

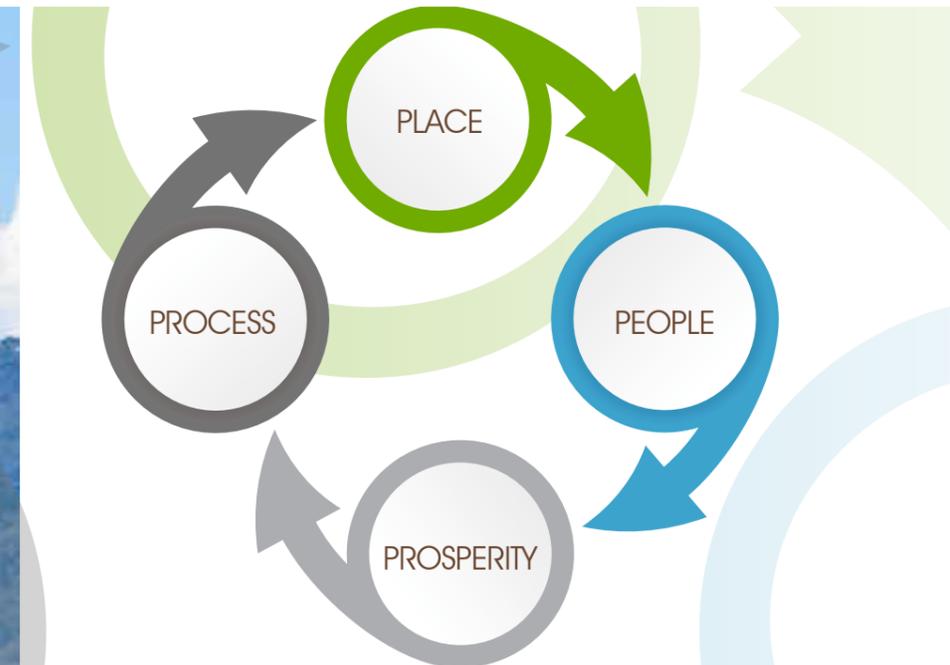
Sustainability Statement

WHAT SUSTAINABILITY MEANS TO US

Gladstone Regional Council is committed to operating in a sustainable way, with an equal emphasis on the present and on the future. Specifically, we recognise that it is imperative to manage our operations in a manner that meets the needs of the current generation, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.



Boyne Valley, Michelle Wagner



Pages 8-9 indicate our current suite of organisational sustainability measures, which track elements of our organisational impact. That is, it examines our impact on place (Environmental Footprint), our processes (Continuous Improvement), our people (Human Resource Sustainability) and our prosperity (Financial Sustainability). We have determined that these four categories form the cornerstones of monitoring our organisational capacity to operate in a sustainable and responsible manner.

The link between our people and processes is interdependent; our people drive our processes and in turn, our processes drive our people.

We operate within the realms of finite financial constraints and we are focused on managing our prosperity from a long term perspective (see page 60 for more on our long term financial planning). As a local government organisation, the bounds of our financial constraints can be rigid, being driven largely by our rate-base (78 per cent of revenue - see page 18 for more details on the origin of revenue).

In turn, our people-processes relationship becomes integrally linked with that of our financial constraints in that we rely on the expertise of our people and the robustness of our processes to manage our finances sustainably.

Finally, our operations inescapably impact upon our environment, our place. Again, an interdependent relationship exists with our operations (encompassing people, processes and finances): we seek to minimise our detrimental environmental footprint and maximise our positive contribution while operating within the fabric that our unique environment offers (turn to page 108 for more on our environmental efforts).

It is this interdependent relationship that enables the various aspects of our organisation to operate towards a common sustainability outlook.

The linkages between our approach to sustainability and our Corporate Plan 2013|2017 can be comfortably drawn, with particular emphasis on our organisational charter which defines who we are, and guides how we work (see page 4 for the full charter).

Each of the four elements of sustainability are weaved into the charter, be it explicitly or assumed, and most notably in the success factors of meeting community need; preserving and enhancing our natural and built environment to the benefit of our current generation without disadvantaging the next; and, in the purposeful way in which our people undertake the operations of Council.