

Climate Change Position Statement

Policy Principles

This Position Statement relates to the following Policy Principles of LGNSW:

- (6) Local government actions reflect Ecologically Sustainable Development principles:**
- a. *Principle of integration – consideration of environmental, economic and social impacts in decision making*
 - b. *Intergenerational equity – today's actions maintain or enhance the environment for future generations*
 - c. *Precautionary principle – prevent environmental degradation and manage and mitigate risk*
 - d. *Conservation of biological diversity*
 - e. *Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms – recognising the value of the environment to the community.*

Background

Local government has a significant role in reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change:

- Councils are responsible for \$142 billion worth of assets. Reducing emissions can lower operating costs associated with these assets.
- The effects of climate change have the potential to damage council assets, cause serious disruptions to the delivery of council services, generate unbudgeted financial impacts and affect the wellbeing of the community.

Our Position

LGNSW advocates for:

- Four priority areas for action to address climate change:
 1. reduction of Australia's carbon emissions through effective mitigation strategies;
 2. planning for and adapting to a changing climate;
 3. significant structural adjustment in businesses and communities which may arise from transitioning to a low carbon economy and adapting to the impacts of climate change; and
 4. the provision of leadership and support for both councils and their communities.
- Ambitious but realistic policies and practices that promote council, community, industry and government commitment to renewable energy, energy conservation and energy efficiency.
- An integrated approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, including shared responsibility and collaboration across all levels of government, industry and the community.
- Long term consideration of climate change issues across all government functions and services.
- Carbon emission reduction through a market mechanism. Measures to reduce emissions should come from all sectors of the economy including energy generation, mining, transport, waste, construction, buildings and agriculture.
- Other spheres of government to work with and support councils to reduce the risk of climate change impacts on the community.

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