



Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan – Actions Status 2023

This report presents the Devonport City Council's risk statements, adaptation actions, and progress during 2022/23 for the priority climate change risk areas: Rainfall; Sea Level Rise and Storm Tide; Heat; and Bushfire.

1. RAINFALL RISKS					
Risk	Risk level	Adaptation Action	Timeline (commencing July 2018)	Status	Outputs 30 June 2023
Stormwater system becoming under capacity in areas as a result of more intense, short duration rain events, leading to an increased requirement for upgrade or replacement	Extreme	Adequately resource the Action Plan accompanying the revised Stormwater Strategy - in particular, flood modelling of priority areas	Within a year	Complete	Stormwater System Management Plan adopted by Council in Dec 2019, supporting Stormwater Asset Management Plan adopted 2020. Documents identify risk of flooding in urban catchments, allowing prioritisation of upgrade projects. Two major upgrade projects completed in 2020/21 (\$900,000). 13 projects valued at \$1.13M completed 2022/23. \$1.5M allocated in 2023/24 for stormwater safety & risk and renewal projects.
		Continue preventative practices prior to and during extreme events e.g. clearing gutters and drains	Immediate	Complete	Known 'hot spots' are inspected prior to major events. Improved asset management and works management system is creating efficiencies for pre-emptive activities.

1. RAINFALL RISKS					
Risk	Risk level	Adaptation Action	Timeline (commencing July 2018)	Status	Outputs 30 June 2023
Increased rainfall / severe weather events leading to increased damage to infrastructure and roads resulting in increased maintenance and clean up costs	High	Increase resources towards monitoring and maintenance activities	Within 5 years	Complete	Improvements to asset management and works management systems have improved Council's capability to scheduled inspections using a risk-based approach, allow better prioritisation of reactive work and provide data to allow prioritisation of upgrade work when required.
Riparian vegetated buffers to waterways are insufficient to reduce velocity of overland flow during more intense, short duration rain events resulting in erosion of waterways and sedimentation downstream	High	Provide information to relevant sections of the community on the function of the catchments and buffers to waterways with the aim of retaining or revegetating riparian zones	Within a year	In progress	Community engaged in delivery of specific projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends of Don Reserve, Wildcare & Spreyton Joey Scouts
		Maintain and where required revegetate riparian zones on Council owned and managed land	Within a year	Complete	Native species planted at Figure of Eight Creek, Clayton Reserve
Increase in rainfall / flooding / high wind and other severe weather events leading to increased deterioration of roads, bridges, coastal and park infrastructure (e.g. trees, pontoons) resulting in heightened public safety concerns	Extreme	Assess tree damage after high wind & rain events	Immediate	Complete	Scheduled and targeted inspections are undertaken. System improvements now allow schedules to be set using a risk-based approach.

2. SEA LEVEL RISE AND STORM SURGE RISKS					
Risk	Risk level	Adaptation Action	Timeline (commencing July 2018)	Status	Outputs 30 June 2023
Extreme storm tide events resulting in foreshore erosion and inundation impacting on council owned and managed reserves, parks and facilities resulting in increased costs to the council	High	Advocate to the Cradle Coast Authority (CCA) for a coastal vulnerability study of council assets across the region or state- wide	Within 5 years	No action required	100-year sea level rise scenarios can be accessed via Coastal Risk website www.coastalrisk.com.au Various other reports include scenario maps developed in mid 2000s. Council uses existing information to assess coastal vulnerability of Council and private assets based on current information
Sea level rise and increased coastal inundation during storm tide events resulting in areas becoming unsuitable for development or certain land-uses requiring rezoning through the Council's planning system and preparing for potential litigation issues for the Council	High	Abide with relevant codes of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme	Immediate	Complete	Council abides with Tasmanian Planning Scheme codes
Increased coastal inundation during storm tide events resulting in inundation of Council owned and managed reserves resulting in environmental degradation and loss of coastal values	Moderate	Assess risks, prioritise works and implement dune / foreshore restoration programmes as required	Long term	Complete	Work completed at Coles Beach, Don Heads, Pardoe, and beach at end of North Caroline Street

3. HEAT RISKS					
Risk	Risk level	Adaptation Action	Timeline (commencing July 2018)	Status	Status 30 June 2023
Increase in vector-borne illness which will have an adverse effect on public health leading to increased pressure on the public health system and potential spread of disease	Moderate	Comply with and support the direction provided by Tasmanian Government Public Health Services	Long term	Complete	No action required
Increased temperatures leading to increased risk of sunburn and heat stress for users of council's public open space resulting in potential public liability claims and public complaints	Moderate	Ensure sufficient shade - natural or built - is available or planned for when developing new facilities in public open space	Long term	Complete	Shade sails installed in the Waterfront Park, Bluff skate park and Rooke Street mall
4. BUSHFIRE RISKS					
Risk	Risk level	Adaptation Action	Timeline (commencing July 2018)	Status	Outputs 30 June 2023
Increased likelihood and severity of bushfire across the Council's municipal area severely impacting on private property and businesses leading to increased costs	High	Alignment of bushfire management plans for council owned land to ensure appropriate and coordinated fire mitigation practices	Immediate	Complete	Don Reserve and Kelcey Teir Bushfire Management Plans in process of being updated
Increased temperatures resulting in an increased bushfire risk leading to public safety concerns	Extreme	Improve emergency management & community disaster preparedness and response	Immediate	Complete	Council continues to work with emergency services to improve the community's disaster preparedness and response
Altered fire regimes leading to a change in ecosystem function and reducing resilience of native flora/fauna/communities, particularly threatened species	Moderate	Implement prescribed burning regimes dictated by appropriate bushfire management plans, when resources are available	Long term	Complete	Fuel reduction burns conducted at KT Greenbelt September 2021 and Don Reserve 2022 in line with bushfire management plans
5. OTHER RISKS					

Risk	Risk level	Adaptation Action	Timeline (commencing July 2018)	Status	Outputs 30 June 2023
Increased extreme weather events resulting in power outages and telecommunications failure to Council buildings and assets resulting in an inability of the Council to coordinate and deliver services and emergency management responses placing the community at risk	High	In accordance with the Business Continuity Plan identify alternative business locations and power supplies to enable continuous operations	Within a year	Complete	Council's Business Continuity Plan identifies alternative business locations Alternative power supplies have been installed at those locations to enable continuous operations
Increase in severe weather events across the region impacting on the capacity of state emergency services to respond to Devonport events resulting in resourcing challenges for Council	High	In line with Council's Business Continuity Plan, prioritise Council's service delivery, including reassigning employees to priority tasks	Within 5 years	Complete	
		Develop a volunteer register and provide relevant training for volunteers to assist with basic tasks in the event of an emergency	Within 5 years	Complete	Volunteering Tasmania (VT) has established a coordinated volunteer management service that matches the skills, availability, and location of volunteers with volunteering opportunities available with councils and organisations responding to emergencies Council works with VT on a range of volunteer initiatives

5. STRATEGIC CORPORATE ADAPTATION ACTIONS

Strategic priorities are broad level climate change adaptation actions that do not specifically address a particular area or risk and fall across numerous Council service areas. There are key overarching corporate functions that are worth considering for minimising the Council's risk in the face of extreme events posed by climate change.

Action	Status	Outputs 30 June 2023
Ensure legal liability issues are addressed	Ongoing	To be addressed at a regional and/or state level
Update Council's risk register Integrate climate change risk management into the Council's existing risk assessment framework and migrate treated risks to the risk register	Complete	Risks have been integrated with Council's risk register
Emergency management planning in relation to climate hazards Ensure that the projected impacts of climate change are properly considered in the Council's emergency management planning processes	Complete	Projections are presented and discussed at the Mersey Leven Emergency Management Committee
Implement communication strategy Develop and implement a climate change communication and education plan for the Council's staff. Increased staff capacity and awareness will assist in incorporating climate change scenarios and impacts into policy and decision making processes.	Not commenced	To be progressed when resources are available
Incorporate identified actions into other Council plans & strategies Consideration of climate change risks and impacts in other Council strategies, policies and plans (such as Strategic & Annual Plan). The climate change impacts, and risk process outlined throughout the Adaptation Plan should be considered in the development of future plans, policies and strategies. This will also ensure there are a range of potential internal mechanisms for important actions to be implemented.	Complete	This plan integrates with several other council documents and processes including Strategic Plan, Annual Plan, Environment Strategy, Stormwater Strategy, and Service Level documents
Annual reporting Consider developing climate change related Key Performance Indicators that could be reported on through the Council's annual report	Not commenced	
Climate Change Champion Appoint a climate change champion supported by a cross Council team to implement the Adaptation Plan	No further action required	While no champion has been appointed, a team of staff implement actions in this Plan