



MEDIA RELEASE

23 August 2019

Improved access to climate change information

Information about how Council is addressing climate issues is now available on the Huon Valley Council website with the addition of a dedicated 'Climate Change' section:

huonvalley.tas.gov.au/services/climate-change

Huon Valley Council is committed to working with the community in the global movement to restore a healthy climate, and is taking practical steps and action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prepare for climate change impacts, and increase its investment into more sustainable solutions.

Rising temperatures threaten the health of our environment, people and economy now and in the future. In the Huon Valley we are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of rising temperatures, including sea level rise and the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including floods and bushfires.

"Technology is rapidly changing and customer expectations continue to grow," said Huon Valley Council Mayor Bec Enders. "At Council we are needing to respond to these challenges, adapting our short- and long-term plans as new climate information comes to hand. Our approach to climate change is not limited to municipal area level.

"Like bushfires, climate change has no barriers and municipal area boundaries become insignificant. This is why we continue to work collaboratively with the Regional Climate Change Initiative through the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) in developing a true regional approach, with our 12 southern councils, to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

"On the website you will find out about the pledges we have made under the Cities Power Partnership Program to work towards a sustainable energy future as a community. We have already made progress in the switch to renewable and more efficient sources of energy, having installed solar panels on Council buildings on Main Street, and having secured a major grant to install a fast-charging station for electric vehicles in the Huon Valley. This financial year Council will also purchase their first electric vehicle, further delivering on the pledges it has made.

"We have been doing a lot of work with the STCA and you can access the projects that we have been involved in via our website. The latest project is the Community Energy and

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Emissions Profile, which provides an up-to-date snapshot of our energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in the Huon Valley.

“Information on the new initiative of a Climate Change Consultative Group will be uploaded to this webpage very soon. This group will play an important part in informing the Climate Change Strategy. The Strategy will ensure our sustainability efforts are in line with our values and meeting community expectations.”

Development of Council’s Climate Change Strategy started in July 2019. The strategy will help planning around climate change action by:

- Assessing the risks and impacts of climate change
- Identifying the impacts of rising temperatures on our environment and ecosystems
- Highlighting priority areas for action
- Helping the community prepare for climate change impacts
- Incorporating input from the community and subject matter experts
- Identifying achievable response strategies and actions for reducing carbon emissions

“We are excited to have a community that care deeply about the welfare of our people and also are passionate about caring for the environment in which they live. It will be really important to develop good solutions that can be sustained and that also have a positive impact on the Huon Valley.

“Council has a critical role to play in raising awareness of climate issues and making sure our region is prepared to adapt to a changing climate. We look forward to working with and learning from our community about the steps they are taking to address climate change.

“People can keep up to date on how our climate change initiatives are progressing by checking our website at www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au.”

For more information: Mayor Bec Enders (03) 6264 0300

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