



## Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan – Actions Status 2020

This report presents the Devonport City Council's risk statements, adaptation actions, and progress during 2019/20 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 30 June 2020
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	<b>In progress</b> Stormwater System Management Plan adopted by Council in Dec 2019. The Plan identifies risk of flooding in urban catchments, allowing prioritisation of upgrade projects. \$900,000 has been allocated to 2 major upgrade projects in 2020/21.
		Continue preventative practices prior to and during extreme events e.g. clearing gutters and drains	Immediate	<b>Ongoing</b> Known 'hot spots' are inspected prior to major events. Implementation of improved scheduling and data collection tools underway
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	<b>Ongoing</b>

1. RAINFALL RISKS				
Risk	Risk level	Adaptation Action	Timeline (commencing July 2018)	Status 30 June 2020
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	<b>In progress</b> Community engaged in delivery of specific projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends of Don Reserve assisted with planting along Don River riparian plantings</li> <li>• Don College assisted with Gun Club/ East Bank of Don River</li> </ul>
		Maintain and where required revegetate riparian zones on Council owned and managed land	Within a year	<b>Ongoing</b> Native species planted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don River – 450</li> <li>• Figure of Eight Creek – 250</li> <li>• Gun Club/East bank of Don River - 450</li> </ul>
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	<b>Ongoing</b> Scheduled and targeted inspections are undertaken. Improvement in documentation and schedules planned for the coming year.

## 2. SEA LEVEL RISE AND STORM SURGE RISKS

Risk	Risk level	Adaptation Action	Timeline (commencing July 2018)	Status 30 June 2020
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	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>100-year sea level rise scenarios can be accessed via Coastal Risk website <a href="http://www.coastalrisk.com.au">www.coastalrisk.com.au</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>As part of the 2020/21 Annual Plan Council will advocate to the Cradle Coast Authority for a regional approach toward managing climate change impacts and improving resilience.</p>
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	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Tasmanian Planning Scheme codes are abided by</p>
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	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>\$75,000 allocated in 2019-20 to three locations on Victoria Parade. Several sites are being monitored.</p>

<b>3. HEAT RISKS</b>				
<b>Risk</b>	<b>Risk level</b>	<b>Adaptation Action</b>	<b>Timeline (commencing July 2018)</b>	<b>Status 30 June 2020</b>
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	<b>No action required</b>
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	<b>In progress</b> Shade sails will be installed in the Waterfront Park and over the new inclusive equipment to be installed at the Mersey Bluff Playground.

<b>4. BUSHFIRE RISKS</b>				
<b>Risk</b>	<b>Risk level</b>	<b>Adaptation Action</b>	<b>Timeline (commencing July 2018)</b>	<b>Status 30 June 2020</b>
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	<b>Complete</b>
Increased temperatures resulting in an increased bushfire risk leading to public safety concerns	Extreme	Improve emergency management & community disaster preparedness and response	Immediate	<b>Ongoing</b> Council continues to work with emergency services to improve the community's disaster preparedness and response including distribution on information to target audiences and establishing formal agreements with other organisations. Bushfire protection planning and risk modelling training to be delivered by Tas Fire Service to emergency management staff during 2020/21.
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	<b>Ongoing</b> No fuel reduction burns were completed during 2019-20 due to scheduling issues

5. OTHER RISKS				
Risk	Risk level	Adaptation Action	Timeline (commencing July 2018)	Status 30 June 2002
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	<b>Complete</b> 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	<b>Complete</b>
		Develop a volunteer register and provide relevant training for volunteers to assist with basic tasks in the event of an emergency	Within 5 years	<b>In progress</b> Volunteering Tasmania has established a coordinated volunteer management service that matches the skills, availability, and location of spontaneous volunteers with volunteering opportunities available with councils and organisations responding to emergencies. Council works with VT on a range of volunteer initiatives.

## 6. 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 30 June 2020
<p><b>Ensure legal liability issues are addressed</b> The legal advice established for Tasmanian councils is covered in Section 4</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> To be addressed at a regional and/or state level</p>
<p><b>Update Council's risk register</b> Integrate climate change risk management into the Council's existing risk assessment framework and migrate treated risks to the risk register</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> Risks have been integrated with Council's risk register</p>
<p><b>Emergency management planning in relation to climate hazards</b> Ensure that the projected impacts of climate change are properly considered in the Council's emergency management planning processes</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> Projections are presented and discussed at the Mersey Leven Emergency Management Committee</p>
<p><b>Implement communication strategy</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Not commenced</b> To be progressed when resources are available</p>
<p><b>Incorporate identified actions into other Council plans &amp; strategies</b> Consideration of climate change risks and impacts in other Council strategies, policies and plans (such as Strategic &amp; 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.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> This plan integrates with several other council documents and processes including Strategic Plan, Annual Plan, Environment Strategy, Stormwater Strategy, and Service Level documents.</p>
<p><b>Annual reporting</b> Consider developing climate change related Key Performance Indicators that could be reported on through the Council's annual report</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Development of KPIs is an action in the 2020/21 Annual Plan</p>
<p><b>Climate Change Champion</b> Appoint a climate change champion supported by a cross Council team to implement the Adaptation Plan</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> While no champion has been appointed, a team of staff implement actions in this Plan</p>