

CLIMATE CHANGE

ST148

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OBJECTIVES

The Climate Change Policy will identify how Council will manage, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of Climate Change and:

1. To Lead, encourage and work with our community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
2. To adapt our existing activities and practices to realise the economic opportunities and benefits that climate change action can provide
3. To consider the potential implications associated with climate change when making operational, strategic planning and management decisions
4. To reduce the risk from natural hazards, including the projected effects of climate change, by establishing adaptation strategies to minimise vulnerability to climate change
5. To comply with applicable legal requirements and implement any relevant State government policies, guidelines and/or directives
6. To develop and implement adaptation and mitigation actions as a response to climate change
7. To provide effective and strong leadership to the Orange community to respond to climate change and build sustainability by modelling and communicating Councils response to climate change
8. To provide commitment to be innovative, flexible and adaptive in our approach to climate change
9. To provide commitment to facilitate applicable programs, promote opportunities and assist the Orange community, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

APPLICABILITY

All Council staff, Council insurers, community members

GENERAL

In meeting the challenges of climate change Council will:

Action plans

- Establish a Climate Change Operational Management Plan

Risk assessment

- Progressively undertake detailed risk assessments of climate change hazards consistent with Federal and State Government guidelines, such as increasing temperatures, flooding, bushfires, storms and drought.
- Embed climate change-related risks within Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

Review of current plans

- Regularly review its plans, strategies, policies and benchmarks, where their content may be affected by climate change, to ensure they remain current as the science of climate change develops.
- Ensure that Council's actions, decisions and policy response to climate change remains current and reflects Council's operational capacity, community expectations and changes in climate change scenarios.

Integrated and collaborative approach

- Complement, collaborate and establish strong partnerships with community, key stakeholders, other Local Councils and other tiers of government that strengthen Council's adaptive capacity in response to climate change.

Funding and Resources

- Pursue grant and other funding opportunities to further examine and respond to climate change issues as they affect council and the community
- Ensure availability of appropriate resources for climate change initiatives

Definitions

Climate Change	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g. using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer.
Mitigation	Actions that can be taken to reduce the degree of climate change that may occur.
Adaptation	Actions that can be taken to prepare for the impacts of climate change.
Greenhouse Gas emissions	Various gases such as carbon dioxide and methane which are emitted into the atmosphere and contribute to the greenhouse effect.

RELATED LEGISLATION/GUIDELINES

- Clean Energy Act 2011
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and regulations
- Local Government Act 1993
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and regulations
- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and regulations
- Orange City Council Local Environmental Plan (2011)
- NSW Climate Change Policy Framework (2016)

RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

Community Strategic Plan – Activate Orange (2018)

Strategic Policy – ST056 - Enterprise Risk Management

Orange City Council Climate Change Management Plan



All policies can be reviewed or revoked by a resolution of Council, at any time.

Responsible Area – Development Services

REVISION					
	DATE	RESOLUTION		DATE	RESOLUTION
1			6		
2			7		
3			8		
4			9		
5					
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SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Date	Section/Reference and Amendment
January 2021	New Policy