

# CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL POLICY

## POLICY STATEMENT

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The City of Bunbury (the City) acknowledges local, regional and global climate change impacts. This Council Policy on Climate Change (Policy) ensures that the City is committed to greenhouse emissions reductions and building community and corporate resilience through appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

## POLICY SCOPE

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This Policy applies to: Elected Members, Committee Members and employees (including volunteers, contractors, and consultants).

This Policy outlines:

- Acknowledgement of key projected climate change impacts to the South Western Flatlands of Western Australia, including Bunbury;
- The City's commitment to climate change management;
- Support of the Western Australian Local Government Association's Policy Statement on Climate Change 2018<sup>1</sup> (WALGA Policy Statement); and
- Acknowledgement and commitment to international obligations.

## POLICY DETAILS

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### 1. Acknowledging Climate Change Impacts

The City recognises the urgency of the scientific consensus-based Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports<sup>2</sup> and will remain up to date with new IPCC reports as they are released.

The City recognises the projected changes in climate and sea levels likely to occur within the South Western Flatlands region of WA, including the Bunbury Local Government Area (LGA) over the coming decade<sup>3</sup>, including:

- Higher temperatures.
- Hotter and more frequent extreme weather, with less frost.
- Less rainfall, with increased intensity of heavy rainfall events.
- Increased evaporation, reduced soil moisture and runoff.
- Harsher bushfire weather.
- Higher sea levels, with more frequent sea level extremes, coastal erosion, and inundation.
- Warmer and more acidic oceans in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> [WALGA-Climate-Change-Policy-Statement-July-2018-\(5\).pdf.aspx](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Reports — IPCC](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Briefing note - General \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

These changes have the potential to impact our environment, assets and infrastructure in our Local Government area, and the health, safety and wellbeing of our community.

## 2. Climate Change Commitments

The City is committed to addressing climate change through:

### Mitigation and Adaptation:

- 2.1 Setting of emissions reduction targets as outlined in the City of Bunbury *Sustainability and Environmental Strategy 2023-2028*<sup>4</sup> and working towards their achievement. The City's corporate emissions reduction targets include:
  - 2.1.1 Reach corporate net zero emissions by 2040 and aspiring for 2035.
  - 2.1.2 Reduce corporate emissions (from the 2020/21 baseline) by 35% by 2025/26 and aspire for 60% reduction by 2030.
- 2.2 Encouraging and empowering the local community and local businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- 2.3 Contributing towards greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets as set out in key National and International agreements.
- 2.4 Undertaking corporate and community adaptation planning and mitigation planning.
- 2.5 Ensure that, at appropriate review intervals, the corporate and community adaptation planning and corporate and community mitigation planning are reviewed and amended to incorporate the latest climate science, and to reflect the climate change management priorities and progress achieved to date.
- 2.6 Assessing the locally specific risks associated with climate change and implications for our services and identify areas where appropriate mitigation and/or adaptation strategies should be developed and implemented to build climate resilience.

### Advocacy and Collaboration:

- 2.7 Support Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) to work with State and Federal Government to implement key actions and activities, and support policy and funding initiatives for climate change management at a local level.
- 2.8 Continue partnerships and collaboration with other local governments, State and Federal Government, community, business, and industry to manage climate change impacts.
- 2.9 Monitor the progress of our adaptation and mitigation actions and communicate our achievements to the Council and Community.

## 3. Support of the WALGA Policy Statement

The City supports the Western Australian Local Government Association's Policy Statement on Climate Change 2018<sup>5</sup> (WALGA Policy Statement), which represents the consolidated position of Western Australian Local Governments on Climate Change. As per the WALGA Policy Statement:

The City acknowledges:

- I. The science is clear: climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.
- II. Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.
- III. Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.
- IV. A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.

<sup>4</sup> [Sustainability-and-Environmental-Strategy-2023-to-2028.pdf \(bunbury.wa.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [WALGA-Climate-Change-Policy-Statement-July-2018-\(5\).pdf.aspx](#)

The City is committed to addressing climate change.

The City is calling for:

- I. Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.
- II. Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.

#### 4. Support of International Commitments

The City is committed to supporting state, national and international targets required to achieve the UNFCCC Paris Agreement<sup>6</sup> goal to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century. To limit global warming to 1.5°C, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43% by 2030..

In alignment with the City’s Strategic Community Plan 2032 (SCP), the City is committed to promoting and facilitating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals<sup>7</sup> (SDGs), including climate change action as part of the broader sustainability agenda.

#### 5. Definitions

‘Adaptation’ is defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects.

‘Mitigation’ is defined by the IPCC as reducing or preventing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions released or enhancing the sinks that absorb or contain greenhouse gases.

## REVIEW FREQUENCY

This Policy is to be reviewed annually and amended to reflect the latest climate science, corporate emission reduction target(s), and climate change strategies or plans adopted by Council.

## COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

### LEGISLATION

- State Planning Policy
- State Coastal Planning Policy
- Local Government Act 1995
- Climate Change Act 2022
- State Climate Change Bill 2023

### ORGANISATIONAL

- City of Bunbury Climate Change Declaration 2022
- Sustainability and Environmental Strategy 2023-2028
- Sustainability Council Policy 2022

<sup>6</sup> [The Paris Agreement | UNFCCC](#)

<sup>7</sup> [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](#)

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