

	COUNCIL	POLICY NUMBER
	Climate Change Adaptation Policy	C 012
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	APPROVED	REVIEW DUE
General Manager	24 October 2012	October 2014

1.0 DESCRIPTION OF POLICY

Tasman Council is committed to finding practical and effective ways to inform and increase understanding of climate change and address climate change risks within the municipality within its financial and other regulatory limits. This includes managing climate change risks to natural systems and the built environment within the municipality.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

Tasman Council will ensure that the objectives of the climate change policy are incorporated into strategic planning and decision making processes and operations of Council and will participate in annual reviews and updates of the Tasman Council Corporate Adaptation Plan.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENT

The Tasman Council with regard to climate change will:

- Inform and increase the awareness and understanding of local communities on climate change and its change impacts, and the roles and responsibilities of communities, the Council, State and Australian governments and other stakeholders in adapting and responding to climate change.
- Plan for and manage Tasman Council's adaptation to the impacts of climate change on Council infrastructure, assets and services.
- Review and update as required the Tasman Council Strategic Plan, Annual Plan, Risk Management Strategy and relevant strategic council documents to identify and respond to key climate risks and vulnerabilities identified through the Tasman Council Corporate Adaptation Plan and other relevant processes and reports as they become available.
- Implement and review the Tasman Council Corporate Adaptation Plan annually and contribute to the review and update of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Regional Action Plan.
- Establish collaborative partnerships with other councils, key stakeholders and other tiers of government that strengthens the Council's responses to climate change.
- Collaborate and cooperate with the southern councils in climate change adaptation through platforms such as the Regional Climate Change Initiative and other opportunities as they may arise.

Background

Tasman Council recognises that there has been a recordable change in the climate of the Tasman municipality. Long-term average temperatures have risen in the decades since the 1950s, at a rate similar to the rest of Tasmania (up to 0.1 °C per decade). Sea level has been rising at a rate of 3.3 ±0.4 mm/year in the recent period, and are expected to continue rising with further climate warming (Climate Futures for Tasmania). The municipality is likely to experience climate impacts that affect our community and industries. Strategic planning along with and community awareness will help prepare for longer term impacts.

The Policy has been developed to assist with the incorporation of the Tasman Council Climate Change Adaptation Plan ("the Plan") into current documents and system processes.

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The aim of the Regional Councils Climate Adaptation Project is to strengthen the capacity of councils to identify climate impacts and vulnerabilities and then to develop suitable responses and processes to address these. Two documents have been developed to help southern councils achieve this:

- Regional Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Strategy) Southern Tasmanian 2012-2017; and
- Tasman Council Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

A Plan has been developed for each Southern Council. The Tasman Plan proposes 25 actions to address priority climate change risks, and will act as an operational document for staff and management. It is a first step in integrating climate change risk adaptation into council processes and will be reviewed and updated.

4.0 REFERENCES:

- Tasman Council Corporate Adaptation Plan
- Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Regional Action Plan, Southern Tasmania 2012-2017
- Tasman Council Strategic Plan 2011-2016
- Local Climate Profile – Tasman Municipality, adapted from Climate Futures for Tasmanian Technical report.

Adopted by resolution number 12/10.2012/C of Tasman Council dated 24 October 2012.



Robert Higgins
General Manager