

## ENVIRONMENT

The Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (EMPCA) places requirements on Glenorchy City Council for the management of the environment within its municipal boundaries.

Under EMPCA it is an offence for a person or body corporate to cause environmental harm.

Environmental harm is any adverse effect on the environment (of whatever degree or duration) and includes an environmental nuisance (S.5 (1) EMPCA, 1994).

For the purpose of this Act, environmental harm is caused by pollution (a) whether the harm is a direct or indirect result of pollution, and (b) whether the harm results from the pollution alone or from the combined effects of the pollution and other factors. An environmental nuisance means the emission of a pollutant that unreasonably interferes with, or is likely to unreasonably interfere with, a person's enjoyment of the environment.

Council receives and investigates many environmental complaints each year concerning alleged environmental harm and/ or environmental nuisances. Through these investigations Council confirms the environmental harm/nuisance and where appropriate takes action to ensure that they are abated. This is done either through discussion with those people causing the harm/nuisance or through the use of environmental management enforcement instruments (Environmental Infringement Notices or Environmental Protection Notices etc) provided under EMPCA.

### Pollution Control Activities

EMPCA places a responsibility on Council to use its best endeavours to prevent or control acts or omissions, which cause or are capable of causing pollution within Glenorchy.

Council is fulfilling this legislative responsibility by:

- Investigating and abating environmental complaints, including noise, incinerators, solid waste pollution, odour etc)
- Carrying out a systematic environmental auditing program of industrial/commercial industries in Glenorchy City Council Applying Trade Waste agreements in businesses to monitor and control waste water discharges to Council's sewer system
- Keeping records of contaminated sites throughout the City.

### Sustainable Development

Council ensures the fair and sustainable development of property in Glenorchy by applying the objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System of Tasmania (incorporating the EMPCA and the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993) to all land-use development applications in the City. Under the system sustainable development means;

- sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
- safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and
- avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

### Water Monitoring

Under the Public Health Act 1997 requires Council's to;

- manage the water in a manner that does not pose a threat to public health; and
- on becoming aware that the quality of the water is, or is likely to become, a threat to public health, notify the Director in accordance with any relevant guideline(s).

In addition, Council must monitor the quality of water within its municipal area in accordance with any relevant guidelines(s).

Council undertakes various forms of water monitoring in Glenorchy including drinking (potable) water, sewage, natural water and recreational waters to provide detailed information on the state of the City's water resources, and to take appropriate action where water quality problems are identified.



## Sustainable Development

Glenorchy City Council is involved in the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP), which is a joint State, Local and Commonwealth Government initiative to restore and protect the Derwent Estuary. The program aims to address environmental quality issues such as industrial and urban water pollution, contaminated sediments, introduced species and loss of estuarine ecosystems.

- Introducing and facilitating programs and policies which provide for proper maintenance.

## Other Environmental Initiatives

Council is involved in many other initiatives focused on the management and enhancement of the environment in Glenorchy. These initiatives include;

- The formation and management of a Catchment Care Committee for the Humphrey's Rivulet Catchment aimed at assisting in the development of a Catchment Management Plan,
- Air Quality monitoring,
- Providing education to the public on environmental management issues,
- Regulating Council's Incinerator By-Law,
- On-going development of State of the Environment reporting to direct and further enhance environmental management programs.

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