

Climate Change

Council Policy - Strategic	
Corporate Plan Link:	Our Healthy Environments
Policy Owner:	City Futures
Responsible Manager:	Manager, Environment and Sustainability Policy and Planning
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Version:	3.1

Objective

This policy outlines the City of Moreton Bay's (Council) approach to providing leadership and working in partnership with the community to raise awareness of climate change and better manage local greenhouse gas emissions. This policy ensures that the Council organisation at all levels has appropriate knowledge of climate change implications, and the organisation actively plans and prepares for the more serious implications of climate change within its financial and other regulatory limits.

Statement

The City of Moreton Bay (Council), through its Corporate Plan, is committed to providing services that delivery our community's shared vision: *Our Moreton Bay. Amazing places. Natural spaces.* This policy supports 'Our Health Environments' goal and outcomes in the Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2042, particularly "We understand and proactively respond to climate change and natural hazard risks".

Council recognises community concern and scientific advice concerning climate change. Council will take reasonable, measured and developing steps to incorporate into its operations a planned approach to dealing with climate change, mindful of Council's other obligations as a local government.

Council will actively plan and prepare for the more significant implications of climate change within its financial and other regulatory limits. This planning and preparation process includes:

- Evaluating climate change implications for significant capital and operational activity, operational decision-making and the setting of policy positions;
- A commitment to managing, and where practical, reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Risk management through appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

To achieve these policy positions, Council, in partnership with our community, industry and government, will:

- Inform its staff and members of reliable information on climate change and assist in community education through current programs such as the library service and the Council website.
- Encourage staff to take a considered and measured approach in actively planning for the more serious implications of climate change, mindful of Council's financial and other regulatory limits. Council's current intention is that those activities with higher risk and cost long term, need more detailed attention than those of lesser durability or exposure. As Council gains experience in assessing climate change impacts, the range of projects and programs requiring more specific planning and design will be reviewed.
- Meet legislated obligations in regard to climate change.
- Plan to reduce our vulnerability to weather related risk.
- Manage our carbon footprint through cost effective processes, including energy consumption monitoring and management, and greenhouse gas management.
- Reduce exposure to litigation risk.
- Identify and capitalise on potential opportunities arising from climate change.

- Continue to improve our response through mitigation and adaptation measures.

Action will be undertaken to deliver appropriate policy responses, under the following four themes:

- Governance – creating policies and strategies that support the treatment of climate change risk and mitigation.
- Infrastructure – assess in a prioritised manner the vulnerability of current assets and planning for long term impact of a changing climate.
- Planning and Regulation – need for a strategically planned response to climate change that allows for growth and will meet legal obligations.
- Advocacy and Awareness – facilitate improved knowledge of climate change at all levels and involve relevant stakeholders to share the risk.

Application

Council-wide. In particular, this policy applies to Council projects, programs, and processes, and must be considered alongside other relevant factors when making decisions, recommendations, or designing/reviewing initiatives.

Related Documents

Relevant legislation

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Planning Act 2016*

Council documents

- Sustainability Policy

Definitions

Term	Definition
Carbon footprint	The amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases (expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents) emitted into the atmosphere by the activities of an individual, company, country, etc.
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of Moreton Bay City Council.
Council	Moreton Bay City Council or City of Moreton Bay.
City	Moreton Bay City Council Local Government Area.
Climate change	A change in the pattern of weather, and related changes in oceans, land surfaces and ice sheets, occurring over time scales of decades or longer.
Climate change adaptation	The process of adjusting to actual or expected changes in climate to reduce or avoid climate impacts or exploit beneficial opportunities.
Climate change mitigation	The action we take to limit changes in global climate caused by human activities.

Document Control

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Version	Approval	Date	Description	Word Version
1.0	Council	08.06.2010	New policy. Approved by Coordination Committee (10/1417).	A8973791
2.0	Delegate	13.01.2014	Administrative amendment only. Approved by Director, Planning.	A8973791
3.0	Delegate	15.10.2020	Administrative amendments only. Approved by Director, Planning.	A20845087
3.1	Delegate	11.10.2024	Minor administrative amendments only. Approved by the General Manager, Governance and Executive Services in accordance with Council's Policy Framework. (71718673)	ECM68421204