

1. SCOPE

- 1.1 The Policy applies to all actions and decisions taken by Councillors; Council personnel; and any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of Council, working on Council premises or facilities, or delivering Council activities.
- 1.2 It is the personal responsibility of all persons and agents described at (1.1) to understand and comply with the Policy.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- (a) enable Waratah-Wynyard Council to demonstrate leadership on corporate sustainability, community sustainability and climate action;
- (b) define Council's commitment to mitigating climate change and managing the risks associated with climate change;
- (c) define Council's commitment to partnering with the Waratah-Wynyard community on sustainability and climate issues; and
- (d) embed environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation principles into Council's strategic decision making, processes and operations.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

- 3.1 Council accepts the science behind current climate change projections and makes decisions based on legislation, level of risk and the best available scientific evidence and advice.
- 3.2 Council considers sustainability, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation to be 'whole-of-Council' responsibilities. As such, Council will measure and progressively reduce resource consumption and Council's carbon footprint across the whole of its operations.
- 3.3 Council commits to transparency and accountability in tracking and sharing its progress towards its sustainability goals.
- 3.4 Council recognises that the risks to property and assets associated with natural hazards (for example, bushfire, flood, coastal erosion and inundation) are the responsibility of the landowners, and Council encourages and supports individuals and businesses to understand such risks.
- 3.5 Council will ensure the purpose and objectives of this Policy is achieved by:
 - (a) follow the guiding principles and implement the actions outlined within the Integrated Council Environmental Plan 2020-2030 (iCEP);
 - (b) setting a corporate target for net zero emissions and developing a plan for the ongoing measurement of corporate emissions to aid in tracking progress against the target;
 - (c) effectively respond (where there is no permit for that type of activity) to increasing pressures on the physical environment, such as climate change, pollution, invasive species, land degradation and land development;
 - (d) build capacity within and partner with the community, other tiers of government and relevant stakeholders to protect the environment and Aboriginal heritage values, to share information and promote effective action;

DOC NO: ENV.001	VERSION NO: 6	APPROVAL DATE: 17 May 2021	Page 1 of 2
CONTROLLER: General Manager	APPROVED BY: COUNCIL	REVIEW DATE: 1 May 2025	

- (e) encouraging a culture of environmental sustainability and climate change awareness amongst its staff and the community;
- (f) creating an Environmental Advisory Committee that will operate at a strategic level to offer input on environmental sustainability issues where appropriate;
- (g) valuing a collaborative approach to decision making by partnering with the community, businesses and other stakeholders where appropriate to share information, draw on local knowledge, enhance sustainability, recover biodiversity, support adaptation and promote climate readiness;
- (h) being an active contributor to regional and State-level climate initiatives;
- (i) advocating for regional collaboration, effective environmental management and other climate action initiatives;
- (j) promoting community adaption and resilience to reduce the negative impacts of a changing climate on health and wellbeing;
- (k) applying a risk-management approach to infrastructure, land-use and asset planning to reduce the impact of climate change on the environment; and
- (l) supporting local business and industry to understand community concerns and emerging economic risks and opportunities in a changing climate.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Local Government Act 1993

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993

Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994

Natural Resource Management Act 2002

Biosecurity Act 2019

REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Waratah-Wynyard Council 10-Year Corporate Strategic Plan 2017-2027

Waratah-Wynyard Integrated Council Environmental Plan (iCEP) 2020-30

Waratah-Wynyard Strategic Asset Management Plan

Waratah-Wynyard and Circular Head Councils Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2024

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan

Climate Action 21: Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan

The Paris Agreement (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change)