

Port Macquarie Museum Sustainability Plan 2024-2030

1 Introduction and Context

1.1 The Port Macquarie Museum is an independent community museum on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales. The Museum collects, preserves and shares local cultural collections and their stories about Port Macquarie's identity with the local community and tourism visitors from across Australia and around the world.

1.2 The Museum is custodian of a nationally significant collection of objects, archives and photographs and is responsible for their care and conservation for posterity.

1.3 The Port Macquarie Museum site comprises the State significant historic Store building, c1836 and several building additions constructed from 1960 onwards.

1.4 Sustainability is crucial to the delivery of our mission and is already a consideration of many of our activities. It is our role to think about what and how we make and consume, and the effect of this on society and the natural environment.

1.5 We have a responsibility to explore the ideas and realities of what environmental, social and economic sustainability means across generations, places and our community.

1.6 The Museum recognises the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The 17 integrated SDGs recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

1.7 This plan focuses on the following Sustainable Development Goals:

- Goal 4 – Quality Education
- Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13 – Climate Action
- Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

1.8 Strategies and actions are addressed through three focus areas – Place, People and Programs. Actions are targeted on areas that we can influence and where we can have the most significant and positive impact.

2.1 Place: We will reduce the negative environmental impact of how we deliver our activities and operate our buildings.

Principles:

- The Museum will work towards targeting net zero emissions in line with science and goals of government regarding climate change.
- The Museum will work to close material wastage, focusing on longevity of materials, leasing and use of service packages, reuse and recovery of waste, and maximise resource value.
- The Museum will work to procure goods and services responsibly to maximise social, environmental and financial value
- The Museum will work towards adapting our buildings so they are fit for future climate scenarios, and safeguarding them as appropriate places for people and collections.
- The Museum will work towards minimising potable water use and improve internal and external air quality.
- The Museum will support biodiversity measures, valuing nature and supporting conservation.

Action	Who	Time Frame
2.1.1 Obtain a greater understanding of our carbon emissions in order to set reduction goals.	Facilities Sub Comm	By 2025
2.1.2 Carry out whole of life costings analysis for future design and building projects.	Facilities Sub Comm, PMM, Design 5, Other key consultants	From Jan 2025
2.1.3 Identify climate impacts on the historic Store building as part of the Conservation Management Strategy.	Facilities Sub Comm	By April 2025
2.1.4 Aim to procure most goods and services locally.	Management Committee	April 2024 ongoing
2.1.5 Explore options to reduce operational waste.	Management Committee	April 2024 ongoing
2.1.6 Explore options to reduce power usage and improve internal air quality.	Management Committee	April 2024 ongoing
2.1.7 Identify ways to support natural biodiversity on our site.	Management Committee	April 2024 ongoing

2.2 People: We will support our people, partners and sector to embed sustainable decision making and practices, and to share knowledge and skills.

Principles:

- Governance: The Museum will provide clear leadership and coordination to integrate principles and practices of sustainability in the organisation.
- Staff: The Museum will harness the enthusiasm and expertise of our staff to embed sustainable practices across the organisation.
- Partnerships: The Museum will collaborate and build productive relationships with partners, funders and audiences.
- Community: The Museum will share knowledge, skills and experience with the cultural and heritage sectors

Action	Who	Time Frame
2.2.1 Establish a Sustainability Sub Committee to consider and report on sustainability risks, opportunities and challenges.	Management Committee	By 2026
2.2.2 Consider a sustainability awareness program for staff, subject to resources.	Management Committee	2025 ongoing
2.2.3 Assess and understand key partner’s sustainability ambitions and goals.	Management Committee	Ongoing
2.2.4 Continue to collaborate with peers to gain insight and innovation in sustainable museum practices. .	Management Committee	Ongoing

2.3 Programs: We will seek to engage audiences in issues of climate and the environment, focusing on people’s agency to take positive actions.

Principles:

- Collections: The Museum will use its collections to explore and respond to issues regarding climate and the environment.
- Learning and Public Programmes: The Museum will deliver activities that address and build understanding of local and global issues of climate and environment.
- Research: Support and disseminate research and learning related to sustainability issues.
- Exhibitions: Highlight sustainability in exhibitions and displays.

Action	Who	Time Frame
2.3.1 Actively collect, display and research objects that link climate, sustainability and the environment.	Curator, Archivist, Collections S/C, Museum Programs S/C	Ongoing
2.3.2 Consider developing resources and activities that promote sustainability through museum and collection based learning.	Management Committee	By 2026
2.3.3 Support sustainability themed research and creative projects by artists, designers and makers.	Museum Programs S/C	Ongoing
2.3.4 Identify opportunities for highlighting issues of sustainability in exhibition content and interpretation.	Museum Programs S/C	Ongoing