

Purpose

Council seeks to be a recognised leader in Climate Change, including the implementation of mitigation initiatives and actions that focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from Council infrastructure and day-to-day operations.

The Whitsunday region is exposed to a number of natural hazards which are likely to be exacerbated by climate change. These direct hazards include tropical cyclones, extreme storms, landslides, riverine flooding, coastal erosion, heatwaves and bushfires.

At the same time, Council contributes to climate change by emitting greenhouse gases (GHG) such as CO₂. In the 2015/16 financial year, Council produced the equivalent of 91,628 tonnes of CO₂ gas.

This policy will be supported by the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy which is designed to guide Council's focus on key priority mitigation actions. The Strategy establishes objectives and selection criteria for actions based on their relevance, return on investment and effective service delivery. The Strategy clarifies roles and responsibilities and generally improves climate change mitigation governance.

Scope

This policy is applicable to all Council activities and Council employees.

Policy Statement

1. Align Council climate change mitigation objectives with international, Federal and State Governments targets.
2. Support long term financial planning, asset management, procurement, strategic planning, emergency management and other key Council processes with consistent, timely and scientifically sound information related to climate change.
3. Ensure that Council continues to deliver effective and affordable services while achieving greenhouse gas emission targets and statutory obligations.
4. Council addresses the core objectives and actions articulated within the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy.
5. Council commits to the gradual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the use of renewable energy, energy efficiencies and carbon sequestration. Specifically, Council aims to align with the Paris Agreement, so that its total greenhouse gas emission reductions reach:
 - a) 10% by 2020
 - b) 50% by 2030
 - c) 100% by 2050 (aspirational)

Applicable Legislation

This policy is in reference to:

Coastal Protection and Management Act 1994

Disaster Management Act 2003

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Local Government Act 2009

Sustainable Planning Act 2009

Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017

Definitions

CEO refers to the Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council appointed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Council refers to the Whitsunday Regional Council

Employee refers to any employee, contractor, volunteer etc. of the Council

Related Documents

Climate Change Mitigation Strategy 2018 - 2020

Human Rights Compatibility Statement

This Policy has been assessed as compatible with the Human Rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

COUNCIL POLICY			
Date Adopted by Council	10 April 2019	Council Resolution	2019/04/10.11
Effective Date	10 April 2019	Next Review Date	10 April 2022
Responsible Officer(s)	Climate Change and Innovation Coordinator	Revokes	N/A
Public Consultation: Yes / No			