

Council Policy

Climate Change



Council Policy	
Legal Authority	Local Government Act Section 2.7 – The Role of Council
Department	Environment and Health Services

1. Title
Climate Change Policy

2. Purpose

To ensure that the City of Kwinana understands climate change impacts in a local, regional and international context, evaluates and addresses the climate change implications of operational decisions and policy positions, and is committed to greenhouse emissions reductions, risk management and building resilience through appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

3. Scope

This policy defines the City of Kwinana’s approach towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.

4. Definitions

Greenhouse gas – a gas that contributes toward climate change through the absorption of infrared radiation from the sun.

Greenhouse gas emissions – any greenhouse gas that is emitted from the Earth’s surface. This term is used predominantly to refer to human-caused emissions.

Climate change – gradual changes in the average weather patterns that define climates worldwide. It is scientifically accepted that the climate change that has been experienced and is continuing to occur, is predominantly due to human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

5. Policy statement

5.1 City of Kwinana acknowledges:

- 5.1.1 The science is clear: climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.
- 5.1.2 Climate change threatens human societies and the earth’s ecosystems worldwide. Human-induced climate change is already having an impact on human and natural communities and further climate change will occur as a result of past, present and future emissions.
- 5.1.3 Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable. Delayed action on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies will increase costs and potential liabilities to Local Government in a range of areas, in particular planning and infrastructure management as well as risk and emergency management.
- 5.1.4 A failure to adequately address the causes and implications of climate change places an unacceptable burden on future generations.
- 5.1.5 Climate change disproportionately affects disadvantaged and marginalised groups, making equity an essential consideration in our approach.

5.2 City of Kwinana is committed to:

- 5.2.1 Meeting international obligations through Australia's participation in protocols and agreements established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (NFCCC), including but not limited to the Paris Agreement and successive international treaties.
- 5.2.2 Addressing climate change locally through a variety of mitigation and adaptation focused strategies and actions in its current Climate Change Plan.
- 5.2.3 Reducing operational greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the reduction of emissions in the community.
- 5.2.4 Supporting our local human communities and natural ecosystems to have the resources and other assistance necessary to enable them to build resilience and adapt to climate change impacts that are now understood to be unavoidable.

5.3 City of Kwinana is calling for;

- 5.3.1 Strong climate action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.
- 5.3.2 Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs. These must include:
 - a) Greenhouse mitigation activities and support toward the global journey toward achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
 - b) Climate change adaptation and resilience for both human communities and natural ecosystems.
 - c) Proactive emergency management in addition to the focus on emergency response.
 - d) Disaster relief and recovery that includes measures to improve future resilience.

Date of adoption and resolution No.	23 January 2013 #274
Review dates and resolution No.	14 December 2022 #263
Next review due date	November 2026
Related documents	Climate Change Plan 2021-2026

Note: Changes to references may be made without the need to take the Policy to Council for review.