

CP 3.1 CLIMATE CHANGE	CP 3.1 CLIMATE CHANGE	No change
CURRENT POLICY CONTENT	PROPOSED CONTENT	CHANGE NOTES
<b>SUSTAINABILITY THEME</b> Environment	<b>SUSTAINABILITY THEME</b> Environment	Unchanged
<b>OBJECTIVE</b> The objective of this policy is to outline the City of Greater Geraldton’s commitment to addressing climate change by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding its impacts in a local, regional and international context.</li> <li>Evaluating the implications of operational decisions and policies on of climate change.</li> <li>Reducing green-house emissions through appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies.</li> </ul>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b> The objective of this policy is to outline the City of Greater Geraldton’s commitment to addressing climate change through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledging causes and understanding its impacts in a local, regional and international context.</li> <li>Reducing green-house emissions through sustainable decision-making and actions; and</li> <li>Developing appropriate adaptation strategies.</li> </ul>	Changed the word ‘by to ‘through’  Reworded dot points. Materially unchanged.
<b>POLICY STATEMENT</b> This policy applies to all Council staff, Council Members, contractors and consultants acting on behalf of or employed by the Council	<b>POLICY STATEMENT</b> Climate change has a range of legal, indemnity, budgetary, asset management, infrastructure, planning and environmental implications. These need to be embedded in strategic frameworks and actioned at both a political and operational level.  The <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> states “In carrying out its functions a local government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity”.  The City of Greater Geraldton recognises that it has an ethical obligation and an opportunity to play a leadership role for addressing the impacts of what is now considers to be a climate emergency.	‘Policy Statement’ reworded.  Current ‘Policy Statement’ conflicts with ‘Roles and Responsibilities’. Proposed <i>Policy Statement</i> content relocated and updated from Current <i>Policy ‘Details Definition and Vision’</i> .  Third paragraph changed to include feedback received from Cr Douglas
<b>POLICY DETAILS</b> <b>Definition and Vision</b> Climate change has a range of legal, indemnity, budgetary, asset management, infrastructure, planning and environmental implications. These need to be embedded in strategic frameworks and actioned at both a political and operational level. This will ensure climate change liability issues are adequately addressed.  The Local Government Act 1995 states “In carrying out its functions a local government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity”.  The City of Greater Geraldton is the closest sphere of Government to the community. It recognises that the community expects the City to take a leadership role. This policy outlines that leadership intent.	<b>POLICY DETAILS</b> <i>[Relocated to Policy Statement].</i>	See <i>Policy Statement</i> notes above.
<b>POLICY DETAILS</b> <b>Climate Change – Acknowledging Impacts</b> The City of Greater Geraldton needs to understand the relevance of climate change impacts to operational and strategic frameworks. The City of Greater Geraldton recognises that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global climate change is occurring as a consequence of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. Further climate change will occur as a result of past, present and future emissions.</li> </ul>	<b>POLICY DETAILS</b> <b>1. Climate Change – Causes</b> The City of Greater Geraldton recognises that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural processes have determined Earth’s climatic change history, but human industrial activities have introduced a new mechanism that is driving Earth’s climate change future.</li> </ul>	Updated to reflect the causes of climate change, and the global severity at this point in time.  Dot Point 1. Reworded Dot Point 2: Same wording as original Dot point 1 Dot point 3: Reworded.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has an ethical obligation and an opportunity to play a leadership role for addressing the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Addressing the impacts of climate change is a direct responsibility of the State and Federal Governments. The State and Federal Governments have an obligation to cooperate with Local Government and the Australian community as a whole.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global climate change is occurring as a consequence of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. Further climate change will occur as a result of past, present and future emissions.</li> <li>• Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels today are higher than at any point in at least the past 800,000 years. The last time the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> amounts were as high as they are now was more than three million years ago, when the sea level was 15–25 meters higher than it is now.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>POLICY DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>Mitigating Climate Change – Emission Reductions</b></p> <p>The City of Greater Geraldton acknowledges that meeting appropriate emission reduction targets should be ongoing. No single policy measure or technology will provide a solution to climate change. The City of Greater Geraldton is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing its operational greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• Supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the community;.</li> <li>• Contributing towards agreed national emission reduction targets and supporting the national emissions trading scheme.</li> <li>• Using appropriate research frameworks and data to inform its own strategies, decision-making and leadership activities.</li> <li>• Encouraging and supporting community and business in the transition towards sustainable lifestyles that reduce greenhouse impact.</li> </ul>	<p><b>POLICY DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>2. Mitigating Climate Change – Emission Reductions</b></p> <p>The City of Greater Geraldton acknowledges that meeting emission reduction targets is ongoing. No single policy measure or technology provides the solution to climate change. The City of Greater Geraldton is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing its operational greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• Supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the community.</li> <li>• Contributing towards agreed national emission reduction targets.</li> <li>• Using appropriate research frameworks and data to inform its own strategies, decision-making and leadership activities.</li> <li>• Encouraging and supporting community and business in the transition towards sustainable lifestyles that reduce climate change impacts.</li> </ul>	<p>Dot point 3: Removed reference to ‘national emissions trading scheme’.</p>
<p><b>POLICY DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>Adapting to Climate Change – Collaborative Action</b></p> <p>The City of Greater Geraldton should, through planning, investment and project decisions, involve the community to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This will reduce its risks and vulnerabilities arising from these impacts. The City of Greater Geraldton is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the establishment of institutions and regulations that ensure effective, action by stakeholders for climate change management.</li> <li>• Ensuring that Western Australia’s communities and natural ecosystems have the resources necessary to adapt to climate change impacts.</li> <li>• Developing individuals and communities to understand and adapt to the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Ensuring that planning, investment and project decisions take into consideration the likely impact of climate change through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Including the impact on current and future human settlements, natural resources and ecosystems.</li> <li>○ Assessing the adaptive capacity of the plan, investment or project.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>POLICY DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>3. Adapting to Climate Change – Collaborative Action</b></p> <p>Climate change impacts are not shared equally across Australia. Whilst risk from bushfire is broadly distributed, as a coastal City, risk from flooding and coastal inundation is highly concentrated. The City of Greater Geraldton is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the establishment of institutions and regulations that ensure effective, action by stakeholders for climate change management.</li> <li>• Developing individuals, communities and businesses to understand and adapt to the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Ensuring that planning, investment and project decisions take into consideration the likely impact of climate change through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Including the impact on current and future human settlements, natural resources and ecosystems.</li> <li>○ Assessing the adaptive capacity of the plan, investment or project.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Updated to reflect geographical differences in climate change impacts.</p> <p>Dot point 1 – unchanged Dot point 2: Removed as it committed the City to resourcing communities outside of the City of Greater Geraldton.</p> <p>Dot Point 2: wording amended to reflect feedback received from Cr Douglas</p>
<p><b>POLICY DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>Resilience to Climate Change – Equity and Social Justice</b></p> <p>The City of Greater Geraldton acknowledges that the impacts of climate change and policy responses have significant equity implications. It advocates that the burden of reducing greenhouse emissions must be equitably dispersed. The City of Greater Geraldton is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting local development of policies and strategies that identify and minimise the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Working with State and Commonwealth governments to resource adaptation and resilience building within the community.</li> </ul>	<p><b>POLICY DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>4. Resilience to Climate Change – Equity and Social Justice</b></p> <p>The City of Greater Geraldton acknowledges that the impacts of climate change and policy responses have significant equity implications. The City of Greater Geraldton is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocating that the burden of reducing greenhouse emissions must be equitably dispersed;</li> <li>• Supporting development of policies and strategies that identify and minimise the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Working with State and Commonwealth governments to resource mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building measures within the community.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> paragraph reworded. - Materially unchanged.</p> <p>Dot point 1 – New. Original Dot point 1 is now Dot point 2 – word ‘local’ deleted. Dot point 3: the word resilience included.</p>

<p><b>POLICY DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>Climate Change Action – Priorities and Objectives</b></p> <p>The management of climate change impacts must reflect the priorities of the City of Greater Geraldton and its community. The City of Greater Geraldton is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identifying and working towards regionally specific priorities and outcomes impacts with regard to their environmental, social and economic opportunities and risks;</li><li>Cooperative regional climate change management across the political and operational areas under its jurisdiction;</li><li>Minimising climate change risks to its operations/communities;</li><li>Working with State and Commonwealth Governments to plan and implement appropriate strategies.</li></ul>	<p><b>POLICY DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>5. Climate Change Action – Priorities</b></p> <p>The management of climate change impacts must reflect the priorities of the City of Greater Geraldton and its community. The City of Greater Geraldton is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reducing green-house emissions through sustainable decision-making and actions.</li><li>Considering a pathway towards a zero-carbon community.</li><li>Reviewing and updating its climate change adaptation actions.</li><li>Minimising climate change risks to its operations/communities.</li><li>Working with State and Commonwealth Governments to plan and implement appropriate strategies.</li></ul>	<p>Updated priorities to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review and update climate change adaptation actions.</li><li>Investigating a pathway towards a zero-carbon community.</li></ol> <p>Dot point 1: New Dot point 2: New Dot point 3: New Dot point 4: Unchanged (Was pt 3) Dot point 5: Unchanged (Was pt 4)</p>
<p><b>KEY TERM DEFINITIONS</b></p> <p><b>Adaptation</b> means adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.</p> <p><b>Adaptive capacity</b> means the ability of a system to adjust to climate change (including climate variability and extremes), to moderate potential damages, to take advantage of opportunities, or to cope with the consequences.</p> <p><b>Climate change</b> means to a statistically significant variation in either the mean state of the climate or in its variability, persisting for an extended period (typically decades or longer). Climate change may be due to natural processes or external forcing, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land-use.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> Means dealing with the causes of climate change by reducing emissions.</p> <p><b>Resilience</b> means the capacity of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt, by resisting or changing in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure.</p>	<p><b>KEY TERM DEFINITIONS</b></p> <p><b>Adaptation</b> means modifying decisions, activities and ways of thinking to adjust to a changing climate.</p> <p><b>Adaptive capacity</b> means the ability to adjust to climate change, taking advantage of opportunities, and coping with the consequences.</p> <p><b>Climate change</b> means a statistically significant variation in either the mean state of the climate or in its variability, persisting for an extended period (typically decades or longer). Climate change may be due to natural processes or external forcing, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land-use.</p> <p><b>Mitigation</b> means ways of reducing the causes of climate change by reducing emissions.</p> <p><b>Resilience</b> means the ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning.</p>	<p>Simplified wording</p> <p>Adaptation: reworded</p> <p>Adaptive capacity: reworded</p> <p>Climate Change: Unchanged</p> <p>Mitigation: Unchanged</p> <p>Resilience: Reworded</p>
<p><b>ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES</b></p> <p>Climate change management is the responsibility of all Local Government Officers and Elected Members.</p>	<p><b>ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES</b></p> <p>Climate change management is the responsibility of all Local Government Officers and Elected Members.</p>	<p>Unchanged</p>
<p><b>WORKPLACE INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Local Government Act 1995</p>	<p><b>WORKPLACE INFORMATION</b></p> <p><i>Local Government Act (1995)</i></p> <p><i>Geraldton Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (2018)</i></p> <p><i>Batavia Region of Councils Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (2010)</i></p> <p><i>Council Policy 1.1 Towards Sustainable Decisions</i></p> <p><i>Council Policy 3.2 Coastal Adaptation</i></p>	<p>Updated to link to existing council policies and strategies</p>

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Infrastructure Services		Coordinator Coastal & Natural Environment	Biennially	January 2020
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis)		
2.	IS164 23 January 2018	Policy Review		

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Infrastructure Services		Manager Engineering Services	Biennially	2023
Version	Decision Reference	Date	Comment (if applicable)	
3.	IS234	25 May 2021	Policy Review	