

Policy 3.07 Climate Change

Directorate	Community, Environment and Planning
Responsible Officer	Director Community Environment and Planning

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Record of Administrative Amendments

<u>Amendment Version No.:</u>	<u>Description of Administrative Amendment</u>	<u>Date Reviewed</u>
3.2	Review of policy in accordance with Section 165 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> Placed on Public Exhibition 23 July 2025	July 2025
3.1	Review of policy in accordance with Section 165 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> Workshopped by Councillors on 4 June 2025	June 2025
3	Adopted by Council (D22/79481)	17/08/2022

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

Bega Valley Shire Council has a leadership role in mitigating, adapting and planning for the effects of climate change and in doing so aims to provide guidance and inspiration for the broader community. Council acknowledges that early action to address climate change will be less costly than delaying action and will improve outcomes. Early action will allow Council to more effectively adapt to changing environmental, social and economic conditions and create a more sustainable and resilient local community.

The scope of this policy demonstrates direct commitment to the following strategic guiding principles:

- [Accountable | Commitment to risk management and proactive consultation and engagement organisation wide](#)
- [Transparent | Decision making processes are clearly outlined, including how a decision is made and who is involved](#)
- [Responsive | Commitment to serve the needs of the entire community](#)
- [Effective and Efficient | Clear connection between policy and implementation](#)

1.2 Purpose

- To provide a strategic framework that is consistent with a whole of government and whole of Council approach that assists Council and the community to effectively prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.
- To guide the development of adaptation and mitigation actions and strategies as a sustainable response to climate change that will also inform Council's planning processes, internal activities, land and asset management, and stakeholder engagement activities. All such adaptation and mitigation strategies and actions will support the known environmental, economic, social and cultural values of the local community.

1.3 Definitions

Nil

2 Legislation

Local Government Act 1993

Environmental Planning [and](#) Assessment Act 1979

Coastal Management Act 2016

3 Implementation

3.1 Policy statement

Bega Valley Shire Council will address climate change in a systematic manner by:

- recognising the leadership role of Local Government to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and effectively managing climate change impacts at a local level. This is specifically related to its statutory responsibilities in land use and environmental planning, environment protection and natural resource management
- advocating for climate change action and responses that support the local government sector and the communities it represents
- considering climate change and potential impacts in all aspects of Council's activities and operations with appropriate actions to be included in Council's delivery program, operational plan and related strategies. These actions will also be based upon the legal requirements, relevant government guidelines, the unique role of local government and advice from Council's insurer
- seeking to partner locally, regionally and more broadly on projects, research and funding which brings further understanding and value to Council's responsibilities and ~~to~~ the community's needs.
- measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and setting appropriate targets to reduce them while also supporting actions that lead to an increased understanding of climate change and its impacts.
- working actively in the local region to adapt to climate change by incorporating climate change considerations in asset and hazard management and the management of the shire's natural landscapes and ecology
- looking for economic opportunities from climate change mitigation and adaptation, and seeking to build a resilient economy which supports sustainable and strong communities
- engaging with government incentives and programs to assist carbon neutral development within the shire.

3.2 Responsibilities

3.2.1 Elected Council

Ensure decision making considers the principles outlined in this policy.

3.2.2 Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Leadership Executive Group (LEG)

Ensure all directorates actively work to implement Council's Climate Resilience Strategy and identify opportunities for climate adaptation and mitigation as part of their operations.

3.2.3 All Directorates

Implement the key actions from Council's Climate Resilience Strategy and identify opportunities for further climate adaptation and mitigation opportunities in all Council decision making, operations and service provision.

3.2.4 Environment and Sustainability section

Actively work across Council to drive the implementation of the Climate Resilience Strategy.

4 Supporting documents

4.1.1 BVSC procedures that relate to this policy

Procedure No.:	Procedure Name	External or Internal Procedure

Procedure No.:	Procedure Name	External or Internal Procedure
Not Applicable	Climate Resilience Strategy 2050	External
Not Applicable	Clean Energy Plan 2019 – 2030	External

4.1.2 BVSC policies that relate to this policy

Policy No.:	Policy Name
Policy No.:	Policy Name
3.01	Development Administration
3.02	Environment Management
3.03	Soil and Water Management
<u>3.14</u>	<u>Flood and sea level rise</u>
4.03	Public Regulation
4.05	Enforcement and Compliance

Note: Policy details may change from time to time. To ensure you are viewing the most recent version please view Council's adopted Policies and Procedures on the Council website: www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au