

Sydney Coastal Councils Group

Good Practice Guideline: Parking & Infringement Tickets

Aim

Promote leadership and guidance in the sustainable use of resources in parking management.

Objectives

1. Reduce the amount and impact of land-based litter introduced into the environment.
2. Identify parking management solutions which reduce or eliminate printed parking and infringement tickets.
3. Formulate guidelines for the procurement of environmentally sustainable parking and infringement tickets.

Rationale

Successful and healthy communities operate in combination with their environment. Councils have broad spheres of influence within these communities. In parking management, Councils can exert influence on various life cycle stages of ticketing (Figure 1.); influencing the number of parking and infringement tickets that find their way into the environment and the materials from which they are manufactured.

Councils have duties and responsibilities in relation to environmental sustainability (Appendix 1). Notwithstanding, Member Councils acknowledge that sustainability initiatives have many compounding and synergistic benefits and wish to take a leadership role to ensure the sustainability of their dynamic and complex communities by considering a **Quadruple Bottom Line** approach (Appendix 1) in the conduct of their activities.

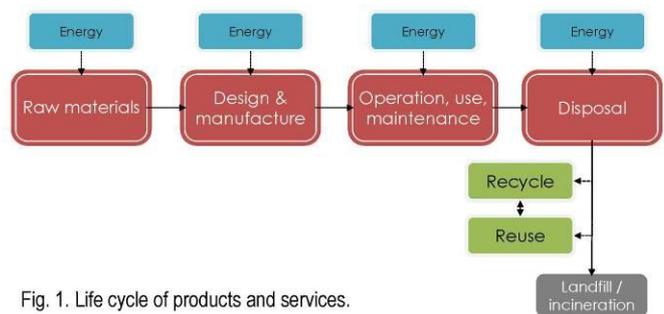


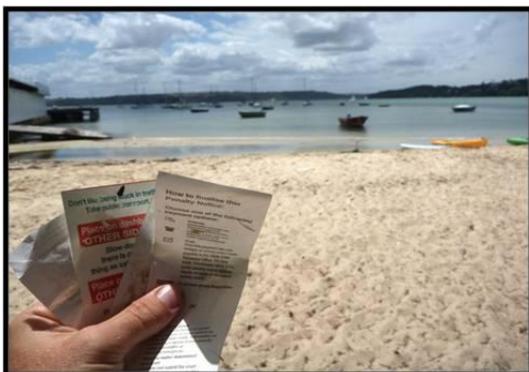
Fig. 1. Life cycle of products and services.

Background

Many traffic management strategies utilise ticket based parking systems. Tickets are printed on a range of materials including paper (virgin / part-recycled), polypropylene and resin coated media and may include safety features such as metallic holographic strips and/or chemicals sensitive to UV light. Inks may be solvent or vegetable based.

Discarded parking tickets and infringement notices pollute the environment. Many are washed into and accumulate in waterways and coastal areas with myriad social, ecological and economic implications (see SCCG report available http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/marine_debris).

Context – parking management



Paid parking systems raise substantial revenue and form part of an effective transport management tool by:

- influencing travel patterns such as discouraging single occupancy of vehicles and all-day parking by commuters
- increasing accessibility
- reducing congestion and 'cruising for parking', thus improving air quality, noise and amenity
- facilitating commerce through patronage of local business.

Roads and Maritime Services NSW (RMS) have established pay parking guidelines (for roads and road related areas) pursuant to the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Regulation 1999. The

guidelines state *[w]here demand for parking outstrips parking supply or competition is intense and satisfactory enforcement difficult to maintain, meter, coupon, phone or ticket parking schemes may be considered.*

APPENDIX 1

Sustainability

Sustainability posits that future generations should inherit a world at least as bountiful as today's (the self interest of all). It is informed by the notion that the Earth's resources are finite and use should be efficient, economical and equitable. Sustainable communities are healthy communities. Sustainability initiatives are multidimensional and must balance often conflicting social, economic and environmental needs. Initiatives may include reducing resource inputs and waste outputs, and improving liveability, all in a transparent, accountable and fiscally responsible manner.

The concept of sustainability is often considered in the context of 'sustainable development'. The 1987 report by the World Commission on Environment and Development (aka the Brundtland report) defined sustainable development as *development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*. This report inspired the 1992 Rio Summit's *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* (containing 27 principles of sustainable development) and Agenda 21, a global plan of action for sustainable development.

Under s.8 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a council is to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve its environment in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of **ecologically sustainable development**. 'Ecologically sustainable development' requires the *effective integration of economic and environmental considerations in decision-making processes* through the implementation of principles and programs including the precautionary principle, inter-generational equity, conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity, and improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms (s.3). The **NSW Whole of Government Sustainability Principles** provide a minimum set of principles for use by public sector agencies:

1. Foundation principles

- a) **Inter-generational equity** - the quality of life of the current generation does not reduce the capacity of future generations to enjoy a similar quality of life
- b) **Sustainable communities** - human settlements that maximise social, economic, environmental and cultural opportunities for all
- c) **Economic prosperity** - economic resources (such as land, labour, capital and technology) are used in ways that maximise productivity, minimise pollution and waste, and meets the social needs of all, now and for future generations
- d) **Ecologically sustainable development** - economic, social and natural resources are used in ways that conserve and enhance ecological processes, on which life depends, so that quality of life is improved, now and in the future
- e) **Full pricing** - the prices of natural resources are set to at least recover the full social and environmental costs of their extraction, use and where appropriate, restoration
- f) **Bio-diversity** - conservation of biological diversity is a fundamental consideration in all economic and social decision-making and action
- g) **The precautionary principle** - where there are risks of serious or irreversible damage, lack of scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason to postpone cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation or reduce social harm

2. Process principles

- a) **Sustainable practice** - government agencies implement legislation, policies and programs in ways that meet the needs of current and future generations
- b) **Stewardship** - public sector agencies are responsible for the long-term stewardship of the resources under their control and for accounting publicly for the resource use
- c) **Shared responsibility** - government agencies work in partnership with other governments, Councils, the private sector, non-government organisations, communities, households and individuals on sustainability issues
- d) **Participation** - all those likely to be affected by the decisions of agencies have the opportunity to contribute to the decision-making before the decision is made, and to participate in any review of the decision
- e) **The local-global principle** - sustainability is not achieved at the expense of other jurisdictions or regions

Benefits of sustainability initiatives

Sustainability initiatives can confer the following benefits:

- Good civic leadership, stewardship and citizenship: accepting responsibility for and demonstrating new sustainability initiatives; inspiring innovation, motivation and creativity in others
- Improved environmental performance and sustainability outcomes through targeted actions and monitoring
- Operational efficiency and cost reduction
- Minimisation of human and environmental impacts and ecological footprint
- Improved stakeholder relations
- Improved risk management - reduced risk of compliance breaches and environmental incidents
- Better resilience
- Enhanced reputation, image and environmental credentials
- Fostering a culture of environmental sustainability and awareness
- Improved strategic and operational decision-making
- Higher resource productivity and efficiency

Quadruple Bottom Line approach

The Quadruple Bottom Line approach is a philosophical framework to guide decision making, considering broad societal objectives by assessing the following factors and their interactions:

- **Environment** – all surrounding living and non-living things (such as air, water, soil, biota) and their interactions
- **Social** - individual and community well being (includes the cultural and political aspects of society)
- **Economic** – the real economic value derived
- **Governance / civic leadership** – the clarity, coherence, accountability and transparency etc., in planning and decision making (includes decision making processes, management, consultation and change management).

It is an extension of the Triple Bottom Line approach which only considers the first three factors.

By way of example, applying a QBL approach to procurement may also include a consideration of products/services with the least impact on society and the environment across their entire life cycle and local manufacturers that demonstrate social responsibility and employ environmental management systems (e.g. ISO14001).

Legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks

Local councils have duties and responsibilities in relation to environmental sustainability, imposed by legislation or pursuant to policies and guidelines to which they subscribe:

Legislation and subordinate legislation

Local Government Act 1993, particularly ss. 7, 8, 89, 403, 428
Local Government (General) Regulations 2005
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, particularly s.3A.
Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997
The Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997

Guidelines: environment, waste and procurement

National Waste Policy
National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development
NSW Government Environmental management Systems Guidelines
NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy guidelines
NSW Government Procurement Policy
Better Practice Guide. Public Sector Environmental Management. Reducing the Environmental Impacts of Public Sector Operations. 2012. Australian National Audit Office
NSW Government Sustainability Policy
The Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines 2008
DLG Integrated Planning & Reporting Guidelines
State of the Environment reporting by Local Government

Paid parking

Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999
Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Regulation 1999
Pay Parking Guidelines. 2012. Transport Roads and Maritime Services

Standards

ISO 9001:2000 – Quality Management Systems
ISO 14001:2004 – Environmental Management Systems
AS 4801:2001 – OH&S Management Systems
ISO 20121 – Event Sustainability Management Systems
ISO 26000:2010 - Guidance on Social Responsibility
BS 8904:2011 - Guidance for Community Sustainable Development
ISO 17088:2012 Specifications for Compostable Plastics
AS4082-1992 Recycled paper - Glossary of Terms

Council plans and policies

Community Strategic Plan
Corporate Business Plan
Resourcing Strategy
Delivery Program
Operational Plan
Asset Management Plan
Waste Management Plan
Environmental Management Plan
Coastal Management Plan
Stormwater Management Plan
Bushland Management Plan
Waterways Management Plan
Environmental Purchasing Plan

Sustainable Events Policy
Sustainable Procurement Policy