CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

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FOREWORD

Insert a foreword by the GM or Mayor

GLOSSARY

Insert a glossary at the start or end of the plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Insert an executive summary of the key objectives, actions and findings outlined in the plan

# INTRODUCTION

## Objectives

Insert objectives of the action plan and provide references to any links to Council’s strategic plan and any other relevant plans or initiatives such as any visions or mission statements that have been developed

## Background

Provide background to the development of the plan. Note Council‘s existing initiatives and progress with action on climate change to date

## Scope

Explain the scope of the plan including the time horizons for planning and include a map of the area the plan covers

## Climate Change Synopsis

Outline the likely impacts of climate change for the region and Council’s emissions sources and emissions

Council may wish to include the following observations by the IPCC (2007):

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) states that “warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level” (IPCC 2007). Recent observations which support this statement include the following:

* Thirteen of the fourteen years between 1995 and 2008 rank among the warmest years in the record of global surface temperature (since 1850) (IPCC 2007).
* Global average sea level has risen at an average rate of 1.8 mm/year from 1961 to 2003. This rate was significantly faster for the latter period between 1993 and 2003 where the average rate of rise was about 3.1 mm/ year.
* Annual average Arctic sea ice extent has shrunk by 2.7% per decade since 1978. Larger decreases of about 7.4% per decade are observed in the summer months. Mountain glaciers and snow cover have, on average declined in both hemispheres since 1990 (IPCC 2007).
* Changes in extreme weather events have been observed over the last 50 years. These changes include less frequent colder days, more frequent hot days and increased incidence of heat waves, increases in heavy precipitation events, increased frequency and intensity of tropical cyclone activity and increase in incidence of extreme high sea level.

Recent climate change in Australia has largely been consistent with global trends. A summary of key trends includes:

* A 0.9ºC increase in average Australian temperature since 1950, an increase in the frequency of hot days and nights and a decrease in the frequency of cold days and nights.
* A substantial decrease in rainfall for most of eastern and south-western Australia since 1950 and contrasting wetter conditions in north-west Australia, mostly during summer. Extreme daily rainfall intensity and frequency has increased in north-western and central Australia and over the western tablelands of New South Wales, but decreased in the south-east and south west and along the central eastern coast.

Evidence from the IPCC suggests that further changes to both the global and local climate is highly likely. On a global scale, future changes in climate will present a number of impacts on systems and sectors such as ecosystems, food productions, coastal systems, health, water, industry, settlements and society.

## Stakeholders

Note stakeholders involved in the development of the plan

# METHODOLOGY

Outline the methods used to identify and prioritise actions

# IMPACTS AND ISSUES

Provide an overview of climate change impacts or issues and associated risks and opportunities. A summary of the findings from completing the previous modules should suit this purpose

## Climate change risk assessment

Insert the “priority risk statements” and risk levels

The following sections outline the “priority risk statements” identified through an initial risk assessment process. These risk statements provide the basis for the adaptation actions recommended later in this document.

### Increased average temperature

Insert information on impacts and issues associated with average temperature projections to Council

Table x: Priority risks associated with an increase in mean annual temperatures

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk Code** | **Risk Statement** | **Risk Level** | **Council Services primarily affected** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Repeat for all relevant climate impacts and associated risks.

### Assumptions

Insert assumptions

## Council greenhouse gas inventory

### Scope and methodology

Insert from module 5

### Council footprint

Insert from module 5

### Assumptions

Insert assumptions

# ACTIONS

Present the actions along with details for the implementation of the actions including responsibilities, stakeholders, timeframes and budgets

# MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Set out a program to ensure Council regularly monitors and reports on its progress with effectively and efficiently implementing suitable actions

# REFERENCES

Insert references

IPCC, 2007, *Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Core Writing Team, Pachauri, R.K and Reisinger, A. (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland.

# FURTHER INFORMATION

Provide contact details or a website for obtaining further information about the climate change action plan