



## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION POLICY

**(Policy No 6.11)**

LAST REVIEW	NEXT REVIEW	MINUTE REF
March 2017	March 2018	C140/6-17

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

- 1.1 Kingborough Council recognises that climate change presents a material risk to Council assets and operations and has the potential to impact the economic, social and environmental viability of the region.
- 1.2 Kingborough Council acknowledges the critical role of local government in responding to climate change and as such will take a leadership approach.
- 1.3 Kingborough Council is committed to a consistent response to the potential impacts and opportunities that may eventuate from climate change.
- 1.4 Kingborough Council is committed to facilitating greater awareness of the causes and effects of climate change.
- 1.5 Kingborough Council recognises that focussing on innovation will allow for the effective management of climate change risks and see Council and its community well-placed to capitalise on emerging opportunities.
- 1.6 Kingborough Council is committed to ensuring that a climate change adaptation program is progressively implemented in accordance with the Strategic Plan and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

**OBJECTIVE:**

- 2.1 The objective of the Climate Change Adaptation Policy is to:
  - I. Support long term financial planning, asset management, strategic planning, emergency management and other key Council processes with consistent, timely and scientifically sound information related to climate change.
  - II. Ensure that climate change adaptation is a core component of planning for a more resilient Kingborough and is therefore mainstreamed into council's functions and activities.
  - III. Commit Kingborough Council to becoming a leader in climate change innovation and community resilience planning.
  - IV. Ensure that Kingborough is well placed to benefit from economic development opportunities that may eventuate due to its proactive climate change adaptation and community resilience commitment

**SCOPE:**

- 3.1 This policy applies to all Council activities and staff.

**PROCEDURE:  
(POLICY DETAIL)**

- 4.1 Council will maintain its focus on improving its performance for the key adaptation governance indicators described in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.
- 4.2 Council will implement programs and initiatives that strive to improve the Kingborough community's resilience and understanding of the potential impacts of climate change and maximise opportunities to communicate and consult on critical issues and changes.
- 4.3 Council will commit to advancing integrated representative case studies in climate change adaptation and community resilience for existing sites as well as greenfield development, for example Kingston Beach.
- 4.4 Council's approach to climate change adaptation recognises that a diverse range of roles and responsibilities exist across all levels of Australian governments with regards climate change adaptation. As such internal documents and/or guidelines will be created over time to help to determine Council's most relevant responses. The guidelines will contain specific actions and procedures to assist direct staff and councillors.

	<p>4.5 Council recognises the importance and validity of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and will review all actions upon the publication of new assessment reports within six months of publication. Council also recognises that global greenhouse gas emissions are at the high-end (worst case) of global projections and as such, as a minimum, Council commits to using the top two global Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) during decision-making (these being RCP6 and RCP8.5). These are derived from the top two global greenhouse gas (GHG) projections for warming (2.0 °C – 5.8 °C global average warming above pre-industrial levels by 2100). Council will also undertake relevant adaptation actions to maintain an aligned approach to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement and any relevant information associated with Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings.</p> <p>4.6 As well as the above, Council's response to climate change will be guided by the following principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Focus on informed decision-making and undertake an adaptive management approach (continuing to review actions in the light of new information);</li> <li>II. Maintain the focus on total community wellbeing, noting that this may result in adverse consequences to more directly impacted individuals;</li> <li>III. Encourage private adaptation by making information publicly available and facilitating community based planning;</li> <li>IV. Consider climate change as part of an overall risk reduction and resilience program for Kingborough;</li> <li>V. Identify vulnerable areas and implement an ongoing program that reviews their vulnerability as more information becomes available;</li> <li>VI. Review the provisions of the planning scheme to ensure that development is appropriately regulated to consider climate change risk;</li> <li>VII. Where appropriate, goals should be measurable and evaluated on a regular basis;</li> <li>VIII. Perform a range of roles (regulatory, information provider, advocate, facilitator, service provider, funding body) that are necessary to reduce future climate change impacts;</li> <li>IX. Work cooperatively with other Councils and State Government and ensure that the respective roles and responsibilities are appropriate and duplication is avoided (e.g. the MOU between Whitsunday Regional Council and Kingborough Council);</li> <li>X. Undertake a commitment to provide endorsement and where relevant support for the Kingborough Climate Change Innovation Lab;</li> <li>XI. Staff capacity is maintained commensurate with the issues as they unfold;</li> <li>XII. Data is recognised as critical resource which guides and supports informed decision-making and as such Council commits to the collection of relevant data; and</li> <li>XIII. Council will quantify (in units and financial value) assets exposed to risk and will present a regular comparative analysis of their exposure to the risks over time.</li> </ol>
<b>COMMUNICATION:</b>	<p>6.1 Council commits to ensuring that the community, councillors and staff are updated on an annual basis regarding the status of all the key indicators in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. This will include the presentation of a climate change and extreme weather report.</p> <p>6.2 A specific heading for climate change will be inserted into Council's Performance Manager system and the Annual Report of Council. Council officers will address climate change (where applicable) in reports to Council under the section headed 'risk'.</p>

	<p>6.3 Council will commit to providing clear, consistent and transparent climate change information and data which demonstrates best practice scientific currency. Council will make all climate change studies undertaken by or on behalf of council publically available.</p> <p>6.4 Council will create and implement a climate change communication strategy that ensures that messaging is consistent and relevant to the various stakeholders. The climate change communication strategy will align with Kingborough Council's general communication strategy.</p>
<b>LEGISLATION:</b>	<p>7.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Government Act 1993</li> <li>• Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</li> <li>• Kingborough Interim Planning Scheme 2015 and subsequent scheme(s)</li> <li>• Tasmanian Planning Scheme</li> <li>• Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</li> <li>• Tasmanian Climate Change (State Action) Act (2008)</li> </ul>
<b>RELATED DOCUMENTS:</b>	<p>8.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasmanian Climate Change Action Plan (2016-2021)</li> <li>• STCA / RCCI Regional Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2012-2017</li> <li>• Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Pathways Project: Kingston Beach- Final Report, Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Pathways Project August 2012</li> <li>• Regional Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy</li> <li>• Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways Project: Inundation Control Works for the Kingston Beach Area (2012)</li> <li>• Triggers for Change Report (2014)</li> <li>• Kingston Beach Flood Study (2016)</li> <li>• Kingston Beach Integrated Climate Change and Natural Hazards Project (2016)</li> </ul>
<b>AUDIENCE:</b>	<p>9.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingborough Council staff</li> <li>• Kingborough Councillors</li> <li>• Kingborough community</li> <li>• Kingborough industries</li> <li>• Tasmanian and other local government councils</li> <li>• State and Commonwealth agencies</li> <li>• Research organisations</li> <li>• Non-government organisations</li> <li>• NCCARF</li> </ul>