



Climate Change Policy

Policy, General Manager's Directive, Procedure, Procedural Guideline, Work Instruction	Policy (External)
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Documents superseded	P0-00016 - Climate Change Policy v1.0
Related documents	Bellinggen Shire Climate Emergency Response Framework Bellinggen Shire Corporate Carbon Plan
Author	Manager Sustainable Environment and Waste Services
Section / Department	Sustainable Environment and Waste Services
Linkage to Our Community Vision	4 Living Environment
Objective	4.2 We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change
Strategy	4.2.1 Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint



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1. Purpose

This policy outlines Council's commitment to reducing the impacts of climate change on the Bellinghen Shire Community through both mitigation and adaptation measures.

On 27 March 2019, at its ordinary meeting, Bellinghen Council formally declared a climate emergency. In response to the declaration, Council developed a [Climate Emergency Response Framework](#) that outlines how Council will work together with the community to urgently reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the unavoidable impacts of a changing climate.

2. Scope

This policy will guide Council's decision-making process for corporate operations and the community to ensure climate impacts are given consideration.

Definitions

Mitigation

Actions taken with the intent of reducing the scale of climate change. This includes actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Adaptation

Actions taken to limit the impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided. Includes measures to address environmental, cultural, social and economic factors.

3. Policy Statement

Council acknowledges:

- a) that human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption despite current efforts to reduce the risks and accelerated action is required to minimise impact to natural and physical assets.
- b) that the changing climate will result in a local increase in extreme weather events, number of hotter days and heatwaves, extended droughts and bushfires, more intense rainfall events and flooding.
- c) that Council has a key role to play in climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly through its statutory responsibilities and regulatory powers relating to land use planning, environmental planning, environmental protection, and natural resource management.
- d) that the Bellinghen Shire [Climate Emergency Response Framework](#) (April 2020) provides the context of the climate emergency for the Bellinghen Shire and sets out Council's overall vision and approach to the crisis.
- e) that the Corporate Carbon Plan (April 2020) sets out the Key Focus Areas for reducing carbon emissions from Council's operations and assets.

The Plan includes a commitment to the following targets:

- 100% renewable energy by 2030
- 45% gross emissions reduction by 2030 (from 2010 baseline)
- Zero net emissions by 2040.



- f) that the Corporate Carbon Plan includes a commitment to incorporate consideration of climate change into *all* strategic and operational management plans and activities wherever feasible.
- g) responsibility to *support* the community to develop and deliver the Community Climate Action Plan consistent with the Climate Emergency Response Framework.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

All departments in Council have a commitment to respond to the climate emergency and ensure all strategic planning and plans of management are consistent with the Bellingen Shire Climate Emergency Response Framework and the Corporate Carbon Plan, which are in addition to the requirements of any relevant state or commonwealth legislative instruments and international agreements.

5. Related Procedures

Bellingen Shire [Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020-2040](#)

Bellingen Shire Community Strategic Plan: [Our Community Vision 2027](#)

Bellingen Shire [Climate Emergency Response Framework](#)

Bellingen Shire [Corporate Carbon Plan](#)

Bellingen Shire [Lower Bellinger and Kalang Rivers Floodplain Risk Management Study](#)

Bellingen Shire [Biodiversity Strategy](#)

6. Legal Parameters

The [Paris Agreement](#), a legally binding international treaty on climate change that was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016.

United Nations Conference of the Parties 26, Glasgow 2021 - [Outcomes](#)

[NSW Climate Change Policy Framework \(PDF 2.4MB\)](#) outlines long-term objectives to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and actions to make New South Wales more resilient to a changing climate.

NSW [Coastal management framework](#) is an integrated framework that better equips coastal communities to respond to existing and future coastal management challenges and opportunities.

The framework comprises:

- [Coastal Management Act 2016 \(CM Act\)](#)
- [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Coastal Management\) 2018](#)
- [NSW Coastal Management Manual](#)
- [Coastal Management Programs](#)



7. Associated Documents

AdaptNSW 2021 [NSW Action on Climate Change](#)

“To progress NSW towards achieving net zero, we have released the [Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020 – 2030](#). The Plan outlines how we will reduce emissions... delivering a 47-52% cut in emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.” (Announced September 2021)

BTM WBM 2011 Bellingen Coastal Processes and Hazards Definition Study, Draft Report

Climate Risk Pty. Ltd. & Department of Climate Change 2010 Climate Change Risk Assessment: Bellingen Shire Council

Climate Risk Pty Ltd 2010 [A Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Nambucca, Bellingen and Kempsey](#)

IPCC 2022 [Climate Change 2022: Adaptation, Impacts and Vulnerability](#). Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Lösschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press.

IPCC 2021: [Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](#). Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press.

NSW [North Coast Regional Plan](#)

NSW [Integrated regional vulnerability assessment North Coast of NSW](#)

NSW ECCW 2010 [Coastal Risk Management Guide](#), incorporating sea level rise benchmarks

NSW DECCW 2009 [NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement](#)

NSW Department of Planning 2010 [NSW Coastal Planning Guidelines: Adapting to Sea Level Rise](#)

NSW DPE [Coastal Management](#)