



City of Kalamunda Climate Change Declaration



Image: Carnarvon Blowholes (Source: WALGA)

Introduction

Climate change is having, and will continue to have, significant effects on the Western Australian environment, society and economy, with impacts felt at the Local Government level. The City of Kalamunda acknowledges that human behaviours, pollution and consumption patterns have both immediate and future impacts on the climate and environment, and that as a Local Government it is part of our role to mitigate and manage these impacts on our community.

This Declaration establishes our position on climate change, and outlines our commitments to addressing climate change, which are further expanded upon in our Strategic Community Plan 2031.

The City of Kalamunda supports the environmental, social and economic benefits of addressing climate change immediately. We see an opportunity for Local Government to demonstrate leadership in climate change management at a community level and support the development of equitable and implementable State and Commonwealth strategies for climate change management.

Declaration

The City of Kalamunda recognises that climate change is occurring, and that climate change will continue to have a significant effect on the Western Australia environment, society and economy.

We acknowledge the central role of Local Government in driving a successful climate response. Hence, we declare that we are committed to addressing climate change within our Local Government area, through the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies to minimise the effects on our community, environment and economy.

Our overall objective is to deliver the demonstrated improvement of the relevant outcomes of the Strategic Community Plan in terms of:

- Environmental, Social and Economic sustainability
- Best Practice Waste Management
- Towards Zero Carbon Footprint
- Water Efficiency
- Enhanced Tree Canopy Cover

Background

International scientific consensus is that climate change is occurring, and that it is driven by anthropogenic causes, with human activities having a profound impact on the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions since the start of the industrial revolution. Ultimately, these activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing and agriculture, have increased greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, leading to changes in the climate system.

For the City of Kalamunda projected changes to our climate in the future include:

- Further increase in temperatures, with more extremely hot days and fewer extremely cool days;
- More heat waves that will be longer and hotter;
- A decrease in cool-season rainfall across southern Australia, including the southwest of WA;
- More frequent, longer and more intense droughts across southern Australia, including the southwest of WA;
- More intense heavy rainfall throughout Australia, particularly for short-duration extreme rainfall events (storms);
- An increase in the number of high fire weather danger days and a longer fire season for southern and eastern Australia; and
- Through a combination of many of these impacts, changes to biodiversity including increased species extinction.

These changes have the potential to impact our environment, assets and infrastructure in our Local Government area, and the health, safety and wellbeing of our people. We therefore need to plan for, and adapt to, these changes to ensure our City of Kalamunda remains a resilient and vibrant area.

Role of Government

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Australia has committed to taking action on climate change.

The Paris Agreement recognises the importance of engagement at all levels of government. As such, the management of climate-change risks in Australia is spread across the three tiers of government: Commonwealth, State and Territory, and Local.

The responsibility for Local Governments' to mitigate the impacts of climate change is reflected in the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA):

“In carrying out its functions a Local Government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity. (Section 1.3(3))”.

As a Local Government our key responsibilities include administering relevant legislation to promote adaptation, mitigating climate risks and impacts to our community and assets as well as the delivery of our services to our community, collaborating with other Local Governments and with State and Territory Governments to manage regional impacts, and the facilitation of resilience building and adaptive capability in our local community.

Progress to Date

In order to respond to the impacts of climate change, the City of Kalamunda has taken action by:

- Planning a net zero emissions/emissions reduction/renewable energy target
- Setting waste, electricity, gas and fuel etc. targets
- Reducing emissions from electricity/fleet/street lighting etc.

Commitments

The City of Kalamunda commits from the date of signing to:

- Develop and implement a Climate Change Action Plan.
- Set an appropriate emissions reduction target and work towards its achievement.
- Support WALGA to work with State and Federal Government to ensure achievement of greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets as set out in key National and International agreements.
- Support WALGA to work with State and Federal Government to implement key actions and activities for climate change management at a local level.
- Assess the locally specific risks associated with climate change and implications for our services, and identify areas where appropriate mitigation and/or adaptation strategies should be developed and implemented.
- Ensure that, at appropriate review intervals, our climate change Action Plans/policies/strategies are reviewed and amended to incorporate the latest climate science, and to reflect the climate change management priorities and progress achieved to date.
- Monitor the progress of our adaptation and/or mitigation actions and communicate our achievements to the Councils and Community.



Signatures

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "M. G. Thomas", is written over a white rectangular box.

Mayor - City of Kalamunda

Date: 10 August 2021

Signed:

President - Western Australian Local Government Association

Date:

Climate Change Declaration

The City of Kalamunda acknowledges that:

- Evidence shows that climate change is occurring;
- Climate change will continue to have significant effects on the Western Australian environment, society and economy, and the Local Government sector.
- Human behaviours, pollution and consumption patterns have both immediate and future impacts on the climate and environment.
- As a Local Government, it is part of our role to mitigate and manage the impacts of climate change on our community.

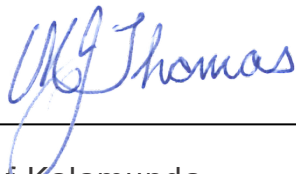
The City of Kalamunda supports the:

- Environmental, social and economic benefits of addressing climate change immediately.
- Opportunity for Local Government to demonstrate leadership in climate change management at a community level.
- Development of equitable and implementable State and Commonwealth strategies for climate change management.

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