

# Port Macquarie Museum

## Sustainability Plan 2026-2030

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Port Macquarie Museum plays an important role in preserving and sharing the cultural heritage of our region. As custodians of the community's stories, collections and historic places, we recognise that sustainability is essential to ensuring that this heritage continues to be valued and accessible for generations to come.

Our approach to sustainability is guided by three interconnected principles: cultural, environmental and economic sustainability. At its heart, the Museum's work supports cultural sustainability -safeguarding the memories, knowledge and identity of the Port Macquarie and Hastings community through the care and interpretation of our collections and heritage buildings.

We are also committed to reducing the environmental impact of our operations and to using our programs and exhibitions to encourage greater understanding of environmental challenges. At the same time, we recognise the importance of strong governance, partnerships and financial responsibility to ensure the long-term viability of the Museum.

This Sustainability Plan provides a practical framework to guide our decisions and actions over the coming years. Through it, the Museum aims to continue serving our community while protecting both our cultural heritage and our shared environment.

### 2. CONTEXT

- 2.1. The Port Macquarie Museum is an independent community museum on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales. The Museum collects, preserves and shares cultural collections and stories that express the identity, heritage and lived experience of Port Macquarie and the Hastings region with local communities and visitors from across Australia and around the world.
- 2.2. At the heart of the Museum's mission is **cultural sustainability** — the ongoing stewardship, interpretation and transmission of the region's cultural heritage so that it remains meaningful and accessible for present and future generations. Through the care of collections, research, exhibitions and community engagement, the Museum plays a vital role in sustaining the cultural memory and identity of the region.
- 2.3. The Museum is custodian of a nationally significant collection of objects, archives and photographs and is responsible for their care and conservation for posterity. This custodianship is central to maintaining the cultural sustainability of the Port Macquarie community and ensuring that the stories embedded in these collections continue to inform and inspire future generations.
- 2.4. The Port Macquarie Museum site comprises the State significant historic Store building (c.1830) and several building additions constructed from 1960 onwards. The conservation and adaptive use of this historic place also contribute to the sustainability of the region's built heritage.

- 2.5.** Sustainability is integral to the delivery of the Museum’s mission. While cultural sustainability underpins the Museum’s core purpose, the organisation also recognises its responsibility to address the broader dimensions of sustainability - **environmental, social and economic** - in the way it operates, develops programs and engages with the community.
- 2.6.** 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.
- 2.7.** 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
- 2.8.** Strategies and actions are addressed through **three focus areas – Place, People and Programs**. Actions are targeted at areas that we can influence and where we can have the most significant and positive impact.

### **3. FOCUS AREAS - PLACE, PEOPLE & PROGRAMS**

#### **3.1. Place: We will reduce the negative environmental impact of how we deliver our activities.**

##### Principles:

- The Museum will work towards targeting net zero emissions in line with science and the goals of the government regarding climate change.
- The Museum will work to minimise 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, value nature and support conservation.

<b>PLACE - Focus Area Actions</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
1. Measure our carbon emissions to set reduction goals.	Sustainability S/committee	By 2026
2. Carry out whole-of-life costings analysis for future design and building projects.	Facilities S/committee, Key consultants	With Major Infrastructure Developments
3. Identify climate impacts on the historic Store building as part of the Conservation Management Strategy	Facilities S/committee	Ongoing
4. Aim to procure goods and services locally where feasible.	Management Committee	Ongoing
5. Explore options to reduce operational waste.	Management Committee	Ongoing
6. Explore options to reduce power usage and improve internal air quality	Management Committee	Ongoing

### **3.2. 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

<b>PEOPLE - Focus Area Actions</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
7. Report annually on sustainability risks, opportunities, challenges and outcomes.	Management Committee	Annual
8. Implement a sustainability awareness program for staff, subject to resources.	Management Committee	2026 ongoing
9. Assess and understand key partner's sustainability ambitions and goals	Management Committee	Ongoing
10. Collaborate with peers to gain insight and innovation in sustainable museum practices.	Executive	Ongoing

**3.3. 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.

<b>PROGRAMS - Focus Area Actions</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
11. Actively collect, display and research objects that link climate, sustainability and the environment.	Curator, Archivist, Collections S/committee, Museum Programs S/committee	Ongoing
12. Consider developing resources and activities that promote sustainability through museum and collection-based learning, subject to resources.	Management Committee	Ongoing
13. Support sustainability-themed research and creative projects by artists, designers and makers.	Museum Programs S/committee	Ongoing
14. Identify opportunities for highlighting issues of sustainability in exhibition content and interpretation.	Museum Programs S/committee	Ongoing