Directorate
Planning and Environment Group

Responsible Officer
Manager | Environmental Services

Scope
Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) has a leadership role in mitigating, adapting and planning for 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.

Purpose

- To provide a strategic framework that is consistent with a whole of government and whole of Council approach, which assists Council and the community to effectively prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.
- To ensure the purpose and policy statements of the Climate Change Policy are reflected and incorporated into planning and decision making processes and the operations of Council.
- 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.

Definitions
Nil

Legislative requirements

Local Government Act 1993
Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979
Coastal Management Act (2016) Proposed

Policy Statement
Bega Valley Shire Council will address the matter of ‘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.
- Advocate 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 action/management plan and climate change programs.
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.

Looking 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 set appropriate targets to reduce them whilst 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 seek 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.
Policy 3.07 Climate Change
Version: 2
Adopted: 29 November 2017
Next review: May 2021

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Policy Version Control

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<td>3.07</td>
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<td>Sustainable Living</td>
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| Goal(s)      | 1. Our air and water is pristine and our natural environment and rural landscapes are protected.  
2. We are leaders in sustainable living and support innovative approaches to resource recovery and the production of renewable energy and food. |
| Responsible Officer | Manager | Environmental Services |
| Version       | 2              |
| Adopted       | 29 November 2017 |
| Next revision | May 2021       |

Related BVSC policies

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Note: Policy details may change prior to review date due to legislative changes. For the most up-to-date version please refer to Council’s website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au