

Policy

Title: Climate Change Adaptation

Category: Environment, Development and Planning Control

Date Last Adopted: 23 November 2020

1. Objectives

That the City of Hobart:

1. Takes all reasonable and practical measures to increase climate change resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the City's assets, functions, services and programs.
2. Increases the resilience of Hobart's communities, enabling better preparedness, response and recovery from inevitable climate change impacts and increased frequency and intensity of natural hazards, through targeted programs, services and appropriate management of the City's assets and other relevant resources.
3. Achieves a better understanding of future climate impacts across the City, municipal area, community and the region and share this information as appropriate.
4. Seeks opportunities to collaborate on climate change action (adaptation and mitigation) with key stakeholders, local governments and the Tasmanian and Australian governments.
5. Prioritises actions with co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation.
6. Is flexible and timely in its response to climate impacts, risks and hazards.
7. Takes advantage of new economic opportunities and avoid loss and unsustainable investment through climate planning.
8. Minimises the exposure of the City to potential liability for decisions made, or not made, now or in the future through better information and policies, guidelines and state-wide codes.

2. Background

This Policy reviews and updates the previous climate change Policy. It reflects maturation of the City's climate change actions and programs

3. Policy

That the City of Hobart:

1. Recognises that climate change is a complex issue that affects all aspects of the City's function, processes and roles and to this end will ensure climate impacts and hazards are considered through its decision making and strategic planning processes.
2. As Tasmania's Capital City, will provide effective and strong leadership to its communities, the region and inter-regionally on climate change to increase sustainability and resilience.
3. Will continue to develop and implement actions and strategies that assist communities to reduce carbon footprints, adapt to climate change impacts and increase their awareness and understanding of climate change.
4. Ensures that it complements, collaborates and establishes strong partnerships with key stakeholders and other tiers of government that strengthen the City's responses to climate change.
5. Ensures that the City plans for and manages Hobart's adaptation to the impacts of climate change, particularly where these impacts represent a threat to people and property.
6. Recognises the legitimacy and validity of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) review and assessment of scientific, technical and social climate change information. The City will review relevant actions, technical climate change guidelines and policies within six months of the publication of new IPCC reports using the two highest global greenhouse gas emissions trajectories Representative Concentration Pathways.
7. Ensures that the most up to date and recent climate change science and information is used in the City's strategic planning, administrative, technical climate change guidelines, operational and decision making processes, and where this information differs from the official sources shall use this information.
8. Will develop clear and certain criteria for decision making relating to climate change and natural hazards, ensuring that all relevant law is identified and the relevant information and facts are known and understood to increase public confidence that decisions are made on the basis of the best available scientific evidence.
9. Makes available information to the community on climate change risks and hazards to enable residents, businesses and community groups to manage the impacts on private property, business and community assets and services.

4. Legislation, Terminology and References

Local Government Act (Tas) 1993

Local Government Order (Content of Plans and Strategies) 2014

Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008

Tasmanian Energy Strategy 2015

Climate Action 21, 2017 -2020

Southern Tasmanian Regional Climate Change Strategy 2013 - 2020

Hobart: A Community vision for our island capital

Capital City Strategic Plan 2019 - 2020

City of Hobart Strategic Risk Register

Climate change information for decision making

Sustainable Hobart 2020 – 2025 (pending approval)

Hobart City Council Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2013 - 2016

Hobart City Council Energy Savings Action Plan 2018- 2020

Increasing the Energy Efficiency of Councils Assets 5.12.01

Responsible Officer:	Director City Life
Policy first adopted by the Council:	25/05/2009
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