

Climate Change Resilience Policy

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Strategic Pillar	Development & Environment
Responsible Branch	Environment & Compliance

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1 OUTCOMES

- 1.1 To establish Council's commitment to becoming climate resilient through understanding, mitigating, and adapting to the risks and impacts of variable and climate changes (such as increased number of days of high-intensity rainfall and extreme heat) and moving towards a more sustainable and resilient future, particularly in protecting assets (asset resilience), service delivery and community (community resilience).
- 1.2 Climate Change is causing significant and ongoing impacts on the natural and built environment, with increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. This policy establishes QPRC's commitment to adapting our operations and decision-making processes to build resilience against these impacts.
- 1.3 This policy serves as an overarching framework for climate change mitigation and adaptation across all QPRC climate change and sustainability policies and strategies. It complements existing efforts by providing a structured approach to identify vulnerabilities, prioritise actions, and mainstream adaptation into everyday Council functions.

2 POLICY

- 2.1 Climate change impacts all areas of Council's business and therefore needs to be an integral part of its decision-making processes.
- 2.2 Climate change governance will include:
- Executive level support and leadership in the promotion and understanding of climate resilience, effectively increasing climate resilience maturity.
 - Integration into the overarching organisational strategy.
 - Fostering Collaboration both internally and externally.
 - Understanding of Climate-related impacts.
 - Climate-related risk identification and assessment.
 - Commitment to continual improvement.
- 2.3 The development (or integration) of strategies, plans, policies and procedures to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climatic changes, ensuring holistic consideration of organisational climate-related risks.
- 2.4 The ongoing work of the internal coordination working group across Council services which addresses climate change resilience.
- 2.5 Make use of the best information available in reviewing benchmarks that measure or estimate future effects of climatic changes and incorporate this understanding into all aspects of its strategy setting, project management and day-to-day operations.
- 2.6 Promotion of internal and external collaboration with other Councils and government agencies for information sharing and collective efforts in mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- 2.7 Periodic Introduction, review and updating of policies to incorporate mitigation and adaptation aspects in response to climatic change impacts.
- 2.8 Integration of Sustainability planning into response strategies for climate change.

- 2.9 Acknowledges the long-term objectives of the NSW State Government in achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

3 SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 3.1 This Policy applies to Council Operations under the Council's direct control.

4 DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 Council official — includes Councillors, Council staff, administrators, Council committee members and delegates of Council.
- 4.2 Climate – average weather conditions over a long period (30 Years)
- 4.3 Climate change – long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns that are either natural or driven by human activities.
- 4.4 Mitigation strategies – refers to the global effort to reduce human influence on climate through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- 4.5 Climate adaptation – actions to adjust systems to anticipate and respond to the climate and its effects.
- 4.6 Climate resilience – involves both mitigation and adaptation.

5 LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS AND/OR RELEVANT STANDARDS

- Clean Energy Act 2011
- Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Local Government Act 1993
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- QPRC Enterprise Risk Management Policy
- QPRC's Climate Change Action Plan: Council Operations 2020-2030
- QPRC's Operations Sustainability Policy
- QPRC's Sustainable Design for Council Building
- QPRC's Sustainable Procurement and Contracts Policy
- QPRC's Public Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Policy

6 CONTENT

- 6.1 In implementing this policy Council will undertake the following:
- Commit to becoming a climate-adapted organisation by proactively integrating climate change considerations into all aspects of Council's operation.
 - Undertake assessments to identify Council's exposure to climate-related risks.
 - Embed Climate Change mitigation, adaptation and resilience considerations into Council's corporate governance documents relating to financial planning, asset management, strategic planning and disaster management.
 - Develop a Climate Change Resilience Strategy (and associated implementation plans) that identifies outcomes, timeframes, responsible parties, and actions to mitigate, adapt and build resilience to a variable and changing climate aligned to Council's Principles and Sustainability.

- Develop and implement training programs to equip staff across all departments with the knowledge and skills to understand and integrate Climate Change mitigation, adaptation and resilience into their work.
- Report on our progress and performance in identifying and implementing change-related mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building actions.

7 REVIEW

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed every four years or earlier as necessary if:
- a) legislation requires it, or
 - b) Council's functions, structure or activities change.