

Break O'Day
COUNCIL

Climate Change Action 2023



May 2023

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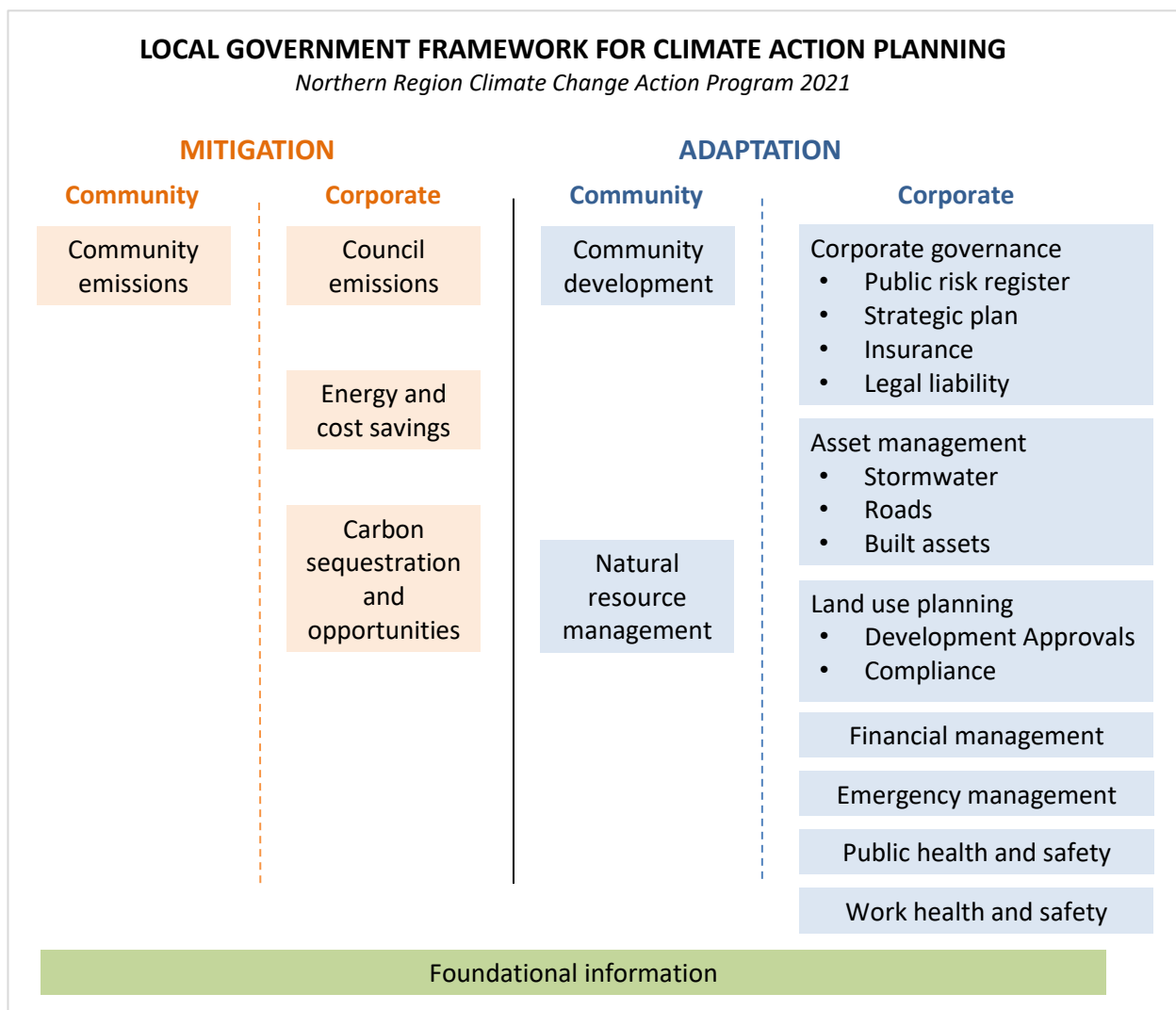
Climate change will affect Council and the people, families, businesses, economy and the natural environment of Break O'Day municipality.

Science has charted the development of climate change back over past decades and hundreds of years and is projecting impacts in the future, on higher or lower pathways depending on the action we all take now.

The two broad strategies for climate change action are *mitigation* and *adaptation*. Mitigation seeks to arrest greenhouse gas emissions and reduce global warming and its consequences. Adaptation is about responding to the present and future risks of impacts we face, how we plan to minimise future loss and harm, and recover as events unfold. The opportunities change can bring are also something to adapt to.

Climate change is a Key Focus Area of the Break O'Day Strategic Plan 2017-2027: *Understand, address and evaluate the challenges of Climate Change in Break O'Day and develop and implement mitigation strategies.*

This Climate Change Action Plan is the operational plan of activities Break O'Day Council it will undertake from 2023 for several years.



This plan focuses on where and how climate change affects Council's local government roles and functions. Council has a corporate responsibility to address how climate change affects it. It also has a leadership role, to support the wider community and industries with their responsibilities and the action they take.

This plan follows reviews in 2022 of the Break O'Day Strategic Plan 2017-2027 and of a 2013 climate change risk assessment, part of Council's Municipal Management Plan series. At the same time Council has been active in a new *Northern Climate Change Program* (NCCP) and with the other northern councils has committed to a three-year NCCP partnership.

Council staff have developed this plan with an interim coordinator for the NCCP. This regional partnership will continue to support Council and this plan. The specialist input and access to regional knowledge and influence NCCP provides will increase our capacity for the continuing action Break O'Day will need to take. The issues and activities in this plan lead to more work by Council and climate change action in the years and decades to come.

Climate actions

Councillors and Council's management team have important governance roles in this action plan.

- To provide leadership and support for the climate actions described below to be done and apply the results
- To oversee progress, measured on the Purpose and Outputs of the actions, to look to the next priorities and activities annually and to shape Break O'Day's longer-term climate change strategy.

This climate action governance will lead to stronger capacity and confidence within council and strategic direction on climate change action.

Implementation

The following actions address the climate change risks and challenges faced by the roles and functions Council already undertakes. The mitigation and adaptation responses council needs to make are within and across its operations, roles and functions, not separate from them.

Implementation of the actions will be by staff involved in those roles and functions, and with what time and space can be found to do the work over coming years. Priorities begin with the first-listed actions and will evolve as the plan and change climate issues progress. Council staff will be supported by the *Northern Climate Change Program*, its regional manager and knowledge networks. For example, by sharing tools for carbon emissions accounting developed by other councils to use here.

Through this plan's activities projects may emerge that Council will need external resources to implement. The last action - 'Project development' - provides a place for project proposals to be prepared and ready for funding and other resourcing opportunities.

1. Council carbon emissions

Council needs to do what it can to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and help control global warming.

Purpose	Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective greenhouse gas emissions reduction and energy efficiency initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a system for carbon emissions accounting and annual reporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council greenhouse gas emissions account and reporting.

2. Corporate risk and liability

Climate change will impact Council's responsibilities and functions and its material, financial and human assets.

Purpose	Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise corporate risk and loss due to climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the exposure of Council assets, governance and finance to climate change risks, referencing latest projections and industry guidance. Add new and amended climate change related hazards and risks to corporate Risk Register. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk and liabilities assessment Updated corporate Risk Register.

3. Asset Management

Climate change threatens Council properties, facilities, roads, infrastructure and the services they deliver.

Purpose	Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset management system that is climate-change ready Long term planning for vulnerable infrastructure and services investment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) methodology to include climate change risks Pilot/trial SAMP for climate adaptation planning on a 'precinct'/township scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAMP template and process Pilot SAMP on a precinct with vulnerable assets for a Climate Change Adaptation Infrastructure Management Plan.

4. Flood

Council has roles in avoiding flood risks and impacts through land use and development planning and, when floods happen, in emergency response and recovery.

Purpose	Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refined municipal flood risk mapping for development and land use planning Shared awareness and responsibility for future flood risks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project design to include stormwater infrastructure in municipal flood modelling, and brief for funding opportunities Review Council's prudent flood risk level for development planning and design Process for disclosure and sharing flood risk data and knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood modelling project priorities, scope and costing (ready for funding opportunity) Consistent process for sharing of flood risk information.

5. Fire

Bushfire is a significant threat for the municipality, managed primarily at state and private levels, with risks increasing due to climate change.

Purpose	Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council actions make the community safer from bushfire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review bushfire hazard management, future risks and Council roles - state agencies and land managers, effective planning and building controls, emergency management, and private landholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of priorities council can act on to meet future bushfire risks.

6. Heat stress

Heat stress is a threat nationally and was identified as a risk for Break O'Day to assess and plan for locally.

Purpose	Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooler, safer future living environments in heatwaves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat stress risks assessment and mitigation options (such as green infrastructure). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat stress risk mitigation priorities and action plan.

7. Community information and wellbeing

Council leadership will help our families, communities and economy meet their own climate change challenges.

Purpose	Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council facilitates a well informed and active community and business sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write Break O' Day's positive but responsible climate change action story Support community action on climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council climate change action guideline for community engagement and public communications Community actions and events.

8. Emergency Management

Local government has a role with national and state governments in the Emergency Management system and is closest to the community.

Purpose	Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Management anticipates climate change risks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change implications for emergency management considered in update of the Break O'Day Emergency Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Emergency Management Plan.

9. Community carbon emissions reduction

Households, businesses and services in Break O'Day have greenhouse gas emissions of their own to reduce.

Purpose	Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the low-emissions transition of the municipality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify climate change mitigation opportunities and challenges for industry, community and services in the municipality Promote funding and other opportunities for community emissions reduction actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation of carbon emissions reduction actions in the wider municipality.

10. Project development

Climate change actions in Break O'Day will often require major projects and need support and funding Council cannot afford on its own.

Purpose	Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding opportunities secured; mitigation and adaptation priorities achieved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and detail climate change action projects that would need external funding support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pipeline of significant climate action projects, ready for grant opportunities and funding applications.