



City of Bunbury **Climate Change** **Declaration**





Image: Carnarvon Blowholes (Source: WALGA)

Introduction

Climate change is having, and will continue to have, significant effects on the Western Australian environment, society and economy, with impacts felt at the Local Government level. The City of Bunbury acknowledges that human behaviours, pollution and consumption patterns have both immediate and future impacts on the climate and environment, and that as a Local Government it is part of our role to mitigate and manage these impacts on our community.

This Declaration establishes our position on climate change and outlines our commitments to addressing climate change, which are further expanded on in our Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028, Corporate Business Plan 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 and Local Planning Strategy 2018. This is further supported by Council's support of the Cities Power Partnership and the five pledges, as follows:

1. Sustainable Transport – Encourage sustainable transport use such as public transport, walking and cycling through council transport planning and design
2. Sustainable Transport – Lobby state and federal governments to increase sustainable transport options
3. Collaboration - Develop education and behaviour-change programs to support local residents and businesses to tackle climate change through clean energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.
4. Collaboration – Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets
5. Collaboration – Set up meetings and attend events to work with other cities on tackling climate change.

The City of Bunbury supports the environmental, social and economic benefits of addressing climate change immediately. We see an opportunity for Local Government to demonstrate leadership in climate change management at a community level and support the development of equitable and implementable State and Commonwealth strategies for climate change management.

Declaration

The City of Bunbury recognises that climate change is occurring, and that climate change will continue to have a significant effect on the Western Australian environment, society and economy.

We acknowledge the central role of Local Government in driving a successful climate response. Hence, we declare that we are committed to addressing climate change within our Local Government area, through the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies to minimise the effects on our community, environment and economy.

Our overall objective is to demonstrate climate leadership, reduce our corporate emissions, and build the resilience of our City to climate change.

Background

International scientific consensus is that climate change is occurring, and that it is driven by anthropogenic causes, with human activities having a profound impact on the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions since the start of the industrial revolution. Ultimately, these activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing and agriculture, have increased greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, leading to changes in the climate system.

For the City of Bunbury, projected changes to our climate in the future include:

- Further increase in temperatures, with more extremely hot days and fewer extremely cool days;
- More heat waves that will be longer and hotter;

- More frequent, extensive, intensive and longer-lasting marine heatwaves;
- Increased risk of coastal erosion from sea level rise and more intense storm events;
- Further warming and acidification of the oceans;
- A decrease in cool-season rainfall;
- More frequent, longer and more intense droughts;
- More intense heavy rainfall throughout, particularly for short-duration extreme rainfall events (storms).
- An increase in the number of high fire weather danger days and a longer fire season.
- Through a combination of many of these impacts, changes to biodiversity including increased species extinction.

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 people. We therefore need to plan for, and adapt to, these changes to ensure our City remains a resilient and vibrant area.

Role of Government

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Australia has committed to taking action on climate change.

The Paris Agreement recognises the importance of engagement at all levels of government. As such, the management of climate-change risks in Australia is spread across the three tiers of government: Commonwealth, State and Territory, and Local.

The responsibility for Local Governments' to mitigate the impacts of climate change is reflected in the *Local Government Act 1995 (WA)*:

“In carrying out its functions a Local Government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity. (Section 1.3(3))”.

As a Local Government, our key responsibilities include administering relevant legislation to promote adaptation, mitigating climate risks and impacts to our community and assets as well as the delivery of our services to our community, collaborating with other Local Governments and with State and Territory Governments to manage regional impacts, and the facilitation of resilience building and adaptive capability in our local community.

Progress to Date

In order to respond to the impacts of climate change, the City of Bunbury has taken action by:

- Participating in WALGA's Energy Sustainability and Renewables Energy Project.
- The City is participating in coastal studies facilitated by the Peron Naturaliste Partnership (PNP), to further understand the impacts of climate change. These projects include:
 - Member of the Steering Group for the development of the Capel to Leschenault Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP), which investigates and plans for coastal hazards which are likely to affect the regions from Capel to Leschenault;
 - Coastal monitoring in the City of Bunbury; and
 - Coastal values studies through CoastSnap WA.
- A member of the Climate Council of Australia's Cities Power Partnership.
- Installing a 30KW Solar PV system at the City Depot.
- Setting a Municipal Solid Waste reduction target of 5% by 2025 and 10% by 2030.
- Developing a Greening Bunbury Plan to increase canopy cover by 10% and an aspirational target of 20% over a 20-year period.

Commitments

The City of Bunbury commits from the date of signing to:

- Set an appropriate emissions reduction target and work towards its achievement.
- Encourage and empower the local community and local businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Support WALGA to work with State and Federal Government to ensure achievement of greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets as set out in key National and International agreements.
- Support WALGA to work with State and Federal Government to implement key actions and activities for climate change management at a local level.
- Undertake corporate and community adaptation planning and corporate and community mitigation planning in alignment with WALGA advice and templates.
- 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.
- Assess 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.
- Monitor the progress of our adaptation and/or mitigation actions and communicate our achievements to the Councils and Community.

Signatures

Signed:

JR. 

City of Bunbury Mayor, Jaysen de San Miguel

Date:

1/4/22

Signed:



Western Australia Local Government Association President, Cr Karen
Chappel JP

Date:

21.3.22