

 <p>Mackay REGIONAL COUNCIL</p>	COUNCIL POLICY	
	Climate Change Adaptation Policy	
	POLICY NO	089
	DEPARTMENT	Development Services
	PROGRAM	Parks, Environment & Sustainability
ENDORSED BY COUNCIL	25 November 2015 Folio 39629	

1.0 Scope

This policy applies to all Mackay Regional Council (the Council) activities and staff. The Council recognises that climate change has the potential to impact Council's operations and the economic, social and environmental viability of the local government region and the community .

Therefore the Council is committed to:

- Taking a leadership approach in managing the effects of climate change.
- Adopting a structured and strategic response to the potential impacts and opportunities that may eventuate from climate change.
- Facilitating greater awareness of the causes and effects of climate change.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Climate Change Adaptation Policy is to:

- I. Demonstrate that Council is a leader in climate change action and community resilience planning.
- II. 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.
- III. Ensure that climate change adaptation is a core component of planning for a more resilient Council organisation and regional community and is therefore mainstreamed into Council's functions and activities.
- IV. Ensure that the Council region is well placed to benefit from economic development opportunities that may eventuate due to its proactive climate change adaptation and community resilience commitment.

3.0 Reference

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- Mackay Regional Council Planning Scheme
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*
- *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*
- *Disaster Management Act 2003*

- Council's Corporate Sustainability Policy
- Council's Corporate Environmental Policy
- Council's Sustainability Strategy 2013-18

4.0 Background

The need for a climate change adaptation policy was identified through Council's participation in the Coastal Climate Adaptation Taskforce (C-CAT) Project. The C-CAT Project's report on Council's Climate Change Adaptation Governance recommended that Council develop a climate change adaptation policy.

5.0 Policy Statement

Council will implement programs and initiatives that strive to increase the community's resilience and understanding of the potential impacts of climate change and maximise opportunities to communicate and consult on critical issues and changes.

Council will commit to advancing integrated representative case studies in climate change adaptation and community resilience for existing sites and greenfield developments.

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 Council's Sustainability Strategy will help to determine Council's most relevant responses.

As well as the above, the Council's response to climate change will be guided by the following principles:

- 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;
- IV. Identify vulnerable areas and implement an ongoing program that reviews their vulnerability as more information becomes available;
- V. Review the provisions of the Planning Scheme to ensure that development is appropriately regulated to consider climate change risk;
- VI. Where appropriate, goals should be measurable and evaluated on a regular basis;
- VII. Perform a range of roles (regulatory, information provider, advocate, facilitator, service provider, funding coordinator) that are necessary to reduce future climate change impacts; and
- VIII. Work cooperatively with other Councils and the State and Federal Governments and ensure that the respective roles and responsibilities are appropriate and duplication is avoided.

5.1 Communication

The Council commits to ensuring that the community, Councillors and staff are updated on an annual basis regarding this policy and related programs and initiatives.

Council officers will address climate change or sustainability (where applicable) in reports to Council.

The Council will commit to providing clear, consistent and transparent climate change information and data which demonstrates best practice scientific knowledge.

Council will make all climate change studies undertaken by or on behalf of Council publically available at an appropriate time.

6.0 **Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related documents are amended or replaced.
2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council

Notwithstanding the above, this policy is to be reviewed at intervals of no more than two years.

Version Control:

Version	Reason / Trigger	Change	Endorsed / Reviewed	Date	DWS
1	New Policy		Council	25.11.15	6318432