

## Climate change

<b>Policy, procedure, protocol</b>	Policy
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<b>Related documents</b>	
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<b>Section / Department</b>	Open Spaces & Facilities
<b>Linkage to Our Community Plan</b>	4 Environment
<b>Objective</b>	4.2 We will foster a balance between development and the environment considering climate change impacts
<b>Strategy</b>	4.2.1 Promote, plan and implement strategies that reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiencies and increase the use of renewable energy

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish Council's position on climate change and its response to it.

## 2. Policy Principles

Council acknowledges:

- (a) the reality of climate change and its impact on the Clarence Valley,
- (b) that there is a climate emergency
- (c) that climate change will impact both current and future generations of Clarence Valley residents and the natural and built environment of the Clarence Valley for the foreseeable future,
- (d) that it should respond quickly, vigorously and strategically to the current and predicted impacts of climate change on the Clarence Valley,
- (e) that climate change benchmarks that measure or estimate its future effects are not static but will change over time,
- (f) that it needs to be both aware of these benchmarks and be applying them wherever relevant, and
- (g) the efforts made by the human community to reduce its contribution to climate change and the need to promote these efforts.

## 3. Objectives

Council is committed to:

- (a) leading the response to climate change challenges in the Clarence Valley,
  - i. reducing CVC greenhouse gas emissions (excluding landfill emissions) by 40% lower than 2016/17 levels by 2030, with the long term goal to reach zero net emissions by 2050.
  - ii. Supplying 50% of Councils electricity demand from renewable energy sources by 2030, with the long term goal to source all electricity from renewable energy
- (b) introducing strategies that mitigate and reduce the community's contribution to climate change,
- (c) introducing strategies to adapt Council activities and responsibilities to unavoidable impacts of climate change,
- (d) developing resilience to the effects of climate change within both Council and the community,
- (e) assisting the Clarence Valley community to adapt to the effects and impacts of climate change, and

#### 4. Policy statement

In meeting the challenges of climate change, Council will:

- (i) Implement climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies that integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into Council's operations,
  - (ii) 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 benchmarks, and
  - (iii) are inclusive of the effects of climate change on the natural environment and wildlife of the Clarence Valley,
- (b) ensure decisions are consistent with any applicable benchmarks, whether from the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) or otherwise, as adopted by Council or State or Federal Governments from time to time,
  - (c) encourage all sectors of the Clarence Valley community to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to develop local solutions to climate change,
  - (d) take opportunities as they arise to reinforce the urgency for State and Federal Governments to implement policy that will decarbonise the economy
  - (e) develop appropriate sustainable development controls on land predicted to be adversely affected by climate change,
  - (f) regularly review its climate change plans, strategies and benchmarks to ensure they remain current as the science of climate change develops,
  - (g) where appropriate, take into account the effects of climate change when assessing development applications, and
  - (h) resource climate change initiatives and seek external assistance where available.

#### 5. Adopted Benchmarks

Council has adopted sea level rise benchmarks for 2050 and 2100, of 40cm (increase above 1990 mean sea levels) and 90cm (increase above 1990 mean sea levels), respectively.