Policy title:	ATMOSPHERE POLICY
Policy number:	5.17.5
Objective:	To manage greenhouse gas emissions, air quality and noise in the Lismore LGA
Link to community vision/service:	Water & Waste Cycle, Natural Environment
Program Area:	Environmental Health
Policy created:	Council reviewed:
Last reviewed by staff:	TRIM Ref: ED10/15916

This policy applies to all sections within Council having an impact on and/or regulatory role in managing 'the atmosphere', which includes noise, odour, greenhouse gas and air emissions (e.g. smoke, dust, pollutants). Air quality and noise emissions are an important community and environmental issue within the LGA. There is also increased community concern about the effects of greenhouse gases at a global level. The policy contains 3 objectives. These are:

1. To reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouses gases are a global issue that are linked closely to climate change. It is widely accepted that increases in greenhouse gas emissions has led to an increase in average global temperatures, and will cause future rises in sea levels. These are likely to have major effects on existing natural habitats and ecosystems. Council's major involvement in reducing greenhouse gas emissions is through the Cities for Climate Protection program, which includes an extensive range of actions.

Strategies for implementation

- Implement actions within Council's local action plan from the Cities for Climate Protection program
- Create and improve access to public transport, walking and cycling facilities
- Liaise with Public Transport PAG to develop/initiate/implement promotions and policies to increase public transport, cycling and walking activities.

2. To limit the impact of noise and odour within the LGA

Noise and odour are a significant source of complaints to Council. Complaints usually occur between neighbours in the urban zone, but also regularly occur at the interface between land use zones such as agriculture or industrial areas and residential areas.

Strategies for implementation

- Provide up to date and accurate information on noise and odour issues for the Lismore community;
- Monitor number and nature of complaints to Council regarding noise and odour to identify major sources of emissions; and
- Ensure industries adopt best management practices for control of noise and odour
- Investigate better use of planning controls to reduce conflict between varying land uses and practices (Link to Land Policy);

- e) Promote good neighbour behaviour and awareness of existing land uses

3. To manage and improve air quality within the LGA

As development continues within the LGA there is likely to be increased pressures placed on air quality. Council's role has traditionally been to record and respond to complaints about air quality. There are also industries in Lismore licenced with the Dept. of Environment & Conservation (DEC) for air emission discharges.

Strategies for implementation

- a) Monitor number and nature of complaints to Council regarding air quality to identify major sources of emissions.
- b) Provide up to date and accurate information on air quality issues, focussing on local industry;
- c) Ensure industrial and commercial premises are compliant with legislative requirements through audit programs and other means; and
- d) Encourage partnerships with industry and agriculture for adoption of best management practices for control of emissions.