

10.2. Climate Change Response Tactics - Response to Council Resolution

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ATTACHMENTS	1. Climate Change Response Strategic Document Summary [10.2.1 - 5 pages]
CSP LINK	1. Our Living Environment 1.1 Protected, enhanced and biodiverse natural environment 1.2 Environmentally sustainable community 2. Our Built Infrastructure 2.1 Infrastructure and assets meet diverse community needs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to respond to the Council resolution of 12 December 2022 regarding climate change response tactics, focusing on how Council can provide help and aid in response to the health and safety issues from the impact of future extreme natural disasters.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Council has several strategic documents and programs that address both the hazards and risks associated with climate change, and list actions to be taken to mitigate the impacts.
- Listed actions relate to improving the resilience of our built infrastructure and natural environment to reduce climate change impacts in the community.
- Council has an opportunity to strengthen community preparedness through coordinated resilience planning.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received.
2. **THAT** Council explore grant opportunities with a view to developing a Resilience Plan in 2024/25.

Background

Council resolved at its meeting of 12 December 2022:

THAT a report be prepared, using old reports when needed, on all policies, plans and strategies regarding Climate Change response tactics, focusing on how Council can provide help and aid in response to the health and safety issues from the impact of future extreme natural disasters.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt. More frequent and intense heatwaves, droughts, floods, and storms are causing significant damage to infrastructure, property, and natural environments, as well as negatively impacting the health and well-being of our community members.

Resilience planning is a process that communities can undertake to identify potential hazards and threats, and then establish adaptation, mitigation, and recovery plans to minimise impacts and ensure systems can get back to normal quickly.

Report

Council has several strategic documents and programs that address both the hazards and risks associated with climate change, and list actions to be taken to mitigate the impacts (see Attachment 1). Examples include floodplain management plans to reduce flood risk, urban forest strategy and greening programs to increase shade and reduce the urban heat island effect, emergency management plans to respond to extreme weather events, and energy and water conservation and efficiency programs to reduce the demand on resources. The actions listed in these strategies and plans aim to reduce the impacts of climate change and build climate resilience in our communities.

Council's overarching Community Strategic Plan 2040 seeks to build an environmentally sustainable community as well as built infrastructure and assets that meet diverse community needs, promote resilience, and plan for and respond to large-scale emergencies. The Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 sets targets for Council operations and the North Sydney community to achieve environmental sustainability and reduce and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Supplementary strategies and plans including the Urban Forest Strategy, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, Street Tree Strategy, and the Bushland Plan of Management list actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change through reducing the impacts of the urban heat island effect, improving flood risk and stormwater drainage, reducing energy use, and improving air quality, all which have a positive impact on human health.

Further, the Mosman-North Sydney Local Emergency Management Plan details the arrangements for, prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies within the Mosman and North Sydney Local Government Areas. This document lists the appropriate emergency services in the area and their associated roles in response to

emergency management including climate change related events such as heatwaves, flooding, and storms.

Councils' strategic documents do, in effect, outline actions for addressing climate change impacts and emergency procedures for natural hazard events, however there is an opportunity to strengthen community preparedness through coordinated resilience planning.

Resilience Planning

Planning for community preparedness in response to extreme events is an emerging field in local government, with a shift toward comprehensive and coordinated resilience planning.

In recent years, several local Councils in the region have employed resilience officers to create and implement resilience plans that cover both climate resilience and other resilience areas such as social, health, and governance in response to acute shocks and stressors. Our neighbouring Councils of Lane Cove and Willoughby are two such local Councils that have employed resilience officers and adopted resilience plans. A brief overview of both is provided below.

Lane Cove Resilience Plan

Following the 2019 climate emergency declaration, Lane Cove Council was successful in obtaining grant funding to employ a Resilience Officer and develop a Resilience Plan. The focus of the plan is on climate resilience and contains a Climate Shocks vs Stress risk matrix. The matrix provides weighted scores which link to financial and service/program delivery consequences.

The plan developed five goals and associated targets that aim to build climate resilience in the community, buildings, urban open space, natural environment, and within Council. There are 51 actions listed in the plan with approximately 70% of the actions taken from existing Council strategies and plans, with 30% new actions.

Resilient Willoughby Strategy and Action Plan

The Resilient Willoughby Strategy and Action Plan outlines how Willoughby City Council and its partners can support the community to overcome acute shocks and chronic stresses to thrive in the 21st century. It describes current challenges facing the community and recommends ways to strengthen resilience in the short and long term. The Plan deals with broader resilience topics that are not solely specific to climate change including housing stress, social isolation, loneliness, cyber-attacks, and pandemics, among other issues.

The plan delivers a prioritised action plan with 20 new Council actions across four resilience areas to address resilience gaps and emerging challenges. The focus areas include people, buildings, places, and governance. These new actions complement the suite of existing activities currently being implemented in existing strategies and plans to strengthen resilience in the community and environment.

Options

Council has the following options in relation to this matter:

1. Take no action.
2. Seek grant funding to develop a North Sydney Resilience Plan.
3. Update existing strategic documents to strengthen community preparedness to respond to climate change events.

These options are assessed in the table below.

Option	Finance/Resourcing	Risk/Opportunity	Consultation
1.	No additional funds or resourcing is necessary. Actions will be delivered as per existing relevant strategies and plans.	Risk that the relevant strategies and plans do not adequately address community preparedness.	Not applicable
2.	A dedicated Resilience Plan for North Sydney would require \$100,000 in funding and may require further ongoing funding to resource actions. External grant funded opportunities need to be identified.	Responses to impacts of climate change hazards and risks are coordinated, revised, and actioned holistically. Can incorporate other actions from external documents such as Resilient Sydney. Risk that external funding opportunities are not available.	Community consultation will be necessary on new plan.
3.	Budget and staff time set aside to ensure existing strategies/plans include response to climate change events when reviewed or updated.	Risk that review could be undertaken in an inadequate timeframe. Opportunity that strategies/plans are updated to include appropriate response.	Internal consultation across departments to ensure appropriate response measures are integrated.

Option 2, is recommended for the following reasons:

- To develop a comprehensive Resilience Plan for North Sydney, significant funding will be required.
- Responses to the impacts of climate change hazards and risks are coordinated, revised, and actioned holistically.
- Consultation will ensure appropriate evaluation and feedback measures are incorporated.

Consultation requirements

Community engagement is not required at this stage.

Financial/Resource Implications

The recommendation relies on Council receiving grant funding.

Appendix 1

Council Strategies and Plans with climate change responses

Strategy	Summary	Policy Objective/Actions	Status
Community Strategic Plan 2040	<p>The CSP 2040 seeks to achieve environmental, social, economic and governance outcomes that strengthen the community to achieve a shared vision for North Sydney.</p> <p>The CSP lists sustainability as a guiding principle of all the strategic directions.</p>	<p><u>Direction 1 – Our Living Environment</u></p> <p>1.2 Environmentally sustainable community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce strain on natural resources through sustainable energy, water and waste reduction practices • Deliver the declaration to reduce the drivers of climate change and to prepare for the inevitable impacts to come. <p><u>Direction 2 – Our Built Infrastructure</u></p> <p>2.1 Infrastructure and assets meet diverse community needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote resilience and plan for and respond to large scale emergencies 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 (2021)	Sets targets for Council operations and the North Sydney community to achieve environmental sustainability and reduce and mitigate the impacts of climate change.	Includes 7 target areas with 120 actions. All actions aim to minimise and mitigate the impacts of climate change in the North Sydney community.	Ongoing
Urban Forest Strategy (2019)	Recognises an urban forest as a primary component of the urban ecosystem and emphasises the role they play in significantly reducing the urban heat	Develop and implement an Urban Forest Education program to convey to all stakeholders the value and importance of urban forest.	Not yet started

	<p>island effect and managing stormwater impacts.</p> <p>Impacts on public health, air quality, flooding and energy use can be mitigated through increasing urban canopy cover.</p>	<p>Regularly assess the North Sydney Urban Forest canopy cover using aerial imagery.</p> <p>Assess and prioritise any new planting sites identified</p> <p>Develop and implement an Urban Forest Incentives program to encourage and reward community members that contribute to the urban forest vision.</p> <p>Maintain a range of age classes within the urban forest across all land use and land tenure zones by planting adequate numbers of new trees each year.</p> <p>Use data from aerial canopy assessments and street tree audits to identify potential planting locations across the LGA on both public and private land.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Not started</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Street Tree Strategy (2016)	<p>Provides the framework and guidelines to ensure that all existing street trees are managed in accordance with industry best practice, maximising their benefits to the North Sydney Community.</p> <p>Outlines the environmental benefits of street trees and the role they play in reducing temperatures and impacts of the urban heat island effect, erosion, wind tunnel effects, and pollution.</p>	<p>To ensure that all new trees are appropriately located to maximise benefits to the community and minimise any negative impacts</p> <p>To ensure that all new trees are appropriately maintained during their establishment phase to maximise survival rates</p> <p>To ensure that all trees removed are replaced with an appropriate new tree where-ever there is sufficient space, and that such replacement occurs in a timely and efficient manner.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

		To ensure that all development works within the North Sydney Council area take into consideration the protection of existing street trees	Ongoing
Local Strategic Planning Statement (LPS) 2020	The LSPS 2020 sets out Council's land use vision, planning principles, priorities, and actions until 2040. It also outlines the desired future direction for housing, employment, transport, recreation, environment and infrastructure for North Sydney LGA. The LSPS guides the content of the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan (NSLEP) and the Development Control Plan (DCP).	<p><u>Sustainability</u></p> <p>S1 – Protect and enhance North Sydney's natural environment and biodiversity. Improve North Sydney's bushland reserves and waterways and promote biological diversity to support a healthy environment.</p> <p>S2 – Provide a high quality, well connected and integrated urban greenspace system. Improve North Sydney's open space network and tree canopy cover to support a healthy environment and community wellbeing.</p> <p>S3 – Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy, water and waste. Develop buildings and places that will contribute to net-zero emissions by 2050 to mitigate climate change, reduce waste generation, energy and water usage.</p> <p>S4 – Increase North Sydney's resilience against natural and urban hazards. Minimise risks to people, buildings and infrastructure from flooding, coastal inundation and erosion, contaminated land, bushfire, pollution and urban heat island effect.</p>	
Bushland Plan of Management (2022)	Biodiversity focus. Identifies impacts of climate change on natural bushland environment but	To employ sustainable management practices and achieve ongoing ecological improvement	Ongoing

	doesn't outline the importance of bushland reserves as a contributor to overall urban forest canopy and positive environmental benefits of reducing urban heat island effect.	To improve the quality of the bushland in North Sydney through stormwater improvement works. To use fire as a management tool to maintain the biodiversity of the bushland in North Sydney and to reduce hazard.	Ongoing Ongoing
Mosman-North Sydney Local Emergency Management Plan	The purpose of this plan is to detail arrangements for, prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies within the Local Government Area(s) covered by this plan. Document lists the appropriate emergency services in the area and their associated roles in response to emergency management. Includes climate change related events such as heatwaves, flooding and storms.	Emergency Managers use the information to assist them in the development of Consequence Management Guides, site specific emergency plans and response priorities. Consequence management guides have been produced to assist emergency managers and agencies and outline the agreed responsibilities and activities agencies will undertake for the set of circumstances and define operational objectives and priorities for initial response and recovery.	
Resilient Sydney – a strategy for city resilience 2018	Sets the direction needed to strengthen our ability to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of global uncertainty and local shocks and stresses. 5 yr strategy. North Sydney is a member Council of the Resilient Sydney network and uses the actions in the plan to inform internal strategies and programming.	<u>Direction 2- Live with our climate</u> Policy and action to cool homes and streets Develop investment in resilient buildings, assets, precincts and cities Enable affordable access to renewable and resilient energy Adopt urban resilience in research and teaching curricula	

		<p>Measure metropolitan carbon emissions and report on progress</p> <p>Support a more flexible and resilient water cycle</p> <p>Reduce reliance on liquid fuel</p> <p><u>Direction 4 -Get Ready: We know how to Prepare, respond and recover.</u></p> <p>Pilot disaster preparedness program for councils</p> <p>Mapping vulnerabilities at a District planning level</p> <p>Develop a Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy</p> <p>Evaluate the community impacts of disasters</p> <p>Help communities to train and volunteer to prepare for disasters</p>	
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