

Climate Change

Head of Power

Local Government Act 2009
Sustainable Planning Act 2009
Corporate Plan

Objective

To provide leadership and work in partnership with the community to raise awareness of climate change and better manage local greenhouse gas emissions.

To ensure that the Council organisation at all levels has appropriate knowledge of climate change implications, and the organisation actively plans and prepares for the more serious implications of climate change within its financial and other regulatory limits.

Application

This policy applies to Council projects, processes and programs. It is to be considered along with other relevant factors when Council and its officers make recommendations and decisions, or design/review programs, processes and projects.

Policy Statement

Moreton Bay Regional Council recognises community concern and scientific advice concerning climate change.

Council's policy is that it will take reasonable, measured and developing steps to incorporate into its operations a planned approach to dealing with climate change, mindful of Council's other obligations as a local government.

The Council will actively plan and prepare for the more significant implications of climate change within its financial and other regulatory limits. This planning and preparation process includes:

- Evaluating climate change implications for significant capital and operational activity, operational decision-making and the setting of policy positions;
- A commitment to managing, and where practical, reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Risk management through appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

To achieve these policy positions, Council, in partnership with its community, industry and government, will:

- Inform its staff and members of reliable information on climate change and assist in community education through current programs such as the library service and the Council website.
- Encourage staff to take a considered and measured approach in actively planning for the more serious implications of climate change, mindful of Council's financial and other regulatory limits. Council's current intention is that those activities with higher risk and cost long term, need more detailed attention than those of lesser durability or exposure. As Council gains experience in assessing climate change impacts, and scientifically based information becomes more firmly developed, the range of projects and programs requiring more specific planning and design will be reviewed.
- Meet legislated obligations in regard to climate change.
- Plan to reduce our vulnerability to weather related risk.

- Manage our carbon footprint through cost effective processes, including energy consumption monitoring and management, and greenhouse gas production management.
- Reduce exposure to litigation risk.
- Identify and capitalise on potential opportunities arising from climate change.
- Continue to improve our response through mitigation and adaptation measures.

Action will be undertaken to deliver appropriate policy responses, under the following four themes:

- Governance – creating policies and strategies that support the treatment of climate change risk and mitigation.
- Infrastructure – assess in a prioritised manner the vulnerability of current assets and planning for long term impact of a changing climate.
- Planning and Regulation – need for a strategically planned response to climate change that allows for growth and will meet legal obligations.
- Advocacy and Awareness – facilitate improved knowledge of climate change at all levels and involve relevant stakeholders to share the risk.

Related Documents

Nil

Review and evaluation

This policy will be reviewed for applicability, effectiveness, and consistency with relevant legislation, Council resolutions, and other Council documents.

A review of this policy will occur by December 2021.

Responsibility

This Policy is to be:

- (1) implemented by the Environment and Sustainability Policy and Planning Manager; and
- (2) reviewed and amended in accordance with the "Review Triggers" by the Director Planning.

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