

Climate Change Adaptation Policy

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 Kingborough Council Climate Change Plan (2019 to 2024).

DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Terms within this Policy are defined as follows:
 - ‘**Adaptive management**’ means a structured, iterative process of robust decision making in the face of uncertainty, with an aim to reducing uncertainty over time via system monitoring.
 - ‘**Climate Change**’ means a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.
 - ‘**Climate Change Adaptation**’ means adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
 - ‘**Climate resilient development**’ means the systematic inclusion of climate considerations in development decision-making.
 - ‘**Community based planning**’ means the participatory process whereby local knowledge is packaged into an action plan.
 - ‘**Community resilience**’ means the sustained ability of a community to utilise available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations.
 - ‘**Conference of the Parties (COP)**’ means the formal meeting of the UNFCCC Parties to assess progress in dealing with climate change, and beginning in the mid-1990s, to negotiate the Kyoto Protocol to establish legally binding obligations for developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
 - ‘**Council managed assets**’ means infrastructure and natural assets for which Kingborough Council has responsibility.
 - ‘**Exposure**’ means the state of having no protection from something harmful.
 - ‘**Greenhouse Gas emissions**’ means any gaseous compound in the atmosphere that is capable of absorbing infrared radiation, thereby trapping and holding heat in the atmosphere. By increasing the heat in the atmosphere, greenhouse gases are responsible for the greenhouse effect, which ultimately leads to global warming.

	<p>‘Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)’ is an organisation of governments that are members of the United Nations or World Meteorological Organisation with the objective to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.</p> <p>‘Paris Agreement’ means the agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016.</p> <p>‘Planning scheme’ means the Kingborough Planning Scheme.</p> <p>‘Private adaptation’ means climate change adaptation actions initiated by non-governmental parties.</p> <p>‘Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI)’ means the body established by the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) to build the capacity of Councils and their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and respond to climate change.</p> <p>‘Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs)’ means the greenhouse gas concentration trajectory adopted by the IPCC for its fifth Assessment Report in 2014.</p> <p>‘Risk Management Policy’ means the Kingborough Risk Management Policy (No.3.10).</p> <p>‘Scientific currency’ means the most up to date and relevant scientific information available.</p> <p>‘Strategic Risk Register’ means the Strategic Risk Register documented in the Kingborough Risk Management Policy.</p> <p>‘UNFCC’ means the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and is an international environmental treaty adopted on 9 May 1992 and opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.</p> <p>‘Vulnerability’ means the quality or state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.</p>
OBJECTIVE	<p>3.1 The objective of the Climate Change Adaptation Policy is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Acknowledgement that a focus must be placed on the significant impacts that climate change will have on the natural assets and ecosystems of Kingborough. V. 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	<p>4.1 This policy applies to all Council activities and staff.</p>
PROCEDURE (POLICY DETAIL)	<p>5.1 Council will maintain its focus on improving its performance through the implementation of the Kingborough Council Climate Change Plan (2019 to 2024) which identifies climate change priorities and commitments that can be reported against regularly.</p> <p>5.2 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.</p>

	<p>5.3 Council commits 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.</p> <p>5.4 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 documents will contain actions and procedures to assist staff and councillors.</p> <p>5.5 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>GUIDELINES</p>	<p>6.1 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"> I. Focus on informed decision-making and undertake an adaptive management approach (continuing to review actions in the light of new information); II. Maintain the focus on total community wellbeing, noting that this may result in adverse consequences to more directly impacted individuals; III. Encourage private adaptation by making information publicly available and facilitating community based planning; IV. Consider climate change as part of an overall risk reduction and resilience program for Kingborough; V. Identify vulnerable areas and implement an ongoing program that reviews their vulnerability as more information becomes available; VI. Develop tools and methods to quantify exposure and vulnerability as well as economic and financing models for adaptation actions; VII. Review the provisions of the planning scheme to ensure that development is appropriately regulated to consider climate change risk; VIII. Where appropriate, goals should be measurable and evaluated on a regular basis; IX. Perform a range of roles (regulatory, information provider, advocate, facilitator, service provider, funding body) that are necessary to reduce future climate change impacts; X. 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 Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) for Southern Tasmanian councils); XI. Staff capacity and resourcing is maintained commensurate with the issues and opportunities as they arise; 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; XIII. Identify climate change as a key risk in Kingborough’s Risk Management Policy and Risk Register; XIV. 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;

	<p>XV. Council will develop financial management tools and procedures to guide consideration of climate change impacts on Council managed assets; and</p> <p>XVI. Council will identify opportunities that climate change may present such as facilitating climate resilient developments and financing options for adaptation actions.</p>
COMMUNICATION	<p>7.1 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 Kingborough Council Climate Change Plan.</p> <p>7.2 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>7.3 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>
LEGISLATION	<p>8.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Act 1993 • Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 • Kingborough Interim Planning Scheme 2000 and subsequent scheme(s) • Tasmanian Planning Scheme • Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 • Tasmanian Climate Change (State Action) Act (2008)
RELATED DOCUMENTS	<p>9.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasmanian Climate Change Action Plan (2017-2021) • Kingborough Council Climate Change Plan (2019 to 2024) • STCA / RCCI Regional Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2012-2017 • Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Pathways Project: Kingston Beach- Final Report, Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Pathways Project August 2012 • Regional Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy • Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways Project: Inundation Control Works for the Kingston Beach Area (2012) • Triggers for Change Report (2014) • Kingston Beach Flood Study (2016) • Kingston Beach Integrated Climate Change and Natural Hazards Project (2016)
AUDIENCE	<p>10.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingborough Council staff • Kingborough Councillors • Kingborough community • Kingborough industries • Tasmanian and other local government councils • Regional Councils Climate Initiative • State and Commonwealth agencies • Research organisations • Non-government organisations • Climate Change Innovation Lab Tasmania • NCCARF