

Policy title:	Climate Resilience Policy (2020)
Policy number:	5.17.10
Objective:	E5 We continue to grow our reputation and capacity as a regional city.
Link to community vision/service:	E5.5.5 Support initiatives that grow Lismore as a regional city
Program Area:	Partnerships Planning and Engagement
Policy created: 9 February 2020	Council reviewed:
Last reviewed by staff: 9 February 2020	TRIM Ref: ED20/32034

A. POLICY SUMMARY

- A1 The Lismore City Council Climate Resilience Policy aims to maximise the economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of the Lismore City LGA Community.
- A2 The Policy aligns with the objectives of Lismore City Council’s *Community Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027*, *Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020 – 2040* and Lismore City Council’s *Renewable Energy Master Plan 2014* target of 100% renewables by 2023, and demonstrates Lismore City Council is meeting its State legislative obligations by adopting and actively transitioning toward to the NSW Government’s Net Zero Emissions by 2050 target.
- A3 The Policy is a whole of Council commitment that provides a framework for the development of all future strategic and action plans to respond, adapt and build resilience to climate change risks to the community, Council assets and infrastructure and environmental systems.
- A4 Council recognizes that a climate resilient community requires; mitigation actions to reduce human-induced climate change; adaptation actions to reduce climate impacts; effective institutions, strategies, and choices for risk management that are identified, implemented, and sustained; and actions that create a policy environment that supports communities to learn, adapt, transform and use their experiences to thrive in a climate changed world.
- A5 Recent events including drought, floods, bushfires and COVID-19 have impacted the community’s capacity to adapt. To assist the community to withstand the cumulative impacts of changes to the climate, this policy’s principle objective is to build climate resilience.

B. POLICY CONTEXT

- B1 In December 2015, 195 countries signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement, reaffirming aims to limit global temperature rise this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, actively pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- B2 In November 2016, Australia ratified the Paris Agreement committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. Emissions have, instead, risen each year since 2015, and current (2019) projections indicate Australia may not meet its Paris Agreement commitment.
- B3 The NSW Government endorsed the Paris Agreement in 2016 and under its *Climate Change Policy Framework* set a target of net zero emissions by 2050.
- B4 In 2017, the *North Coast Regional Plan 2036* committed to manage natural hazards and climate change, recognising that climate change may worsen bushfires, coastal erosion, rising sea levels, storms, floods, acid sulfate soils and landslips.
- B5 In August 2019, Lismore City Council declared a Climate Emergency, acknowledging Council and the Lismore City Council LGA Community is likely to be substantially affected by climate impacts, particularly more intense and less frequent rain events, floods, bushfires, droughts, heatwaves, sea level rise and by the subsequent impacts on human systems and ecosystem health and wellbeing.
- B6 In March 2020, Lismore City Council resolution to create a Climate Resilience Policy and to seek funds to develop a Climate Resilience Strategy

C. POLICY DEFINITIONS

Climate Change:

A measurable change to the climate that persists for an extended period which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activities that alter the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability.

Climate Change Adaptation:

Actions undertaken to reduce the adverse consequences of climate change and harness any beneficial opportunities to reduce the impacts of climate stresses on human and natural systems.

Climate Change Mitigation:

Mitigation involves actions that are intended to reduce the magnitude of human contributions to climate change including strategies to reduce greenhouse gas sources and emissions and enhance greenhouse gas sinks.

Community Climate Resilience:

The capacity of a socio-ecological system to successfully adapt to impacts caused by climate change in the face of disturbance, stress and adversity. Resilience enables the community to better adapt, reorganize, and evolve, leaving it better prepared for future climate change impacts

Council:

Lismore City Council

Greenhouse gas sinks:

Activities that instate and/or support natural systems to capture and store (sequester) atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Resilience:

The ability of a system and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions.

The Policy:

Lismore City Council Climate Resilience Policy

D. POLICY PURPOSE

- D1 To demonstrate Lismore City Council's leadership in identifying and responding to climate change risk, by promoting, supporting and delivering climate change action and transformative community resilience planning.
- D2 To support long term financial planning, asset management, strategic planning, and other key LCC processes with consistent, timely and scientifically sound information and local climate projections related to climate change.
- D3 To embed climate change adaptation and resilience as a core component of Council's strategic planning, processes and operations.
- D4 To ensure all functions and activities of council consider climate change adaptation and resilience for a more resilient organisation and community.

Strategic Principles

- D5 Council demonstrate their leadership to managing risks associated with climate change.
- D6 Council adopt a strategic approach to the identification of potential impacts that may eventuate as a consequence of climate change
- D7 The policy statement acknowledges the causes and effects of climate change and in doing so seeks to enhance the resilience of the community, the natural and built environment, the local economy and Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural values.
- D8 Council adopt a culturally sensitive and inclusive approach to the development of mitigation and adaptation measures.

Policy Commitment Statements for Effective Climate Change Adaptation Risks are Effectively Managed

- D9 Council implement a proactive approach to anticipate the complex challenges and risks posed by the changing climate and an evidence-based approach to responsive decision making.
- D10 Climate change risks are incorporated into all Council operations and appropriate mitigation, adaptation and resilience building actions are integrated into all strategic and operational management activities. Plans, strategies and benchmarks are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain consistent with most recent and best available scientific evidence.

Legislative Compliance

- D11 Council adhere to *Ecologically Sustainable Development* (Local Government Amendment (Ecologically Sustainable Development) Act 1997) values through the integration of social, cultural, ecological and economic considerations into all decision-making processes.
- D12 Council comply with its statutory responsibilities relating to land use planning, financial management, environmental planning and protection and natural resource management.

Resilient Community

- D13 Council acknowledges its key role in building climate change resilience, promoting mitigation actions and enabling communities, ecological systems and economic systems to adapt and thrive within a changing climate.
- D14 Council adopt a place-based approach to promote the development of community focused climate change resilience frameworks.

Low Carbon Operations

- D15 Council implement a programme of continuous improvement in relation to identifying best practice carbon management and energy reduction strategies and improving energy efficiencies and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Enhanced Ecosystems

- D16 Council supports local land managers to understand and anticipate climate change impacts upon the complex interactions and interdependencies between human and environmental systems in order to enhance and build greater resilience within local ecosystems.

Cultural Sites and Objects are Protected

- D17 Council collaborate with community and key stakeholders to develop risk management plans for cultural sites and environmental heritage areas and seek funds to support future climate change risk management of sites identified.

Community Leadership and Education

- D18 Council engage with the Community to ensure transparency in communicating decisions on risk treatment options.
- D19 Council collaborate and partner with the community to enhance the community's understanding of climate change risks and resilience building responses.

Policy Commitment Statements for Effective Climate Change Mitigation

- D20 Council incorporate emissions reduction strategies into strategic and operational management activities.
- D21 Council identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions to improve climate resilience of all Council sites/assets.
- D22 Council include climate change mitigation as a key consideration within its procurement processes with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the production, use and disposal of goods.
- D23 Council to offset current and future emissions through accredited Carbon Offset providers.

Principles to Underpin Climate Resilient Communities

- D24 Utilise best available science to undertake ongoing identification, monitoring and assessment of climate change risks and their impact on social, cultural, ecological systems, economic systems and the built environment and apply mitigations to reduce risks.
- D25 Partner with the community, State and Federal government to create and implement recovery plans. Evaluate and amend recovery plans after each natural disaster event.
- D26 Partner with universities, health providers and community organisations to deliver resilience training to enhance the Community's understanding of climate risks and resilience.
- D27 Invest in climate resilience opportunities through advancing technology innovation and alternative industries for local employment and continuous improvement in the planning and

management of existing built and natural assets, infrastructure renewal projects and renewable resources.

- D28 Undertake climate change risk assessment and incorporate risks and vulnerabilities to inform asset life cycle analysis for all new and existing infrastructure assets to meet current and projected demands and develop relevant adaptation and mitigation strategies to foster climate resilience.
- D29 Work in partnership with the Community and local agencies to enhance the resilience of biodiversity across the Lismore City LGA.
- D30 Work collaboratively with local agricultural sector and partner with relevant agencies and industry to develop plans and strategies to address food security affected by climate vulnerability.

E. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW MECHANISM

- E1 This Policy does not confer any delegated authority upon any person. All delegations to staff are issued by the General Manager.
- E2 This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Lismore City Council Code of Conduct.
- E3 Climate change adaptation and mitigation performance indicators will be included in the Community Strategic Plan, The Delivery Program and the Operational Plan.
- E4 This Policy will be reviewed at the commencement of each new Council term.

F. POLICY INFORMATION SOURCES

- F1 The primary source of climate change adaptation information will be the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report.
- F2 Council will utilise regional and sub-regional climate projections published by the NSW government.
- F3 Council recognises that effective responses to climate change are context-specific, and often addressed best at the local and regional levels.

G. COMMUNICATION

- G1 Council commits to providing clear, consistent and transparent climate change information and data which demonstrates best practice scientific knowledge.
- G2 The LCC website will communicate key projects and links to reliable information and projections.

H. RELATED LEGISLATION, POLICIES, PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS

Commonwealth Government

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (Cth)
- Nation Disaster Resilience Strategy 2011 (Cth)
- National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2015 (Cth)

NSW State Government

- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Regulations (NSW)

- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
- Local Government Amendment (Ecologically Sustainable Development) Act 1997
- Coastal Management Act 2016 (NSW)
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and Regulations (NSW)
- Heritage Act 1997 (NSW)
- State Environmental Planning Policies
- NSW Climate Change Policy Framework 2016 (NSW)
- NSW Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020 – 2030
- North Coast Regional Plan 2036

Lismore City Council

- Atmosphere Policy (Policy Number - 5:17:5)
- Biodiversity – Flora and Fauna Policy (Policy Number 5:17:3)
- Community Sun Protection Strategy Policy 1997 (Policy Number – 3:1:14)
- Enterprise Risk Management Policy 2013 (Policy Number – 1:11:12)
- Health Promotion Policy 2014 (Policy Number – 3:1:17)
- Land Policy (Policy Number – 5:17:4)
- Policy Making Policy 1990 (Policy Number – 1:4:2)
- Provision of Public Transport Infrastructure Policy 1999 (Policy Number – 5:3:3)
- Public Tree Policy 2008 (Policy Number – 8:10:1)
- Social Impact Assessment Policy 1995 (Policy Number – 5:2:30)
- Sustainability, Viability and Amenity of Rural and Urban Land Policy 2007 (Policy Number – 5:17:8)
- Trees – Planting and Removal Policy 1981 (Policy Number – 1:8:8)
- Waste Policy (Policy Number – 5:17:6)
- Water Quality and Quantity Policy 2007 (Policy Number 5:17:2)
- Lismore Local Environment Plan 2012
- Lismore Development Control Plan for LEP 2012
- Lismore City Council Renewable Energy Master Plan 2014
- Lismore Growth Management Strategy 2015 – 2035
- Lismore Floodplain Risk Management Plan 2014
- Lismore Community Engagement Strategy 2019 and Community Participation Plan
- Lismore City Council Transport – Asset Management Plan 2015
- Lismore City Council Revised Delivery Programme 2017 – 2021 and Operational Plan 2019 – 2020
- Lismore City Council Code of Conduct Policy 2019