



CLIMATE CHANGE



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GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING - SUSTAINABLE CORPORATE & CITY PLANNING

PURPOSE

To provide the guiding principles for Council to manage climate change risks to natural and human systems within the Gosford Local Government Area using a combination of sustainable adaptation and mitigation measures, including community stakeholder consultation.

To ensure the objectives and commitment statements of the climate change policy are incorporated into strategic planning and decision making processes and operations of Council.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

To provide a strategic framework, that is consistent with a whole of government, and whole of Council approach, that will assist Council prepare for, and assist the community and environment to become more resilient and adaptable to, the impacts of Climate Change.

To undertake adaptation and mitigation actions as a sustainable response to climate change. These actions would support the known environmental, economic, social and cultural values of the local community.

To review climate change risks and impacts (for example, sea level rise, carbon footprint, temperature increase, embodied carbon, precipitation change, and storm, bushfire, drought and flood events) as further reliable information becomes available.

To provide Council and the public with objective information that will assist in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

To continue to undertake research and to participate in opportunities that will improve climate change management capacity.

To comply with applicable legal requirements and implement any relevant state government policies, guidelines and/or directives.

To recognise Gosford's proportionate contribution to Australia's historic emissions and associated moral obligations.

POLICY COMMITMENT STATEMENT

- The Chief Executive Officer will endorse and lead a whole of Council approach to Climate Change which will include management participation from all areas of Council.

- Council recognises that it is the closest tier of Government to the community and best positioned to provide climate change information and assistance to the community, while at the same time recognising it is not the best resourced tier of Government to do so. Council will work with the State and Commonwealth Governments to seek adequate resourcing for climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.
- Council will conduct inventory of its carbon footprint including greenhouse gas sources and sinks utilising the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 methodology including direct (Scope 1) and indirect (Scope 2) emissions and other relevant standards/guidelines.
- Reduce Council's carbon footprint by adopting a strategic framework based on the climate change mitigation hierarchy (**Figure 1** Climate Change Mitigation Hierarchy) and triple bottom line effectiveness.
- Adopt triple bottom line (social, economic and environment) sustainability assessment criteria to guide Council's climate change mitigation activities.
- In the design of new major projects and facilities include the consideration of greenhouse gas sources and sinks (direct and indirect) over the lifecycle of the asset.
- Influence and assist the community to progress sustainable climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.
- Wherever feasible use energy efficient and renewable energy technologies when designing new or existing energy consuming assets, considering triple bottom line (social, environmental and economic) criteria over the life of the asset.
- Acknowledging that developed countries like Australia bear the predominant historic responsibility for anthropogenic climate change. Developed countries must morally play a leading role in responding to climate change and secure climate justice for the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities including mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance.
- Prepare, implement and review plans and strategies inclusive of consideration of risk from future sea level rise, and address the issue of, how to beneficially use coastal areas while recognising the long term need to protect, redesign, rebuild, elevate, relocate or retreat as sea levels rise.
- Council will work with the State and Commonwealth Governments to ensure the use of appropriate research frameworks and data to inform the preparation of local strategies and decision making.
- Progressively undertake a climate change risk assessment for the local government area to identify the most significant areas of risk and to establish priorities for the preparation of adaptation responses. In addition to sea level rise, risk assessment will consider impacts from changes in precipitation, evaporation, air temperature and extreme events.

- Climate change risk assessments will initially consider new buildings and infrastructure, existing buildings and infrastructure, community health and recreation, and the natural environment including biodiversity.
- Where triggers are identified as an appropriate mechanism for initiating an adaptive response to increasing risk, ongoing monitoring systems must also be considered.
- A variety of funding sources may be identified for risk management works to be undertaken by Council, not excluding a special coastal climate change risk reduction rate.
- Involve the community in a variety of ways, in decision making for adapting to climate change, to ensure support for strategies and plans, and to enhance the community's ability to cope with what may be considered severe measures.

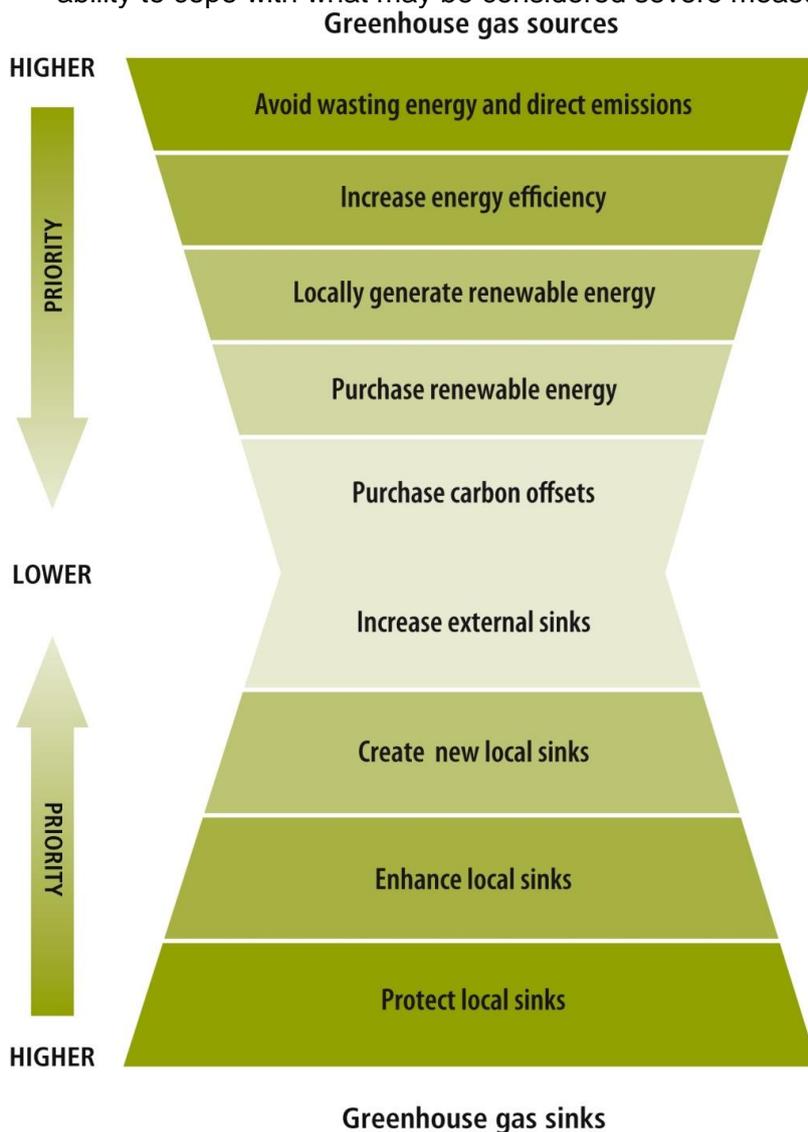


Figure 1 Climate Change Mitigation Hierarchy

(Min No 2010/352 - 4 May 2010)

(Min No 2013/388 - 16 July 2013 - Review of Policies)