


Climate Change Policy (General Operations)		 Longreach Regional Council <small>Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka</small>
Policy number:	02-14	
Policy category:	Statutory	
Authorised by:	Res-2025-01-005	
Date approved:	23-01-2025	
Review date:	23-01-2027	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define the principles Council will apply in managing its climate change responsibilities using a combination of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Councillors, employees, volunteers and individuals conducting business for Council and/or acting for or on behalf of Council at any given point in time.

LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

DEFINITIONS

Adaptation - Any action, initiative or strategy taken to reduce the vulnerability of the natural and/or human environment from climate change impacts.

Anthropogenic Climate Change - Climate change caused by human activities which lead to the release of greenhouse gases which accelerate climate change. For example the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and other land use changes.

Climate Change - The statistically significant variation in the average state of climate over a minimum 30 year period for an extended period.

Carbon Footprint - The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of a particular individual, organisation or community.

Carbon Sink (Carbon Store) - Ecosystems, notably forests, which remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere by absorbing and storing it.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions - A gas which traps heat in the atmosphere, accelerating climate change. The main greenhouse gases contributing to climate change are: Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) and Fluorinated gases (e.g. hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons). Activities such as the burning of fossil fuels for energy and transportation are a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Mitigation - Actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to minimise their effects on global climate change. Instead of initiatives aimed at adapting to climate change, mitigation refers to the prevention and control of the sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

Zero Net Emissions (Carbon Neutral) – Having a net zero carbon footprint by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount sequestered, offset or by purchasing carbon credits.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Longreach Regional Council Local Government Area is exposed to a number of natural hazards, all of which are likely to be exacerbated by anthropogenic climate change. Direct hazards include: heatwaves, drought, extreme storms, and riverine flooding.

Climate change is expected to affect a number of capacities which Council is responsible/ partly responsible for or has an active interest in, these areas include: development, emergency management, infrastructure, public health, water and waste management, and the natural environment.

Responding effectively to climate change will involve a combination of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, whilst protecting important carbon sinks (mitigation); and building resiliency to prepare and adapt to climate change impacts (adaptation).

Council, operating within its local government functions and responsibilities, is committed to the following six (6) principles:

1. To recognise and understand Council's vulnerabilities associated with climate change based on the best available climate science at any given time.
2. To consider climate change mitigation actions which aim to reduce the impact of Council's operations on climate change.
3. To consider climate change adaptation actions to strengthen Council's resilience to climate change impacts.
4. To demonstrate climate change leadership within the community.
5. To participate in appropriate national, state and regional groups, which aim to share climate change knowledge, build capability and/or improve resiliency.
6. To comply with applicable legal requirements and implement any relevant State government policies, guidelines and/or directives related to climate change.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Nil

Authorised by resolution as at 23 January 2025:



Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer