



Shire of Nannup Climate Change Declaration



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 Shire of Nannup 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 detailed in our Community Strategic Plan 2021-2036.

The Shire of Nannup 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.

Background

International scientific consensus is that climate change is occurring, and that 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, have increased greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, leading to changes in the climate system.

For the Shire of Nannup, projected future changes to our climate 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.
- Greater proportion of high-intensity storms, with large variations from year to year; 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 Shire remains a resilient and vibrant area.

Progress to Date

In order to respond to the impacts of climate change, the Shire of Nannup has taken action by:

- Developed a Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils (WBAC) Climate Change Policy.
- Developed a Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils (WBAC) Climate Change Action Plan.
- Developed a Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils (WBAC) Climate Change Action and Implementation Reference Group (CCAIRG).
- Establishment of a Nannup Sustainability Committee.
- Continuously reviewing and identifying items within operations to help reduce emissions.

Climate Change Declaration

The Shire of Nannup 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 demonstrate climate leadership and reduce our corporate and community emissions and build the resilience of our Shire to climate change.

The Shire of Nannup 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 Shire of Nannup 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.

The Shire of Nannup commits to:

- Continue to develop and implement the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Council (WBAC) Climate Change Action Plan.

- Encourage and empower the local community and local businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Work with key stakeholders within our community to ensure achievement of actions set out in our Climate Change Action Plan Strategic Community Plan.
- 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.
- Encourage and empower the local community and local businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Support the Western Australian Local Government Association (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 Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) to work with State and Federal Government to implement key actions and activities for climate change management at a local level.
- Work with key stakeholders within our community to achieve actions set out in our Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils (WBAC) Climate Change Action Plan and Strategic Community Plan (SCP).
- 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 of climate plans and 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.