

Eurobodalla Climate Action Plan 2022-2032

In brief: context  targets  actions

The Eurobodalla Climate Action Plan 2022-2032 is the next stage in progressing the Eurobodalla Shire's response to mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts.

Future projections from various sources show the Eurobodalla Shire over the next 50 years will experience:

- warming average temperatures in all seasons, and more hot days
- decreases in winter rainfall (with the potential for more time in drought) and an increase in the intensity of extreme rainfall events
- increase in average and severe fire weather
- sea level rise
- warming marine environments, and more frequent, intense and long-lasting marine heatwaves.

Council has been actively addressing climate change for over a decade, implementing two consecutive greenhouse action plans that substantially reduced Council's emissions. The Climate Action Plan 2022-2032 is an in-depth look at where we are now, where we want to be and why, and how we get there.

In 2020 *The Climate Change Risk Assessment* undertaken by Council with its insurer, highlighted the need for action across a wide range of areas where Council works can have influence to address risks.

Subsequent consultation within Council, NSW agencies, industry and with different parts of our community have refined these and elaborated further actions that can help us reduce emissions and strengthen our climate resilience. Available funding and resources along with government targets and policies will influence and impact the plan's implementation.

Many stakeholders have a role to play. The plan identifies **actions that Council will take** to further reduce its own carbon footprint and make its operations and service delivery more resilient to the impacts of climate change. It also identifies how **Council will support** households and businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resilience.

Our Action List (over) outlines each measure, the objectives it supports, and assigns a timeframe – short, medium, long or ongoing. It also references the relevant Annex for extra information. Find the annexes in the full Eurobodalla Climate Action Plan 2022-2032, available on Council's website.

Eurobodalla Council's targets

The Climate Action Plan identifies targets that Eurobodalla Council will aim to achieve and report against annually.

For Council operations:

-  Reduce emissions from the 2005-06 baseline by 80% by 2030
-  Net zero emissions by 2040
-  Sourcing 100% of Council's electricity demand from renewable energy by 2030

Council will also work to support achievement by the wider community of a level of ambition at least equivalent to the targets adopted by the NSW Government:

-  Net zero emissions by 2050 for Eurobodalla
-  50% reduction in emissions by 2030 for Eurobodalla

To achieve these targets, 56 different actions have been proposed - 39 actions for Council and 17 actions to support the community and business.

Objectives of the Plan

To translate the vision of a low-carbon, climate resilient Eurobodalla into reality, the *Climate Action Plan* emphasises the following objectives.



Continue the transition to cleaner energy supply, lower energy use and improve energy security during extreme events



Encourage and prepare for zero emission vehicles within the Council fleet and in the wider community, and provide accessibility and connectivity options



Improve the sustainability performance and climate resilience of subdivisions, houses, commercial and community buildings



Reduce the total volume of putrescible waste to landfill, reduce methane emissions, and prepare for new waste issues associated with other aspects of the low-carbon transition



Ensure secure and safe potable water supply and wastewater treatment



Expand areas being actively managed for biodiversity enhancement and protected under formal conservation arrangements, targeting vulnerable ecosystems, climate refugia and vegetation corridors.



Reduce the carbon-intensity of agriculture and livestock production and strengthen their resilience to the impacts of climate change



Improve awareness of climate risks and market opportunities among businesses and provide support to address barriers to investing in sustainable practices



Manage the increased risk of natural hazards such as flooding, bushfire, heat waves on assets, infrastructure and settlements



Improve Council's adaptability and responsiveness to changing climatic conditions and changing responsibilities relating to tackling climate change

Action List

To achieve our targets (p24), an Action List of 56 different actions is proposed - 39 actions for Council and 17 actions to support the community and business.

The Action List comprises:

-  Actions for Council
-  Actions for Council to support community
-  Objectives each action supports
-  Annex for supporting information

Timeframe:

- short
- medium
- long
- ▶ ongoing

Electricity supply and use



Primary objective: Continue the transition to cleaner energy supply, lower energy use and improve energy security during extreme events

Council actions

- 1.1 Seek Power Purchase Agreement / renewable energy supply for remaining 20% of Council energy usage.



- 1.2 Continue to lower energy usage where feasible through solar, lighting upgrades, maintenance works and other opportunities to improve energy efficiency.



- 1.3 Investigate potential for batteries to be integrated with solar assets.



Council actions to support community and business

- 1.4 Develop and share community tools and initiatives to assist with informed choices about renewable energy options.



- 1.5 Advocate to the NSW Government for financing mechanisms and funding to undertake sustainability upgrades.



- 1.6 Advocate to the NSW Government to improve the energy efficiency of social housing and to support low-income households and vulnerable communities.



TIMEFRAME:

- short term (1-2 years) ●● medium term (3-5 years) ●●● long term (5+ years) ▶ Ongoing

Integrated transport



Primary objective: Encourage and prepare for zero emission vehicles within the Council fleet and in the wider community, and provide accessibility and connectivity options

Council actions

- 2.1 Develop an Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy including charging infrastructure requirements, operational changes and transition plan.



- 2.2 Implement the EV Strategy: transition to an EV fleet and implement charging infrastructure and changes needed in work practices.



- 2.3 Further promote active, inclusive transport, by implementation and review of *Council's Pathways Strategy 2017*.



- 2.4 Continue to implement the Eurobodalla Road Safety Plan, Transport Asset Management Plan and Northern Area Transport Network Plan, and develop the Southern Area Transport Network Plan to provide integrated transport outcomes, inclusive of assisting vulnerable groups.



Council actions to support community and business

- 2.5 Advocate to NSW and Australian governments for further support for EVs, including financial incentives to lower upfront costs, provisions of charging infrastructure and mechanisms for charging in homes, and to help connect the Eurobodalla community with new opportunities that do emerge.

**TIMEFRAME:**

- short term (1-2 years) ●● medium term (3-5 years) ●●● long term (5+ years) ▶ Ongoing

Built environment



Primary objective: Improve the sustainability performance and climate resilience of subdivisions, houses, commercial and community buildings

Council actions

- 3.1 Advocate to the NSW Government to upgrade existing sustainability requirements for new buildings and significant upgrades (i.e. to strengthen existing BASIX standards and to introduce a measure for extreme heat scenarios).



- 3.2 Advocate to the Australian Government and national bodies to improve the *National Construction Code* (i.e. raise energy efficiency standards and integrating new standards related to acute heat risks).



- 3.3 Facilitate improvements in the design of residential and commercial buildings, and the urban form (new subdivisions) that integrate sustainability and climate resilience.



- 3.4 Lead by example to showcase better building design and construction when undertaking works on facilities and new buildings (i.e. incorporating performance standards for key sustainability criteria, use of sustainable materials and piloting new ideas where feasible).



- 3.5 Seek bio-certification of priority land release areas (as identified in the ESC *Settlement Strategy* and any future updates).



- 3.6 Design and implementation of programs for plantings and/or artificial shading of strategic urban streetscapes, council carparks and playgrounds.



Council actions to support community and business

- 3.7 Build awareness and capacity about sustainable design (energy performance), particularly among developers, home-owners, and builders, for instance by: forums, design guides, workshops and specialist advice services.



- 3.8 Advocate to the NSW and Australian Governments to support older housing stocks to improve energy efficiency, climate resilience and sustainability.



TIMEFRAME:

● short term (1-2 years) ●● medium term (3-5 years) ●●● long term (5+ years) ▶ Ongoing

Waste



Primary objective: Reduce the total volume of putrescible waste to landfill, reduce methane emissions, and prepare for new waste issues associated with other aspects of the low-carbon transition

Council actions

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- 4.1 Investigate opportunities for further methane capture and flaring at landfills.



- 4.2 Review the *Eurobodalla Waste Strategy* (with consideration of climate change and the targets in the NSW *Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*).



- 4.3 Continue to advocate to NSW and Australian Governments for the integration of climate change and GHG issues into regional waste strategies.



Council actions to support community and business

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- 4.4 Continue to implement waste diversion programs that reduce the volume of waste going to landfill.



TIMEFRAME:

● short term (1-2 years) ●● medium term (3-5 years) ●●● long term (5+ years) ▶ Ongoing

Water supply and wastewater treatment



Primary objective: Ensure secure and safe potable water supply and wastewater treatment

Council actions

- 5.1 Increase water security through construction and utilisation of the southern water supply storage.



- 5.2 Reduce water demand by seeking opportunities to reduce potable water use and increase recycled water usage.



- 5.3 Continue programs to identify and resolve stormwater infiltration into the sewerage systems.



- 5.4 Continue to improve energy security for key water and wastewater assets.



Council actions to support community and business

- 5.5 Continue to conduct water efficiency programs.



- 5.6 Advocate to the NSW Government on opportunities and the ability to safely reuse grey and waste water particularly in drought periods.

**TIMEFRAME:**

● short term (1-2 years) ●● medium term (3-5 years) ●●● long term (5+ years) ▶ Ongoing

Ecosystems and biodiversity



Primary objective: Expand areas being actively managed for biodiversity enhancement and protected under formal conservation arrangements, targeting vulnerable ecosystems, climate refugia and vegetation corridors

Council actions

- 6.1 Develop a Eurobodalla Biodiversity Strategy identifying high conservation areas and wildlife connectivity on public and private lands and mechanisms to protect biodiversity.



- 6.2 Implement programs that support the *Eurobodalla Biodiversity Strategy*.



- 6.3 Advocate and seek long-term protection of inter-tidal ecosystems to permit landward migration through the NSW Coastal Management Programs.



- 6.4 Continue to improve the understanding and integration of biodiversity objectives within Council operations.



Council actions to support community and business

- 6.5 Continue to support Landcare and natural resource management programs (inclusive of invasive species) on private and public tenure.



- 6.6 Advocate to NSW and Australian Governments to protect key sites (such as voluntary acquisition schemes or other mechanisms like biodiversity or carbon offsets, and consideration of reducing commercial logging of native forests).



- 6.7 Advocate to the NSW Government for the expansion of National Parks and the Reserve system.



- 6.8 Undertake and advocate further cultural burning and other fire techniques to manage natural areas in collaboration with other stakeholders where appropriate.



TIMEFRAME:

● short term (1-2 years) ●● medium term (3-5 years) ●●● long term (5+ years) ▶ Ongoing

Agriculture and livestock



Primary objective: Reduce the carbon-intensity of agriculture and livestock production and strengthen their resilience to the impacts of climate change

Council actions

- 7.1 Assist landowners to minimise the impacts of invasive species (weeds and animals) in accord with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.



Council actions to support community and business

- 7.2 Collaborate with the NSW Government agency, South East Local Land Services (LLS) to raise awareness and promote practices for low-carbon livestock and agricultural production, and to carbon and biodiversity offset markets.

**TIMEFRAME:**

- short term (1-2 years)
- medium term (3-5 years)
- long term (5+ years)
- ▶ Ongoing

Regional economy



Primary objective: Improve awareness of climate risks and market opportunities among businesses and provide support to address barriers to investing in sustainable practices

Council actions

- 8.1 Integrate climate resilience into future updates of the *Economic Development Strategy* and related plans such as the *Destination Action Plan*.



Council actions to support community and business

- 8.2 Assist the business sector with the provision of information on climate change and opportunities.



- 8.3 Advocate to NSW Government for support to assist in addressing barriers to enable further investment in sustainability upgrades for business.

**TIMEFRAME:**

- short term (1-2 years) ●● medium term (3-5 years) ●●● long term (5+ years) ► Ongoing

Natural Hazards



Primary objective: Manage the increased risk of natural hazards such as flooding, bushfire, heat waves on assets, infrastructure and settlements

Council actions

- 9.1 Finalise and implement the Eurobodalla Coastal Management Programs (CMP) – the *Open Coast CMP and Estuaries CMP*.



- 9.2 Continue to update flood studies and floodplain risk management studies as required, and consider developing a *Flood Management Code* across Eurobodalla (to apply consistent flood controls and advice).



- 9.3 Update the Intermittently Open and Closed Lakes and Lagoons (ICOLLS) management policy (which guides the opening waterways to prevent flooding), to revise trigger levels and include additional ICOLLS as needed.



- 9.4 Review and update policies and activities where guidance from the IPCC on sea level rise changes or legislative changes require Council to do so.



- 9.5 Facilitate the update of the Eurobodalla Local Emergency Management Plan 2019.



Council actions to support community and business

- 9.6 Advocate to the NSW and Australian Governments for ongoing support to improve disaster preparedness and resilience, including: emergency management capabilities; evacuations centres and refuge facilities; resilient infrastructure including telecommunications, energy systems and roads; and ensuring local providers of crucial goods and services are able to continue operating during disaster events.



TIMEFRAME:

● short term (1-2 years) ●● medium term (3-5 years) ●●● long term (5+ years) ▶ Ongoing

Adaptive, responsive Council



Primary objective: Improve Council's adaptability and responsiveness to changing climatic conditions and changing responsibilities relating to tackling climate change

Council actions

- 10.1 Annual reporting of the progress of the Climate Action Plan and review and update as required.



- 10.2 Integration of climate change responses into Council plans, programmes, reports as they are developed/updated.



- 10.3 Consider the impacts of climate change on Council operations and activities.



- 10.4 Consider further divestment of Council's investment portfolio to fossil free funds.



- 10.5 Advocate to NSW Government to create clear pathways and opportunities for greater divestment of fossil fuels by local councils.



- 10.6 Review and update (as needed) Council's *Safe Work Method Statements*, and *Work Activity Brief* procedures, to eliminate or reduce exposure to climate change-related risks (e.g. excessive heat).



- 10.7 Continue Council's internal Sustainability Matrix Group to ensure collaboration and engagement in climate change actions and opportunities across all divisions of council.



- 10.8 Facilitate a *climate change advisory group* comprising external, technical expertise that can assist Council and community implement the Climate Action Plan, including by accessing external funding opportunities to reduce emissions or climate risks.



TIMEFRAME:

● short term (1-2 years) ●● medium term (3-5 years) ●●● long term (5+ years) ▶ Ongoing