

1. RATIONALE

Changes to Australia's climate are being accelerated by human activity. It has been projected that:

- average temperatures will continue to increase with fewer cold extremes and longer and more intense heatwaves
- annual rainfall will decrease while extreme rainfall events that lead to flooding are likely to become more intense
- our region will experience more frequent and extreme fire danger days
- sea levels will continue to rise throughout and beyond the 21st Century with our oceans warming and become more acidic.

It is widely acknowledged that action is required to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Marion recognises the importance of climate change; the impact of human activity on the composition of the global atmosphere; and the urgent need to mitigate the production of greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

3. OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this Policy are:

- To incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation into strategic and operational activity, and when exercising statutory responsibilities and regulatory powers.
- To support residents, businesses, and local ecosystems to build resilience and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.
- To work in collaboration with regional partners and the wider community to mitigate against climate change.

4. POLICY SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Scope

This Policy sets Council's commitment to respond to climate change and applies to all Council strategic and operational activity. This includes but is not limited to management of Council assets and infrastructure, urban greening, tree management, urban planning and development, community support, and economic development.

Implementation

Council's approach to climate change includes, but is not limited to:

- 4.1 **Evidence-based strategic and operational activity** (founded on the most recent International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports, whilst recognising the need for flexibility to adapt as scientific knowledge and climate models improve) to

address climate change, support informed decision-making, and facilitate a change to a low carbon economy in support of global targets to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius.

4.2 **Mitigation and adaptation** to climate change impacts through:

- statutory responsibilities and regulatory powers relating to land use planning, asset and infrastructure management, environmental planning, environmental protection, and natural resource management
- Council operations that consider climate change and its potential impacts and incorporate appropriate mitigation and adaptation into all relevant operational activity. The City of Marion has set a target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 for its own operations.

4.3 **Community support** through:

- support services to vulnerable members of our community
- education initiatives that raise awareness about climate risks, hazards and opportunities
- encouraging behaviour change to increase community mitigation and adaptation efforts and help build resilience to changes in our climate
- supporting volunteers and community groups to deliver projects that build resilience to climate change.

4.4 **Partnering** through the Resilient South Regional Climate Partnership and with our partners at a state and federal level to increase the resilience of our communities to climate change and support appropriate policies and strategies for a low carbon economy.

5. DEFINITIONS

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
<i>Adaptation</i>	Taking action to avoid, withstand or benefit from current and projected climate changes and impacts.
<i>Climate change</i>	Refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.
<i>Greenhouse gas</i>	A gas in an atmosphere that absorbs and emits radiation within the thermal infrared range. This process is the fundamental cause of the greenhouse effect. The primary greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere are water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) can be emitted through transport, land clearance, and the production and consumption of food, fuels, manufactured goods, materials, wood, roads, buildings, and services. For simplicity of

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
	reporting, GHG emissions are often expressed in terms of the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide or carbon emissions.
<i>Low carbon economy</i>	An economy based on low carbon power sources that therefore has a minimal output of greenhouse gas emissions into the environment. Can also be referred to as 'low-fossil-fuel economy' or 'decarbonised economy'.
<i>Mitigation</i>	Taking action to reduce or prevent emission of greenhouse gases and/or to increase the amounts of greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere. Can also be referred to as 'Abatement'.
<i>Resilience</i>	The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organisation, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

<i>Role</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<i>Environment Sustainability Team</i>	Coordinate the implementation of this Policy across Council.

7. REFERENCES

City of Marion

Community Vision: Towards 2040 (adopted 26 July 2016)

Strategic Plan 2019 – 2029 (endorsed August 2019)

Business Plan 2019 – 2023 (endorsed June 2019)

Environmental Policy (endorsed November 2019)

Carbon Neutral Plan, 2020 – 2030

Other

Resilient South Regional Climate Partnership (www.resilientsouth.com)

8. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The Manager Engineering, Assets & Environment reviews this Policy every four years (or earlier if required) in accordance with the City of Marion Policy Framework. Council approves this Policy.