

## Council Policy

**Council Policy Name:** Climate Change

**Responsible Directorate:** Planning and Development Services

**Version:** Adopted

### 1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this Policy is to:

- a. set out the Council's position on climate change generally and key climate change issues affecting the City; and
- b. set out the Council's support for the Western Australian Local Government Association's *Policy Statement on Climate Change*.

### 2. SCOPE

2.1. This Policy is applicable to all Council staff, Elected Members, contractors and consultants acting on behalf of or employed by the City. It applies to all aspects of the City's operations and responsibilities.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

Term	Meaning
Adaptation	the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or anticipated changes that reduces the harm, or takes advantage of the opportunities presented by climate change. (Source: IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)
Mitigation	reducing greenhouse gas emissions through reducing the amount of greenhouse gases that are released, or by enhancing the sinks that sequester (absorb or contain) emissions. (Source: IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)
Policy	this City of Busselton Council policy titled "Climate Change"
WALGA Statement	Western Australian Local Government Association <i>Policy Statement on Climate Change</i>

### 4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

4.1. This Policy links to Strategic Theme 1. ENVIRONMENT - An environment that is valued, conserved and able to be enjoyed by current and future generations, of the City's Strategic Community Plan June 2021 and specifically the following Strategic Priorities:

- a. 1.1: Ensure protection and enhancement of environmental values is a central consideration in land use planning; and
- b. 1.4: Respond to the impacts of climate change on the City's coastlines through informed, long term planning and action.

## 5. POLICY STATEMENT

- 5.1. As per the WALGA Statement, the City of Busselton acknowledges:
  - a. the science is clear: climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause;
  - b. climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems;
  - c. urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable;
  - d. a failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.
- 5.2. The City of Busselton is committed to addressing climate change.
- 5.3. The City of Busselton is calling for:
  - a. strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government;
  - b. effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.
- 5.4. The City recognises that the following may have a significant impact on the City, residents and ratepayers and the environment now and in coming decades, and are of increased risk due to climate change:
  - a. increased coastal erosion and inundation;
  - b. increase in frequency and severity of bushfire;
  - c. increase in frequency and severity of extreme weather events;
  - d. reduced water availability, for both human and environmental use;
  - e. changes to wetlands and waterways;
  - f. loss of biodiversity;
  - g. human health impacts (due to, amongst other things, an increase in vector-borne diseases and heatwaves);
  - h. increased transport and energy costs (due to efforts to mitigate climate change).
- 5.5. The City supports the WALGA Statement, in particular in relation to:
  - a. recognising that local government cannot address climate risks on its own;
  - b. supporting a coordinated and proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change related risks at the individual local government level;
  - c. continued support for partnerships with other local governments, with State and Federal Governments, with our communities and with business and industry, aimed at addressing the challenges of climate change; and
  - d. supporting coordinated and proactive local government advocacy at both State and Federal level in support of policy and funding initiatives that will mitigate climate change and support climate change adaptation.

## 6. RELATED DOCUMENTATION / LEGISLATION

- 6.1. Environment Policy
- 6.2. Energy Strategy
- 6.3. City of Busselton Climate Change Declaration
- 6.4. WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement
- 6.5. State Planning Policy 2.6: State Coastal Planning Policy
- 6.6. *Local Government Act 1995*

## 7. REVIEW DETAILS

Review Frequency		3 yearly		
Council Adoption	DATE	12 August 2020	Resolution #	C2008/082
Previous Adoption	DATE	N/A	Resolution #	N/A