

The Mayor advised that the Council was no longer acting as a Planning Authority as at 7.58pm.

Title	DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY – PART A MITIGATION PLAN
Agenda Number	17.012/20*
Strategic Plan Reference	1
File Reference	02/73
Author	Manager Environmental Services
Responsible Officer	Manager Environmental Services
Reporting Brief	The Director Environment and Development Services presenting a report from the Manager Environmental Services on the draft Climate Change Strategy – Part A Mitigation Plan.
Attachments	A. Draft Climate Change Strategy – Part A Mitigation Plan

Background

1. In July 2019 Council endorsed a Climate Change Strategy project plan (17.026/19). This project plan included working closely with the Regional Climate Change Initiative and University of Tasmania, due to a large strategy template project funded by the Southern Tasmania Councils Authority. Since that time, the work to be conducted by the University of Tasmania has been delayed. As a result, the development of Council's strategy has been divided into two parts – Part A Mitigation Plan and Part B Adaptation Plan. This allows the mitigation plan to be delivered sooner while the benefits of working with the University of Tasmania on adaptation can still occur. Mitigation refers to actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while adaptation refers to actions to support adapting to the effects of climate change.
2. The development of the draft plan has drawn on customised reports for identifying opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as scientific literature and publicly available expert advice. A Greenhouse Gas Inventory completed earlier in 2020 provided the sources of Council's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, and the Huon Valley Community Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Footprint provided the breakdown of greenhouse gas emissions in the community. Short summaries of these two reports is provided in the draft plan. The draft actions are closely tied to these documents.
3. The purpose of this report is to present to Council a draft Climate Change Strategy – Part A Mitigation Plan for endorsement for public consultation.

Council Policy

4. Climate change is a broad reaching issue that cuts across environmental, social and financial considerations. These relate to all of the strategic objectives within the *Huon Valley Council Strategic Plan 2015 - 2025*.
5. Council identified a need to develop a Climate Change Strategy in March 2019 (15.008/19) and in May 2019 passed a motion that the development of this strategy commence in July 2019 (13.001/19).

Legislative Requirements

6. There are currently no explicit legislative obligations for Council to develop a climate change strategy. In a broader sense however the legal principles of negligence, duty of care, and appropriate risk management are clearly relevant to climate change. With increasing acceptance that climate change is a shared responsibility, including Local Government, it is prudent that Council take actions to address the risks arising from climate change. The development of a climate change strategy is a key step towards this action.

Risk Implications

7. As outlined above Council is potentially exposed to risks of not addressing risks arising from climate change, and should be cognisant of the principles of negligence, duty of care and appropriate risk management. The draft plan is a key step in identifying and prioritising actions to reduce risks to Council associated with potential obligations to reduce the contribution to greenhouse gases.
8. There is some risk that actions designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions may have unintended or negative impacts (e.g. a technology that is energy-intensive to manufacture or results in chemical pollution). Proposed actions have been well researched to help mitigate this risk and implementation of actions will be closely monitored. New research and additional information such as life cycle analysis research will be considered where available and regular updates of the plan will take place as appropriate.
9. There is a risk that some community members will not be happy with the draft plan and an understanding that some may believe it goes too far, whilst others may believe it does not go far enough. The use of key research as outlined above (including the HVC Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and the Huon Valley Community Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Footprint) has helped to guide the development of the most appropriate mitigation actions that are relevant to the Huon Valley Council and community emission sources. Every effort has been made to propose a balanced plan that provides for pragmatic and achievable actions that are targeted at the most appropriate emission sources. The community consultation process proposed below will also provide an opportunity for community members to provide their views on these matters.

Engagement

10. In preparing the draft plan for public consultation Council's Climate Change Strategy Consultative Group reviewed the document and provided feedback.
11. The draft plan was the subject of a Council workshop 2 June 2020.
12. It is proposed within this report that the draft plan be released for a community consultation at Consult Level for a period of three weeks.

Human Resource and Financial Implications

13. The implementation of the draft plan will require some human resources commitment. The actions are designed to be implemented by the responsible department, with the Manager Environmental Services providing specialised advice when necessary. This approach is considered best practice for sustainability and is more likely to result in climate change considerations becoming imbedded in Council operations.
14. Some actions will require external funding or capital to implement that is not currently budgeted for. The likely capacity and resources available to the Council have been taken into account when setting targets and timeframes. It is also recognised that some actions are likely to create longer term cost savings (e.g. energy efficiency measures).

Discussion

15. The draft Climate Change Strategy – Part A Mitigation Plan has been prepared using a range of best practice principles and research, including Huon Valley specific reports on the main sources of Council's, and the community's, greenhouse gas emissions.
16. The draft Strategy includes a summary of the key research; work undertaken to date; the strategic context; and targeted actions to reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions as well as support actions to assist the broader community to reduce their emissions.
17. Support has been provided through the Regional Climate Change Initiative (a committee of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority), University of Tasmania, and the Climate Change Strategy Consultative Group. The support of these groups will be drawn on further in the development of the Part B Adaptation Plan.

Conclusion and Recommendation

18. A draft Climate Change Strategy – Part A Mitigation Plan is attached and discussed within this report. It is recommended that the draft strategy be endorsed for a three-week community consultation period.

17.012/20*
RESOLVED

CR GIBSON

CR PRINCE

That:

- a) **The report on the draft Climate Change Strategy – Part A Mitigation Plan be received and noted.**
- b) **The draft Climate Change Strategy – Part A Mitigation Plan as included as Attachment A to this report is approved for community consultation for a three-week period.**

Councillors Enders, Doyle, Newell, Gibson, Campbell, Prince, Bird and O'May voted for the motion and no Councillors voted against the motion.