

Document Control		
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Responsible Directorate:	Community and Sustainability	Doc Id No: 2537248
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Version ¹	Council/Executive Meeting Date (Date of Adoption/Endorsement)	Minute Number
1.0.0	30 June 2021	M18/06/21

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy will guide consistent and robust decision making to support Council's actions and responses to the risks and effects of climate change. Application of this policy will ensure climate change related risk is a core consideration for all relevant Council functions and activities, enabling Council and the community to benefit from proactive climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

This policy applies to all Council Directorates and is relevant to the elected Council, Council employees, volunteers, consultants and contractors. This policy applies to all branches and services of Council, including all relevant aspects of infrastructure design and delivery, asset maintenance, renewal and replacement, operations, planning, financial, procurement and community services.

2. Related Legislation/Documents

International

- Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

National

- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007
- Climate Sustainability Plan 2016-2020.

¹ The Version Number is direct from the Corporate Records Management System

State

- Planning Act 2016
- Queensland Climate Transition Strategy
- Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy 2017–2030
- Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework.

Gympie Regional Council

- Corporate Plan 2017-2022
- Sustainability Policy
- Environment Strategy 2018-2023.

3. Definitions

To assist in interpretation of this policy the following definitions apply:

- “Climate change” means the observable change and related effects of long-term global climate patterns attributed directly or indirectly to human activity
- “Climate change adaptation” refers to a proactive and planned response to the existing and projected impacts of climate change to our community, environment and infrastructure
- “Climate change mitigation” refers to actions taken to reduce the extent of climate change, primarily by reducing the release of human generated greenhouse gas emissions
- “Climate change related risk” means physical or transition risk presented by climate change, through physical climate risks (physical events such as sea level rise, bushfires and flooding) and transition climate risk (such as regulatory and legal risk, reputational risk and insurance costs).

4. Policy Statement

The sections below outline Council’s policy position and commitments, which will guide decision making and support action for Council to proactively address climate change related risk within the scope of this policy.

4.1 Leadership

- Council acknowledges the risk climate change presents to the region’s economy, environment and community
- Through strategic planning and actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, Council will play a lead role in identifying and responding to climate change related risk throughout the region.

4.2 Core Function

- Climate change will be a core component for consideration in all relevant Council decisions, functions and activities
- The planning scheme will address all applicable aspects of climate change related risk, as guided by the State Planning Policy
- Council's Corporate and Operational Plans will acknowledge climate change related risks and support the resourcing of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions
- Climate change will be considered as part of Council's overall strategic and operational risk identification, assessment and treatment processes
- Council's climate change policy will be implemented through a climate change strategy (including targets, performance indicators, roles and responsibilities, resourcing requirements, reporting procedures and public disclosure framework).

4.3 Science Based Decisions

- Council will integrate science based policy, undertake planning, take action and base decision making for climate change related risk on an accepted scientific basis, including: -
 - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a primary information source
 - Where appropriate, the two highest IPCC adopted Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) for projections of future global greenhouse gas concentrations
 - The best available science, sub-regional climate projections and mapping (for example from the CSIRO and Queensland State Government).

4.4 Adaptation

- Council will continually improve the organisation's and community's understanding and resilience to climate change impacts
- Priority will be given to identifying, understanding, quantifying and addressing the issues facing the areas of the region most vulnerable to climate change.

4.5 Mitigation

- An annual corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions inventory will be maintained by Council (including scope 1, 2 and material scope 3 emissions) and monitoring undertaken to establish a benchmark and identify trends
- Council's climate change mitigation actions will be implemented through an emissions reduction strategy and pathway to meet science based greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

4.6 Benefits

- Council aims to benefit from the economic opportunities resulting from proactive responses to climate change related risk. This includes renewable energy opportunities, reducing energy consumption costs, and increasing support for local business, emergency management and disaster response.

4.7 Community

- Broad public involvement in planning and development of actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation will be sought by Council at all appropriate opportunities.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related legislation/documents are amended or replaced.
2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council.
3. As initiated by the CEO or Executive Team.
4. Periodic Review – 30 June 2025.

6. Delegations

Nil