

COUNCIL POLICY COMPARISON TABLE

COUNCIL POLICY 3.1 CLIMATE CHANGE			
CURRENT POLICY CONTENT	PROPOSED CONTENT	CHANGE NOTES	COUNCIL COMMENTS
<p>SUSTAINABILITY THEME</p> <p><i>Environment</i></p>	<p>SUSTAINABILITY THEME</p> <p><i>Environment</i></p>	<p>Unchanged</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>OBJECTIVES</p> <p>The objective of this policy is to outline the City of Greater Geraldton’s commitment to addressing climate change through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledging causes and understanding its impacts in a local, regional, and international context. • Reducing green-house emissions through sustainable decision-making and actions. • Developing appropriate adaptation strategies. 	<p>OBJECTIVE</p> <p>The objective of this policy is to outline the City’s commitment to addressing climate change through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledging causes and understanding its impacts in a local, regional, and international context. • Reducing green-house emissions through sustainable decision-making and actions. • Developing appropriate adaptation strategies. 	<p>Unchanged – content is current.</p> <p><i>Note: the new Council Policy template has ‘City’ as a Key Term Definition. Therefore all references to ‘City of Greater Geraldton’ have been changed throughout the proposed content to ‘City’.</i></p>	<p>None</p>
<p>POLICY STATEMENT</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Local Government Act 1995 states:</p> <p>“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”.</p> <p>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 considered to be a climate emergency.</p>	<p>POLICY STATEMENT</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Local Government Act 1995 states:</p> <p>“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”.</p> <p>The City recognises that it has an ethical obligation and an opportunity to play a leadership role for addressing the impacts of what it has declared as a climate emergency.</p>	<p>Recognition that the City has declared a climate emergency (NM15 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy – 15 December 2020).</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>POLICY DETAILS</p> <p>1. Climate Change – Causes</p> <p>The City of Greater Geraldton recognises that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels today are higher than at any point in at least the past 800,000 years. The last time the atmospheric CO₂ 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. 	<p>POLICY DETAILS</p> <p>1. Climate Change – Causes</p> <p>The City recognises that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels today are higher than at any point in at least the past 800,000 years. The last time the atmospheric CO₂ 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. 	<p>Section 1. Unchanged – content is current.</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>2. Mitigating Climate Change – Emission Reductions</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"> • Reducing its operational greenhouse gas emissions. • Supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the community. • Contributing towards agreed national emission reduction targets. • Using appropriate research frameworks and data to inform its own strategies, decision-making, and leadership activities. • Encouraging and supporting community and business in the transition towards sustainable lifestyles that reduce climate change impacts. 	<p>2 Mitigating Climate Change – Emission Reductions</p> <p>The City acknowledges that meeting emission reduction targets is ongoing. No single policy measure or technology provides the solution to climate change. The City is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing its operational greenhouse gas emissions. • Supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the community. • Contributing towards agreed national emission reduction targets. • Using appropriate research frameworks and data to inform its own strategies, decision-making, and leadership activities. • Encouraging the community and business to transition towards sustainable lifestyles that reduce their climate change impacts. 	<p>Section 2. Changed wording in dot-point 2 and dot-point 5 to better reflect that the community and business have a stake in reducing in reducing their impacts on climate change.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>3. Adapting to Climate Change – Collaborative Action</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"> • Supporting the establishment of institutions and regulations that ensure effective, action by stakeholders for climate change management. • Developing individuals, communities, and businesses to understand and adapt to the impacts of climate change. • Ensuring that planning, investment, and project decisions take into consideration the likely impact of climate change through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including the impact on current and future human settlements, natural resources, and ecosystems. ○ Assessing the adaptive capacity of the plan, investment, or project. 	<p>3. Adapting to Climate Change – Collaborative Action</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 is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting research that assists in effective action by all stakeholders in climate change management. • Informing individuals, communities and businesses to understand the impacts of climate change and the role they play in adapting to it. • Ensuring that planning, investment, and project decisions take into consideration the likely impact of climate change through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including the impact on current and future human settlements, natural resources, and ecosystems. ○ Assessing the adaptive capacity of the plan, investment, or project. 	<p>Section 3. Changed wording to dot point 1. Institutions have now been established (eg Bushfire Centre of Excellence, National Emergency Management Agency, etc) to improve climate changes management. The wording has been changed to reflect that the City is in a place to support and be involved with these institutions.</p> <p>Section 3. Changed wording in dot-point 2. It better reflects that the community and business have a stake in reducing in reducing their impacts on climate change.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>4. Resilience to Climate Change – Equity and Social Justice</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"> • Advocating that the burden of reducing greenhouse emissions must be equitably dispersed. • Supporting development of policies and strategies that identify and minimise the impacts of climate change. • Working with State and Commonwealth governments to resource mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building measures within the community. 	<p>4. Resilience to Climate Change – Equity and Social Justice</p> <p>The City acknowledges that the impacts of climate change and policy responses have significant equity implications. The City is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating that the burden of reducing greenhouse emissions must be equitably dispersed. • Supporting development of policies and strategies that identify and minimise the impacts of climate change. • Working with State and Commonwealth governments to resource mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building measures within the community. 	<p>Section 4. Unchanged – content is current.</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>5. Climate Change Action – Priorities</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"> Reducing greenhouse emissions through sustainable decision-making and actions. Considering a pathway towards a zero-carbon community; Reviewing and updating its climate change adaptation actions; Minimising climate change risks to its operations/communities; Working with State and Commonwealth Governments to plan and implement appropriate strategies. 	<p>5. Climate Change Action – Priorities</p> <p>The management of climate change impacts must reflect the priorities of the City and its community. The City is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing greenhouse emissions through sustainable decision-making and actions. Addressing the priorities of the City's achieving net-zero plan. Reviewing and updating its coastal hazard and risk mitigation and adaptation plan. Working with State and Commonwealth Governments to plan and implement appropriate strategies. 	<p>Section 5. Updated priorities to reflect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the City's net-zero plan. Upcoming need to review and update the City's CHRMAP. 	<p>None</p>
<p>KEY TERM DEFINITIONS</p> <p>Adaptation means modifying decisions, activities, and ways of thinking to adjust to a changing climate.</p> <p>Adaptive capacity means the ability to adjust to climate change, taking advantage of opportunities, and coping with the consequences.</p> <p>Climate change 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>Mitigation means ways of reducing the causes of climate change by reducing emissions.</p> <p>Resilience means the ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning</p>	<p>KEY TERM DEFINITIONS</p> <p>Adaptation means modifying decisions, activities, and ways of thinking to adjust to a changing climate.</p> <p>Adaptive capacity means the ability to adjust to climate change, taking advantage of opportunities, and coping with the consequences.</p> <p>City means City of Greater Geraldton</p> <p>Climate change 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>Mitigation means ways of reducing the causes of climate change by reducing emissions.</p> <p>Resilience means the ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning</p>	<p>Inclusion in new Council Policy template of 'City' Key Term Definition.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>This policy applies to everyone who's actions could impact or influence climate change.</p>	<p>ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>This policy applies to everyone who's actions could impact or influence climate change.</p>	<p>Unchanged – content is current</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>WORKPLACE INFORMATION</p> <p><i>Local Government Act 1995</i></p> <p>Geraldton Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan</p> <p>Batavia Region of Councils Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan</p> <p>Council Policy 1.1 Towards Sustainable Decisions</p> <p>Council Policy 3.2 Coastal Adaptation</p>	<p>WORKPLACE INFORMATION</p> <p><i>Local Government Act 1995</i></p> <p>Western Australia Climate Change Policy</p> <p>Achieving Net Zero – Corporate Climate Changes Mitigation Plan</p> <p>Geraldton Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan</p> <p>Batavia Region of Councils Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan</p> <p>Council Policy 3.2 Coastal Adaptation</p>	<p>Workplace information updated to reflect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption by Council of <i>Achieving Net Zero – Corporate Climate Changes Mitigation Plan</i>. (IS252 City of Greater Geraldton Climate Mitigation Plan – 23 November 2021). Western Australian government's publication of a Climate Change Policy for Western Australia. Removed reference to Council Policy 1.1 which was retired in 2021 (27 JULY 2021 - IS237 COUNCIL POLICY 1.1 TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DECISIONS) 	<p>None</p>

POLICY ADMINISTRATION				
Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Infrastructure Services		Manager Engineering Services	Biennial	2023
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis		
3.	IS234 25/05/2021	Policy Review		

POLICY ADMINISTRATION				
Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Infrastructure Services		Manager Climate, Environment and Waste	Biennial	2025
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis		
4.	TBC	Policy Review		