



Central Coast Council

Gosford Office: 49 Mann Street,
PO Box 21 Gosford, NSW 2250
P 4325 8222

Wyong Office: 2 Hely Street
PO Box 20 Wyong, NSW 2259
P 43505 5555
centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

CCP 2018

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

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AUTHORITY	NAME & TITLE
AUTHOR	Dr Anumitra Mirti, Section Manager, Environmental Strategies Section
MANAGER	Matthew Prendergast, Unit Manager Strategic Planning
GROUP LEADER	Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Gary Murphy, Chief Executive Officer

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1	17/08/2018	D13294356
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DCP 2018 Schedule of Amendments

Effective Date	Amendment	Reason
2018	N/A	Initial Adoption by Council for public exhibition
2019	1	Report to Council post public exhibition

A. POLICY SUMMARY

- A1 The Central Coast Council's Climate Change Policy (The Policy) is focused on maximising the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Central Coast Community.
- A2 The Policy enables council to align its operational and strategic planning with NSW State policy to transition towards a net zero emissions region by 2050 and to accelerate actions on greenhouse gas emission reduction from Council operations.
- A3 The Policy commitment statements provide direction for the development of strategies on climate actions, to respond, to adapt and build resilience to changing risks to the community, council assets, infrastructure and the environment.
- A4 The Policy is a whole of Council commitment that guides the ongoing planning and sustainable development of the Central Coast Region as well as support community initiatives to respond to climate change.

B. POLICY CONTEXT

- B1 In 2015, at the twenty first Convention of Parties (COP21) 195 countries agreed on the United Nations Paris Agreement on climate change. The key objective was to limit the increase in global temperatures to well below 2 degrees and pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees. The commitment is to achieve net-zero emissions globally by the second half of the century.
- B2 In 2016, the NSW Government endorsed the Paris Agreement and took action consistent with the level of effort to achieve Australia's commitment to the Paris Agreement through implementation of the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework. The current aspirational objectives of NSW are to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- B3 In 2016, the *Central Coast Regional Plan 2036* set a goal to protect the natural environment. Direction 14 of the Regional Plan requires "*the management of climate change related risks and the improvement of the regions resilience to hazards such as flooding, coastal erosion, bushfire, mine subsidence and land contamination*".
- B4 This Policy aligns with the Council's Corporate Vision to build a vibrant and sustainable Central Coast.
- B5 The Community Strategic Plan commits Council to the UN's 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and outlines the community's objectives and climate change expectations when delivering Council's goods and services to the community. This Policy will be implemented in accordance with the *One Central Coast Community Strategic Plan*.

C. THE POLICY

Purpose

- C1 Central Coast Council to provide leadership on climate change.
- C2 To provide a framework for climate mitigation, adaptation and ongoing resilience for the Central Coast Region using a Place-Based Approach.
- C3 To embed climate change risks and opportunities into Council's strategic decision making, processes and operations.

Strategic Principles

- C4 **Principle 1:** Council endorse the *Ecologically Sustainable Development* values through integrating social, economic and environmental considerations into Council's decision making through the implementation of the four principles a) precautionary principles, b) inter-generational equity, c) conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity and d) improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanism.
- C5 **Principle 2:** Council implement a *holistic approach* to anticipate and adapt to climate change actions that comprise the time scales such as now and the future as well as the impacts of the complex interactions and interdependencies between the human and the environment systems.
- C6 **Principle 3:** Council implement an *evidence based* decision making to respond, to adapt and build resilience to Climate Change.
- C7 **Principle 4:** Council implement a *collective decision making* approach to collaborate and partner with the community, business and other stakeholders in framing and implementing climate actions through learning and shared responsibility.
- C8 **Principle 5:** Council implement a *proactive approach* and ensure *continuity* to better anticipate and adapt to complex challenges posed by the changing climate.
- C9 **Principle 6:** Council implement a *Place-based approach* to enhance Council and community capacity for climate resilience that is context specific, knowledge based and collaborative.

D. POLICY COMMITMENT STATEMENTS

Governance

(D1) Acknowledge the importance of shared responsibility across all levels of Council, community and business in addressing climate change impacts and transitioning towards a Net Zero Emissions Central Coast Region.

(D2) Embed climate change planning within Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, namely the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery and Operational Plans and Council's Corporate Plan.

(D3) Advancing opportunities to finance climate change initiatives and invest savings from climate actions towards achieving sustainable development goals for the Central Coast region.

(D4) Develop Place Based Climate Change Action Plans in partnership with the community that establishes regional targets for mitigation and prioritises local adaptation planning (e.g. sea level rise, coastal hazards, disaster management).

(D5) Establish partnerships between Council and the community to identify and develop public, private and community investment opportunities for economic stability and sustainable growth.

Risks Management

(D6) Undertake ongoing monitoring and assessment of climate change risks

& Resilience Planning

and their impacts on ecological, social, economic and physical built forms systems based on best available science.

(D7) Incorporate climate change risks in strategic and infrastructure planning for the region to maximise local liveability through informed land use planning, development of planning controls and guidelines that facilitates regional urban growth, transport connectivity and utility services.

(D8) Invest in climate resilience opportunities through advancing technology, innovation and alternative industries for local employment and continuous improvement in the planning and management of existing built and natural assets, infrastructure renewal projects and renewable resources.

(D9) Undertake climate change risk assessment and incorporate risks and vulnerabilities to inform asset life cycle analysis for all new and existing infrastructure assets, to meet current and projected demands and develop relevant adaptation and mitigation strategies to ensure climate resilience.

(D10) Support initiatives and education programs to enhance the Central Coast community's understanding of and build resilience to climate change risks.

(D11) Develop strategies, plans and development controls to protect, conserve and work in partnerships with community and local agencies to enhance resilience of biodiversity across the Central Coast region.

(D12) Working in partnership with the local health authorities to plan for public health risks associated with climate change.

(D13) Investigate climate vulnerability of the local agricultural sector and develop plans and strategies to support food availability and security in partnership with the relevant agencies and industry.

Energy & Emissions Reduction

(D14) Align Council's corporate greenhouse emissions reduction targets with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emissions reduction target to 2010 levels.

(D15) Develop a Central Coast greenhouse gas emissions inventory and establish baselines for an incremental pathway to meet the emissions reduction target for Council and community.

(D16) Conduct an annual corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory associated with the operations of Council, including direct (Scope 1) and indirect (Scope 2 and 3) emissions utilising National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007.

(D17) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the production, use and disposal of goods and services through Council procurement processes by supporting the carbon neutral supply chain as well as influence Community efforts through partnerships such as education and waste management initiatives.

(D18) Commit to improving Council's energy productivity and develop an energy efficiency and renewable energy guideline for Council assets as well as support community and private sector investment in renewable energy initiatives.

(D19) Support technological advancement and innovation in waste minimisation, resource recovery and by-product conversion to promote regional circular economy.

E. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- E1 This Policy covers all elected members of Council, all personnel employed by Council, any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of Council, any person or organisation employed to work on Council premises or facilities and all activities of the Council.
- E2 This Policy does not confer any delegated authority upon any person. All delegations to staff are issued by the Chief Executive Officer.
- E3 This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Central Coast Council Code of Conduct.
- E4 It is the personal responsibility of all Council employees and agents thereof to have knowledge of, and to ensure compliance with this Policy.
- E5 The implementation of this Policy will be through Place Based Climate Change Action Plans that include but are not limited to issues relevant to sea level rise planning and ongoing adaptation; coastal and floods management; disaster resilience; biodiversity conservation; and emissions reduction. Figure 1 represents the framework to plan for climate change.

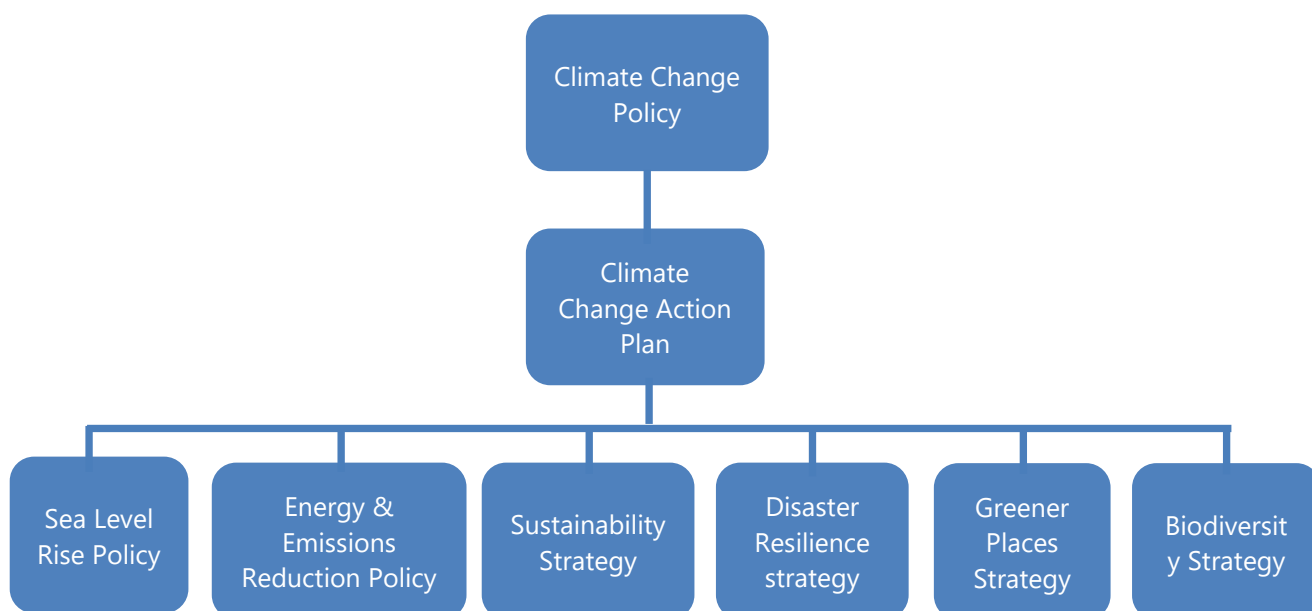


Figure 1: **Framework for climate change planning**

- E6 This Policy will be reviewed in each new Council Term.

F. DEFINITIONS

- F1 **Climate adaptation** means consideration of the actions on an on-going basis for preparation in dealing with the impacts of climate change.
- F2 **Climate change** means a change of climate over an extended period, typically decades or longer, which is caused by human activity or natural climate variability that have direct and indirect impact on the environment, community and Council business.
- F3 **Climate mitigation** means consideration of the actions to avoid greenhouse gas emissions.
- F4 **Climate resilience** means building capacity to cope with climate change, to recover from the impacts of these climatic changes and to adapt using a combination of sustainable adaptation and mitigation measures.

- F5 **Conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity** means that conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration.
- F6 **Council** means Central Coast Council, being the organisation responsible for the administration of Council affairs and operations and the implementation of Council policy and strategies.
- F7 **Greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)** means emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulphur hexafluoride, a hydrofluorocarbon gas, a perfluorocarbon gas or any other gas prescribed by legislation for the purposes of this definition.
- F8 **Holistic approach** means consideration of all the systems, processes and the interdependencies that influence the environment, Council and Community capacity to adapt and mitigate change on an on-going basis.
- F9 **Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanism** means that environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services, such as:
- (i) polluter pays—that is, those who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance or abatement,
 - (ii) the users of goods and services should pay prices based on the full life cycle of costs of providing goods and services, including the use of natural resources and assets and the ultimate disposal of any waste, and
 - (iii) environmental goals, having been established, should be pursued in the most cost effective way, by establishing incentive structures, including market mechanisms, that enable those best placed to maximise benefits or minimise costs to develop their own solutions and responses to environmental problems.
- F10 **Inter-generational equity** means that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generation.
- F11 **Place-based approach** means consideration of a context specific approach to plan for places for people by involving the people in the decision making process to maximise their connectivity to the place.
- F12 **Precautionary principle** means that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. Hence, decision making processes should effectively integrate both long term and short term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage. In the application of the precautionary principle, public and private decisions should be guided by:
- (i) careful evaluation to avoid, wherever practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment, and
 - (ii) an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options.
- F13 **Shared responsibility** means the collective responsibility between the community and the government to work collaboratively towards a sustainable future for the Central Coast region.