

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a mechanism to guide strategies, evaluate and assess projects and policies; and enable Council to manage its climate change vulnerability thereby increasing the organisation's resilience and preparation for the future.

2. SCOPE

Climate change impacts are experienced across the organisation and community, and mitigation and adaptation actions are implemented by Councillors, staff and community members.

This policy applies to Council services and assets. It is to be considered when Council and its officers make recommendations and decisions, or design and review programs, processes and projects. This policy also applies to Councillors as the elected representatives of the Wodonga Council in their decision making and advocacy; all employees, agency employees, sub-contractors and volunteers whilst they are working on Wodonga Council sites and/or under Wodonga Council direction.

3. DEFINITIONS

- Climate change: Refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. (IPCC 2007)
- Adaptation : Process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects which aims to reduce the impact of any given level of climate change.
- Mitigation : Refers to efforts to minimise the extent of climate change by reducing or preventing emission of greenhouse gases
- Resilience : The capacity of an organization to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change so as to still retain the same function, structure, identity and feedbacks. (Walker and Salt 2008)

4. POLICY

"Wodonga Council is committed to responding to the risks of climate change to Council assets and services."

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through appropriate mitigation strategies
- Apply risk management to develop adaptation strategies
- Conserve natural resources and promote a safe and healthy community
- Evaluate the climate change implications when making strategic and operational decisions, and developing policy positions.

5. RELATED LEGISLATION

Climate Change Act 2010

6. REFERENCES

Records Management Directive.

IPCC (2007) Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report
https://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/syr/en/mains1.html

Walker, B. and Salt, D. (2008) Resilience Thinking: Sustaining ecosystems and people in a changing world. Island Press. U.S.A.

7. REVIEW

Council may review this policy at any time but unless otherwise requested at least every four years from date of adoption. Minor amendments to the policy may be authorised by the CEO at any time where such changes do not alter the substance of the policy eg: typographical errors, a change to the name of a related policy, or a change to the name of legislation.

Title:	Climate Change Policy
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Business Unit:	City of Wodonga
Category:	Quality Manager - Policy
Approved By:	Council resolution on March 20, 2017
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