

# KINGBOROUGH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

2019 to 2024



Real world responses to the challenge of global climate change



Version 3

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### **Mayor's Foreword**

The impacts of climate change are apparent, and Kingborough is a municipality that is particularly at risk.

We are experiencing more frequent and extreme weather events and bushfire threats, and are seeing significant damage to our coastlines and critical infrastructure.

Kingborough Council has been active in seeking mitigation options and adaptation responses at a local level. Working closely with the community and with other local government authorities, we continue to raise awareness and develop appropriate options.

Understanding, planning and responding to climate change impacts must be a commitment for all levels of government, and this must be included in our strategic planning.

The Kingborough Climate Change Plan (2019 to 2024) as well as the Kingborough Climate Change Adaptation Policy reinforces Council's commitment to understanding climate change, the risks it poses and how we can identify achievable response strategies.



Councillor Dean Winter

Mayor of Kingborough

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### **Executive Summary**

The Kingborough Council Climate Change Plan 2019 to 2024 (The Plan) has been developed to clearly articulate the importance that Council places on a meaningful response to climate change, and to consolidate and communicate the program that has been undertaken for over 10 years.

In a global context, Kingborough is only a small Council and community, located in a relatively safe and isolated corner of the world. This does not lessen Council's responsibility to demonstrate leadership and commitment in response to the risks and opportunities that climate change presents.

The Plan details how Kingborough will continue to take meaningful and achievable action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure it is pulling its weight in accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement.

The Plan also acknowledges that significant climate change impacts will occur in the future and that Council's operational activities and community must be able to adapt where possible.

The Plan identifies how further significant progress can be made over the next five years.

Key components of the Plan include:

- ❖ A commitment to climate change data gathering and information provision
- Ongoing improvements to Kingborough's climate change governance
- ❖ A commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050
- An understanding of the critical role local government has to play, and a commitment to working with other councils
- ❖ Meaningful progress on risk assessment for vulnerable communities and inclusive adaptation planning
- ❖ A clear focus on critical climate change issues that are already apparent such as damage to our coasts and the escalating bushfire risk
- Increasing understanding of the impacts that climate change may have on Kingborough's environment and ecosystems

### **Background**

There is a clear and established scientific consensus that the earth is warming, and there is overwhelming evidence that increased concentrations of greenhouse gases caused by human activity are contributing to this warming (IPCC 2007).

The impacts of climate change due to global warming are already manifesting in many parts of the world through increases in extreme events, population displacement, damage to infrastructure, ecological damage, regulatory changes and challenges to insurance availability and affordability. The latest scientific projections see the world heading towards an average 4°C increase by 2100 compared to pre-industrial times. The impacts of such an increase are predicted to be catastrophic for many global regions.

Climate change needs to be tackled on two fronts: there is an imperative to reduce the global carbon footprint to avoid the unmanageable, but there is also a critical need to adapt to the changes in climate that are already unavoidable. Local governments should not think of climate change adaptation as an environmental response. The most prominent impacts of climate change on local communities will result in economic loss and social dislocation. Adaptation is about creating a resilient framework to allow the economic, social and environmental systems we rely on to thrive in a time of flux.

Addressing climate change requires a focus on both mitigation and adaptation activities. Mitigation activities emphasise reducing the source (or enhancing carbon sinks) of greenhouse gases. Adaptation activities focus on responding to the risks and opportunities presented by a changing climate.

Climate change is a pressing issue for local government that can present legal, social, economic and environmental risks. Local governments make long-term decisions (e.g. strategic infrastructure investment and planning for future settlements) and as such are required to assess and respond to the direct and indirect risks caused by a changing climate. A strategic long-term focus is required to effectively manage this challenge.

The aim of this plan for Kingborough Council is to facilitate informed decision making. Kingborough has already achieved much in regards to starting the pathway towards resilience to climate change and natural hazards. It has undertaken an array of studies, played a leadership role in helping guide State and regional responses to climate change and is shaping innovation in its approach to emergency management and adaptation planning.

#### **Plan Overview**

#### **Purpose of the Plan**

The purpose of the Kingborough Council Climate Change Plan is to outline the actions being taken by Council around reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy use (mitigation), as well as planning for future impacts and improving organisational and community resilience (adaptation).

#### Alignment with Kingborough Council Strategic Plan (2015 – 2025)

#### Key Priority Area 1.0 – A safe, active and supportive community

- Strategies:
  - 1.6.1 Assist in developing resilient communities that are prepared for emergencies and supported in times of critical need
  - 1.6.2 Prepare for the impacts of future climate change by building community capacity and resilience

#### Key Priority Area 2.0 – Sustainable land use and infrastructure management

- Strategy:
  - 2.1.1 Strategic land use planning and asset management provides the basis for sustainable future development and infrastructure investments

#### **Key Priority Area 3.0 – A healthy natural environment**

- Strategies:
  - 3.1.5 Understand and respond to the latest information on what is likely to be the future impact of climate change on natural ecosystems

- 3.4.1 Natural hazards are identified and addressed through appropriate planning, public awareness and on-site management measures
- 3.4.2 Climate change mitigation initiatives and adaptation measures are investigated, introduced and promoted within the community

#### **Key Priority Area 5.0 – Community leadership**

- Strategy:
  - 5.2.1 Council is actively involved and able to influence decisions made at regional and state government levels

#### **Assumptions and Constraints**

This Plan and the actions contained herein have been developed in the knowledge that Kingborough Council has a localised but significant role to play in responding to climate change. Climate change is a global issue requiring commitment to action from all levels of government.

In the absence of sustained and strategic governmental leadership on climate change it has been accepted for many years that Council has no option but to commit to a meaningful climate change response for the sake of its community.

The emphasis on assisting its community to adapt to the impacts of climate change is an acknowledgment that global progress on greenhouse gas reductions and warming is unlikely to prevent severe consequences and risks in the future.

The actions within the Plan have been framed in terms of a resourcing commitment by Council commensurate with that of recent years.

#### Responsibility

Although this plan was developed by Council's Environmental Services department, its implementation must occur as part of all Council's activities and responsibilities. This is essential to achieving meaningful and sustainable progress and the best possible outcomes for Council and the community.

### **Key Principles**

Council's response to climate change is guided by the following principles:

- Recognise that climate change presents a material risk to Council assets and operations and has the potential to impact on the economic, social and environmental viability of the region.
- Understand the critical role of local government in a meaningful response to climate change.
- Focus on informed decision making and undertake an adaptive management approach (continuing to review actions in light of new information).
- Consider climate change as part of an overall risk reduction and resilience program for Kingborough.
- dentify vulnerable areas and implement an ongoing program that reviews their vulnerability as more information becomes available.
- Work cooperatively with other Councils and the Tasmanian Government to ensure that roles and responsibilities are appropriate and duplication is minimised.
- Recognise that climate related data is critical to informed decision making so the collection and communication of this data is essential.
- Ensure that Kingborough is well placed to benefit from economic and development opportunities.

### Goals

Kingborough Council is committed to taking action on climate change to:

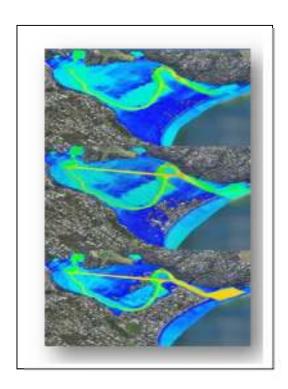
- \$ Show responsibility and leadership in contributing to global efforts to limit warming to 2°C.
- Provide guidance and support to facilitate the Kingborough community transitioning to a low carbon economy.
- ❖ Take advantage of any opportunities created by climate change.
- **\$** Better understand and manage climate change risks.
- **\$** Build resilience as a Council and community to climate change risks.



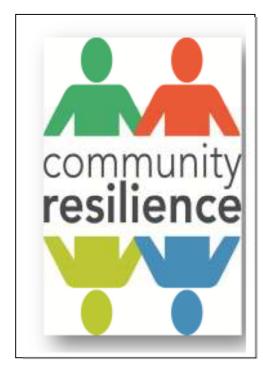
## **Kingborough Priority Objectives**

The Kingborough Council Climate Change Plan includes a five-year Delivery Plan that has been divided into three categories of activities. These are:

- Climate Change Strategic Management (KCS)
- Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management (KCE)
- Climate Change Adaptation (KCA)







# **Delivery Plan**

## Climate Change Strategic Management (KCS)

	Strategy		Actions	Milestones	Resp.	Timing
KCS1.1	Facilitate key stakeholders in accessing up-to-date climate change information in a regular and structured manner	KCS1.1.1	Develop and implement the Kingborough Climate Change Communications Plan	a) Plan developed and presented to Council b) Plan implementation	Man. ES Council	By end 2019 Ongoing
KCS1.2	Facilitate the broader community in accessing relevant and timely scientific data on climate change in a regular and structured manner	KCS1.2.1	Routinely evaluate and disseminate climate change related information sources and reports	Information is sourced and disseminated routinely to Council and the community in accordance with the Climate Change Communications Plan	Man. ES	Ongoing
Key Prio	rity Area – KCS2 – Climate Change Po	licies and F	Procedures			
	Strategy		Actions	Milestones	Resp.	Timing
KCS2.1	Council acknowledges that action on climate change is a whole of business and community issue	KCS2.1.1	Specify action on climate change in the Kingborough Council Strategic Plan and Strategic Delivery Plan	Strategic Plan and Strategic Delivery Plan reviews include climate change commitments	Man. ES	By mid 2019
		KSC2.1.2	Identify climate change actions and ensure these are adequately resourced in Council's Strategic Delivery Plan	Actions programmed and outcomes reported in Council's Annual Report	Man. ES	Ongoing/ annual

KCS2.2	Council has a current Climate Change Adaptation Policy	KCS2.2.1	Council to review and re-adopt the Kingborough Climate Change Adaptation Policy	Re-adopted policy in place for 2 years	Man. ES	April 2019
		KCS2.2.2	Council to review and re-adopt the Kingborough Climate Change Adaptation Policy	Re-adopted policy in place for 2 years	Man. ES	April 2021
KCS2.3	Council has a current Greenhouse and Energy Policy	KCS2.3.1	Draft the Kingborough Greenhouse and Energy Policy and present to Council for adoption	Policy presented to Council and adopted for 2 years	Man. ES	By end 2019
		KCS2.3.2	Council to review and re-adopt the Kingborough Greenhouse and Energy Policy	Re-adopted policy in place for 2 years	Man. ES	2022
KCS2.4	Development controls implemented by Council include consideration of climate change	KCS2.4.1	Evaluate Tasmanian Planning Scheme provisions relating to climate change, and highlight potential constraints and issues in a situation paper	Prepare situation paper and present this to staff and Council	Man. ES & Man. DS	By end 2020
		KSC2.4.2	Source and draft guidelines and procedures related to climate change development controls for development control staff	Development control staff receive training and information on climate change development controls	Man. ES & Man. DS	By mid 2021

ouncil participates in regional ocal government climate change nitiatives and programs  ouncil works cooperatively with the Tasmanian Climate Change office (TCCO)	KCS3.1.1  KCS3.2.1	Council is an active participant in the Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) for southern Tasmanian councils  Council participates in the implementation of the Tasmanian Climate Change	Implement regional climate change programs and projects and report on these to Council and the community  Undertake projects and report on these to Council	Man.	Ongoing To 2021
ne Tasmanian Climate Change	KCS3.2.1	implementation of the	· · ·	_	To 2021
		Action Plan 2017 – 2021 (Climate Action 21) as opportunities arise eg: governance, energy efficiency, electric vehicles	and the community	ES	
ry Area – KCS4 – Council Climate C trategy	nange Gove	Actions	Milestones	Resp.	Timing
ouncil improves climate change overnance to protect its future perational viability	KCS4.1.1	Council addresses governance issues highlighted in the Climate Resilient Councils report (TCCO 2018) relating to:  a) a statement of climate related risks for Kingborough  b) consideration of climate change in strategic financial management decisions  c) evaluation and reporting on	<ul> <li>a) Prepare a position paper and present to Council</li> <li>b) Identify best practice governance examples, evaluate implementation cost / benefits, and report findings to staff and Council</li> <li>c) Develop best practice governance procedures</li> </ul>	Man. ES & key staff	By end 2019 By mid 2020
			a) a statement of climate related risks for Kingborough b) consideration of climate change in strategic financial management decisions c) evaluation and reporting on extreme weather event	a) a statement of climate related risks for Kingborough b) consideration of climate change in strategic financial management decisions c) evaluate implementation cost / benefits, and report findings to staff and Council c) Develop best practice governance examples, evaluate implementation cost / benefits, and report findings to staff and Council c) Develop best practice governance examples, evaluate implementation cost / benefits, and report findings to staff and Council c) Develop best practice	a) a statement of climate related risks for Kingborough b) consideration of climate change in strategic financial management decisions c) evaluation and reporting on extreme weather event governance examples, evaluate implementation cost / benefits, and report findings to staff and Council c) Develop best practice governance procedures for consideration by

			d) the establishment of a Greenhouse Gas Emissions target	d) Evaluate and report on progress on governance targets		Ongoing
KCS4.2	Council includes climate change in its corporate Risk Management documentation and planning	KCS4.2.1	Identify climate change as a key risk to Council in the review of its Risk Management Policy and Risk Register	Policy with strengthened climate change provisions presented to Council and adopted for 2 years	CFO	By end 2020
KCS4.3	Council seeks to better understand the quantification and management of the legal and financial risk that climate change poses to Local Government	KCS4.3.1	Council works with RCCI, TCCO and LGAT to research and identify Tasmania specific circumstances and issues relating to climate change legal and financial risk	Position paper presented to key staff Council	Man. ES & CFO	By end 2023
KCS4.4	Council seeks to assess and plan for the potential impacts of climate change on infrastructure assets it manages	KCS4.4.1	Council uses climate change case study sites such as Kingston Beach to evaluate and quantify infrastructure at risk, its valuation and potential changes to useful asset life	Develop situation report and position paper and present this to key staff and Council	Man. ES & key staff	By end 2021
		KCS4.4.2	Council researches and develops financial management tools and procedures to facilitate planning for climate change impacts on Council managed assets	Procedures to adjust Council's asset register are developed and an implementation program commenced with appropriate staff training provided	Man. ES & key staff	By end 2022
KSC4.5	Council routinely monitors and reports on progress on climate change issues and programs	KCS4.5.1	Climate change issues and actions will be reported as part of Council's Annual Report	Incorporate a climate change section into Council's Annual Report	Man. ES	Annually

KSC4.6	Climate change programs are	KCS4.6.1	Establish a Climate Change	a)	Prepare and present a	Man.	Ву
	adequately resourced by Council to		Fund, utilising funds from		position paper on	ES &	end 2021
	ensure ongoing progress on		energy savings and carbon		Climate Change Fund to	CFO	
	greenhouse gas management and		credit sales		key staff and Council		
	adaptation initiatives			b)	Draft a Climate Change		Ву
					Fund Implementation		mid
					Plan, Policy and		2022
					Procedures to be		
					presented to Council for		
					adoption		Ву
				c)	Climate Change Fund		early
					operational		2023

## **Energy & Greenhouse Gas Management (KCE)**

	Strategy		Actions	Milestones	Resp.	Timing
KCE1.1	Council has an Energy and Greenhouse Plan with targets specified and a program of actions scheduled	KCE1.1.1	Finalise the Kingborough Energy and Greenhouse Plan, with targets and key annual actions identified	Summary of final audit report and recommendations (undertaken in 2018) incorporated into a plan and presented to Council	Man. ES	By end 2019
		KCE1.1.2	Implement targeted low-cost actions to increase energy efficiency at Council buildings eg: LED lighting	At least one Council facility energy efficiency project is funded and implemented annually	Man. Ar ES & Man. GPS	Annual
KCE1.2	Council has a program to improve the performance of its vehicle fleet from a fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas perspective	KCE1.2.1	Develop and implement an electric vehicle (EV) integration plan for Council's light vehicle fleet	A phased-in increase in EVs and charging infrastructure for Council fleet is incrementally implemented	Man. ES & key staff	Ongoing
KCE1.3	Council strives to reduce community waste levels (given this is the largest greenhouse gas contributor for Kingborough)	KCE1.3.1	Undertake community education programs and participate in regional initiatives to encourage and facilitate reductions in community waste to landfill	Undertake a more detailed evaluation of current waste levels and develop targets for reduction	KWS	By end 2020

Key Pric	prity Area – KCE2 – Alternative Energy	KCE1.3.2	Implement a community waste reduction program, document outcomes, and report on progress towards targeted outcomes	Undertake annual reporting of reductions in community waste to landfill and trajectory towards targets, and report on this as part of Council's and KWS's Annual Reports	KWS	Annual from end 2020
,	Strategy		Actions	Milestones	Resp.	Timing
KCE2.1	Council facilitates the development of an alternative energy precinct at the Barretta Waste Management Facility	KCE2.1.1	Facilitate the completion of the feasibility report for an alternative energy precinct at the Barretta Waste Management Facility	Feasibility report completed by consultant and presented to Council	Man. ES	By mid 2019
		KCE2.1.2	Subject to feasibility and contractual acceptance facilitate implementation of site works for an alternative energy precinct at the Barretta Waste Management Facility	Energy precinct constructed and operational	Man. ES & key staff	By mid 2020
		KCE2.1.3	Complete an expansion of the existing methane extraction and flaring system at the Barretta Waste Management Facility	Full methane extraction system in place and operational	Man. ES & key staff	By April 2019
		KCE2.1.4	Undertake routine auditing of methane flaring quantities with a view to reporting on greenhouse reductions and the sale of carbon credits	Methane extraction, greenhouse gas and carbon credit income reported annually	Man. ES & CFO	Ongoing

	Strategy		Actions	Milestones	Resp.	Timing
KCE2.2	Council monitors and progressively increases energy efficiency and solar energy generation at its facilities	KCE2.2.1	Routinely undertake monitoring of energy use, greenhouse gas and solar generation for key council owned facilities	Outcomes are reported to Council and the community quarterly	Man. ES	Quarterly
		KCE2.2.2	Business cases and cost benefit analysis reports for energy efficiency and alternative energy generation projects for Council owned buildings are presented to council for consideration at budget estimates	Energy efficiency and alternative energy projects proposed at budget estimates	Man. ES & Man. GPS	Annually
Key Pric	ority Area – KCE3 – Energy and Greenl	house Gas T	argets and Tracking			
	Strategy		Actions	Milestones	Resp.	Timing
KCE3.1	Council shows leadership in efforts to limit global warming in accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate	KCE3.1.1	Kingborough Council commits to Zero net emissions by 2050	Prepare a position paper on the practical implications of the commitment and present this to Council	Man. ES	By end 2019
	Change Paris Agreement	KCE3.1.2		Commitment included in the Kingborough Greenhouse and Energy Policy	Man. ES	By Mid 2020
KCE3.2	Council monitors and reports on progress towards its energy and greenhouse gas targets and scheduled actions	KCE3.2.1	Undertake routine monitoring and reporting on progress towards Zero net emissions by 2050	Reported as part of Council's Annual Report	Man. ES	Annually

	Strategy		Actions	Milestones	Resp.	Timing
KCE4.1	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	KCE4.1.1	Participate in the Regional and Municipal Energy and Emissions Project 2018 facilitated by the Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI)	Final report produced with Kingborough community data quantified and categorised	Man. ES	By end 2019
		KCE4.1.2	Work with RCCI to develop and implement potential regional projects to assist local communities to achieve reductions in energy usage and their greenhouse footprint	Community energy efficiency, waste and greenhouse gas projects progressively implemented as practicable	Man. ES via RCCI	Ongoing
KCE4.2	Council facilitates community- based projects to increase the uptake of energy efficiency and alternative energy technologies	KCE4.2.1	Where practical and as opportunities arise facilitate projects to assist the community to implement energy efficiency and alternative energy technologies	An ongoing increase in Kingborough community based alternative energy uptake and energy efficiency is documented through a regional auditing process	Man. ES via RCCI	Ongoing
KCE4.3	Council participates in initiatives to reduce community-transport-based greenhouse gas emissions	KCE4.3.1	Where practical and as opportunities arise implement projects and participate in programs to reduce private vehicle utilisation in Kingborough and regionally	Ongoing decrease in Kingborough community based transport greenhouse gas emissions documented through a regional auditing process	Council	Ongoing

## Climate Change Adaptation (KCA)

	Strategy		Actions	Milestones	Resp.	Timing
KCA1.1	Council focuses on key vulnerable community case study sites to target research	KCA1.1.1	Implement a climate change risk and adaptation planning project for Kingston Beach	a) Inundation risk reduction options research completed	Man.ES & key staff	By end 2020
	into climate change risk evaluation and adaptation planning			b) Inundation risk reduction options feasibility research completed		By end 2021
				c) Adaptation Masterplan drafted		By end 2023
		KCA1.1.2	Implement a climate change risk and adaptation planning project for Snug	a) Inundation risk modelling completed b) Inundation impacts research investigations completed c) Adaptation options feasibility research advanced	Man.ES & key staff	By end 2019 By end 2022 By end 2023
		KCA1.1.3	Implement a climate change risk and adaptation planning project for Adventure Bay	<ul> <li>a) Inundation and coastal erosion risk modelling completed</li> <li>b) Inundation and coastal erosion impacts research investigations completed</li> <li>c) Inundation risk reduction options research</li> </ul>	Man.ES & key staff	By end 2020 By end 2021 By end 2023

		KCA1.1.4	Facilitate a community based coastal erosion mitigation master plan for Nebraska Beach	Research a coastal erosion management options masterplan and present to the local community	Man.ES & key staff	By mid 2020
KCA1.2	Council implements projects to advance the understanding of climate change risk and management options for coastal communities and assets	KCA1.2.1	Undertake a project to evaluate existing coastal protection assets and develop a methodology to prioritise Council coastal works and asset management actions	Methodology developed and guidelines / procedures drafted for staff input	Man.ES & key staff	By end 2019
		KCA1.2.2	Continue to build on Kingborough coastal hazard risk identification and monitoring programs	Risk profile modified and key response sites identified as data becomes available	Man.ES	Ongoing
		KCA1.2.3	Participate in the RCCI Coastal Knowledge Project to improve coastal condition monitoring, data provision, access and monitoring methodologies	Project finalisation and report prepared with recommendations for ongoing follow up presented to key Council staff	Man.ES via RCCI	By end 2019
Key Pric	ority Area – KCA2 – Strengthening	Community			T _	
	Strategy		Actions	Milestones	Resp.	Timing
KCA2.1	Council continues to improve its emergency management planning and response capabilities for an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events	KCA2.1.1	Ensure that climate change risk and vulnerability data specific to Kingborough's circumstances is considered in emergency management planning and resourcing	The Kingborough Emergency Management Plan specifically identifies climate change as a driver of extreme weather events that will adversely impact on Council and the community	EMC	Ongoing

KCA2.2	Council reduces the climate change human health risk to the community	KCA2.2.1	Council will research and develop a climate change human health position paper and plan	a) Position paper completed and workshopped with key stakeholders b) Complete Human Health Climate Change Plan and commence implementation	SEHO	By end 2022 By end 2024		
Key Priority Area – KCA3 – Climate Change Ecosystem Impacts Strategy Actions Milestones Resp. Timing								
KCA3.1	Council will increase understanding of the potential vulnerability of natural areas and ecosystems to climate change	KCA3.1.1	As opportunities arise, undertake research and participate in cooperative initiatives to evaluate and monitor natural areas and ecosystems vulnerability to climate change and the development of potential adaptation strategies	Document and communicate an incremental increase in the understanding of ecosystem climate change vulnerability and adaption potential	Resp.	Ongoing		
Key Priority Area – KCA4 – Climate Science and Information								
KCA4.1	Strategy Understanding that climate	KCA4.1.1	Actions  Council acknowledges the	Milestones IPCC new assessment	Resp. Man.ES	Timing Ongoing		
RCA4.1	change information is a critical resource to support informed decision making, Council commits to the collection, dissemination and utilisation of the most up to date and relevant data as it becomes available	NCA4.1.1	importance and validity of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and will review its climate change plan and actions subsequent to the publication of new assessment reports	reports evaluated and revisions made to climate change planning initiatives as required	IVIdII.ES	Oligoliig		

KCA4.1.2	Council utilises the Climate	a)	Climate Futures data for	Man.ES	Ву
	Futures for Tasmania projections		Kingborough report	&	end
	to better understand projected		received and evaluated	key	2019
	changes to Kingborough's	b)	Utilisation of Climate	staff	
	weather patterns and the		Futures projections		
	implications for operational		utilised in asset		Ву
	functions and asset management		management program		end 2020