

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF SA

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

2008 - 2012

Endorsed 18 September 2008

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Climate Change looms as one of the greatest threats to the future of our economic, social and environmental stability and growth.

With the release of the fourth report by the International Panel on Climate Change release in 2007¹, along with the latest CSIRO Technical Report², the science behind climate change is now clear and governments internationally are taking action to reduce the level of greenhouse gas emissions and adjust to the inevitable impact of climate change.

In Australia, the Federal Government is developing a mechanism for a national Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), anticipated to commence in 2010. In releasing his draft report to the Government on the introduction of an emissions trading scheme, Professor Ross Garnaut noted that South Australia is *'the most vulnerable'* state in terms of damaging impact from climate change, but also has *the most potential* to capitalise on the opportunities an emissions trading scheme may bring and the global effort to move towards alternative energy sources³.

Whilst internationally the science of climate change has galvanised and global action towards mitigation is firmly embedded as a key priority, at a local scale the impacts and opportunities that climate change may bring are not well defined or understood.

Local Government has a significant leadership role in helping local communities understand and adapt to climate change, and to take advantage of the opportunities that emissions trading may bring. As the peak body representing Councils in South Australia, the Local Government Association has a key role to provide coordinated and relevant support to its members as they strive to achieve this.

In late 2007 an LGA survey of its members revealed that climate change was an issue with a high level of interest to Councils, with most wanting more information and assistance, particularly on the localised impacts of climate change.

The issue was subsequently adopted as an LGA priority by the State Executive Committee and the April 2008 General Meeting.

The physical and regulatory impacts and opportunities climate change may bring need to be understood, planned for and integrated into systems, functions and culture as the future way of life, much the same as the industrial and technological revolutions experienced in earlier decades.

However, the multi-faceted and complex nature of climate change means that, without a coordinated, whole-of-sector approach, there is a very real danger of extensive duplication of effort, time and resources by Councils and partners, and a risk that key areas for action or attention will be overlooked.

The underlying principle of the LGA's approach

to climate change recognise that it is the psychology, rather than the physiology of this issue that requires attention - managing and adapting to climate change is about changing human behaviour.

Long term behaviour change required to successfully adapt to and mitigate climate change is underpinned by sound knowledge, understanding and having the capacity to change. The catalyst for this to lie with effective relationships and ensuring the right people are connected and engaged at the right time.

To support the local government sector in this state to deal collectively, logically and confidently with climate change, the Local Government Association of SA Climate Change Strategy sets out a strategic approach to climate change over the next five year period, in pursuit of the following long term goals:

1. ADAPTATION

Identify and adapt to the long term physical impact of climate change in this state

2. MITIGATION

Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint of the local government sector and community

3. LEADERSHIP

Provide leadership and build capacity of local government and the community to manage climate change risk and opportunity

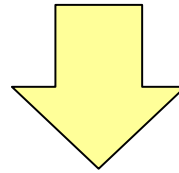
¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2007)

² CSIRO (2007), Climate Change in Australia – revised edition

³ Garnaut, R (2008), Presentation on Interim Report to the Australian Government, Adelaide

LEADERSHIP

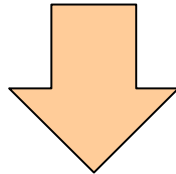
Provide leadership and build capacity of local government and the community to manage climate change risk and opportunity



- Council support and engagement
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Awareness and education

ADAPTATION

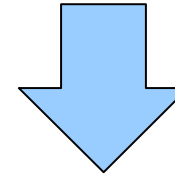
Identify and adapt to the long term physical impact of climate change in this state



1. Knowledge and research
2. Adaptation action

MITIGATION

Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint of the local government sector and community



1. Living in a Carbon Economy
2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency

| | | STRATEGY | PRIORITY ACTIONS | KEY PARTNERS | TIMING |
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| | | ADAPTATION Identify and adapt to the long term physical impact of climate change in this state | KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH | 1. Profile integrated (economic, social, environmental) climate change adaptation risk and opportunities for planning regions and their communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the development of Regional Climate Change Impact Assessments for all local government regions in the state, consistent with new State Government regional planning boundaries. |
| 2. Identify and pursue common climate change data, vulnerability modelling and research priorities required by local government over time, in collaboration with the Sir Hubert Wilkins Chair of Climate Change and other research bodies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate and commission vulnerability modelling for areas of significant interest or impact to local government including flooding risk and sea level elevation as a priority Investigate the implications of climate change on traditional local government funding sources such as Council rating and charging systems | | | <i>LGA; LGMLS; LG CC S/C; Councils; UofA Climate Chair; Expert Panel</i> | <i>DEC 09</i> <i>DEC 09</i> <i>DEC 10</i> |
| 3. Disseminate research findings on climate change impacts and effectiveness of adaptation measures. broadly throughout local government sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate suitable and appropriate mechanisms for updating local government sector on adaptation research outcomes | | | <i>LGA; UofA Climate Chair; Aust Govt DCC; State DPC, IPWEA, PIA, CPA, AIEH, LGMA</i> | <i>JUN 09</i> |
| 4. Facilitate greater awareness by local government elected members and staff about climate change impacts and the relevance of those impacts on their organisation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement consistent council business risk assessments across the local government sector through the LGA Mutual Liability scheme framework | | | <i>Mutual Liability Scheme; LGA; Expert Panel - UofA Climate Chair, BOM Climate Scientist, Mutual Liability Scheme, Carbon Trading Expert, Legal Expert, Coast/Marine Expert, Biodiversity Expert, Hydrologist, Health Expert, Social Geographer</i> | <i>DEC 10</i> |
| 5. Educate broader community of the likely local impact of climate change and Council/Government strategies to respond | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Government to develop a suitable approach for community education on climate impact | | | <i>LGA; DPC; Aust Govt; LG CC S/C</i> | <i>DEC 09</i> |
| ADAPTATION ACTION | 6. Integrate climate change vulnerability data into Council development and strategic plans, regional landuse frameworks, town & building masterplanning and planning of state significant (major) projects. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Councils and Government agencies to integrate climate change vulnerability data into planning Investigate potential issues and opportunities for multi-jurisdictional funding arrangements to support adaptation action Support implementation of priority climate change adaptation action, particularly relating to sustainable water harvesting, reuse and conservation measures and coastal development Investigate creation of regional Coastal Councils networks, where they do not exist, to collaboratively consider coastal development and sustainability issues | <i>LGA; DPC; PLSA; UofA Climate Chair; MLS; Councils; DWLBC, OSLGR</i> <i>PLSA, DWLBC, DEH</i> <i>Coastal Councils, NRM Boards, DEH</i> | <i>DEC 10</i> |
| | 7. Assist councils to progress implementation of recommendations arising out of the Mutual Liability Scheme's Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Program | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse Council Risk Assessment plans and identify common issues for further support Encourage applied research on innovative adaptive technology and approaches to Council operations and infrastructure that assist long term physical and financial adaptation to climate change. | <i>LGA; MLS; LG CC/SC; Member Councils</i> <i>LGA; UofA Climate Chair; MLS, DPC; LG CC S/C</i> | <i>DEC 10</i> |

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| MITIGATION Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint of the local government sector and community | CARBON ECONOMY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the potential impacts and opportunities for greenhouse gas emission reporting and carbon trading for local government in South Australia. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission review of the Garnaut Review and Australian Government position on the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and its implications for Councils in South Australia, particularly waste operations Work with Councils and the Australian Local Government Association to prepare submissions to the Australian Government as part of consultation on the introduction of emissions trading Undertake surveys/benchmark energy audits across a standard representation of local Council operations as a baseline for determining the applicability of Council involvement in the National Greenhouse Emissions Reporting Act (2007), on either a compulsory or voluntary basis (as a lead into an ETS) Liaise with ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection, other providers and the Australian Government Department of Climate Change to consider suitable options for the development and implementation of a standardised, effective and practical carbon accounting framework for local government | <p><i>LGA; ALGA; Carbon Trading Expert</i></p> <p><i>LGA; ALGA; Carbon Trading Expert; LGA Climate Change S/C; Member Councils</i></p> <p><i>LGA; LG CC S/C; ICLEI CCP Member Councils; Energy Auditing Co.</i></p> <p><i>LGA; ICLEI; Aust Govt DCC; LG S/C; Carbon Trading Expert</i></p> | <p><i>JUN 09</i></p> <p><i>JUN 09</i></p> <p><i>DEC 08</i></p> <p><i>DEC 08</i></p> | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and coordinate a centralised approach to carbon trading, purchase of offsets and sequestration which can be utilised by all local government authorities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse current use of offsets and carbon sequestration through the local government sector and identify barriers to greater and more strategic use of these programs. Investigate strategic investment opportunities for carbon offsets by local government, including food waste/organics diversion and revegetation, and provide advice on best practice Consider options for carbon pool management by local government on either a region by region or statewide basis | <p><i>LGA; LG CC S/C; Member Councils</i></p> <p><i>LGA; ZWSA; DPC; Aust Govt; Greening Aust/TFL/PIRSA; LG CC S/C; Carbon Trading Expert</i></p> <p><i>LGA; DPC; Carbon Trading Expert; Regional LGA/RDB/NRM; Legal Expert</i></p> | <p><i>JUN 09</i></p> <p><i>DEC 09</i></p> <p><i>JUN 10</i></p> | |
| | | REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT – IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support adoption of energy efficiency measures and greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies within day to day operations of local government authorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support uptake of energy efficiency/carbon footprint audits across Council operations Undertake an energy efficiency audit and implement recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Local Government Association's operations Encourage LGA enterprises to undertake an audit of energy use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from each enterprise's operations Investigate opportunities for collaborative and bulk purchase of energy efficient and 'green' supplies across the local government sector | <p><i>LGA; LG CC S/C; Member Councils</i></p> <p><i>LGA; Auditing Company</i></p> <p><i>LGA; Mutal Liability Scheme, LGFA; LG Risk Services; LG Corporate Services</i></p> <p><i>LGA; LG Corporate Services; Member Councils</i></p> | <p><i>JUN 09</i></p> <p><i>DEC 08</i></p> <p><i>DEC 09</i></p> <p><i>DEC 10</i></p> |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the staged introduction of energy efficient public lighting within built up areas of South Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and analyse LGA R&D scheme 'Efficient Street Lighting' project Work with member Councils and energy provider to develop energy efficiency replacement program for public lighting | <p><i>LGA; LG CC S/C; Member Councils; DPC</i></p> <p><i>LGA; LG CC S/C; Councils; State Govt; AGL/energy providers; Legal Expert</i></p> | <p><i>JUN 09</i></p> <p><i>DEC 10</i></p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for increased uptake of electricity through accredited renewable energy sources by Councils | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review local government electricity supply contract and determine Council interest in, and barriers to increasing uptake of renewable energy sources | <p><i>LGA; AGL; DPC; DTEI; Legal Expert; Member Councils; LG CC S/C</i></p> | <p><i>DEC 09</i></p> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and promote opportunities to improve energy efficiency within building developments | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Planning SA to identify opportunities for incorporating energy efficiency considerations into Council Planning and Development structures for new and existing residential developments and fixed appliances Identify funding and subsidy support to improve energy efficiency for the commercial and industrial building sector | <p><i>LGA; PLSA; LG CC S/C; Councils</i></p> <p><i>LGA; DPC; PLSA; DTEI; LG CC S/C</i></p> | <p><i>DEC 10</i></p> <p><i>JUN 10</i></p> | |

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| LEADERSHIP Provide leadership and build capacity of local government and the community to manage climate change risk and opportunity | COUNCIL SUPPORT & ENGAGEMENT | 1. Work with Councils to develop a united, practical and consistent approach to the role of the local government sector in addressing long term climate change impact and mitigation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish LGA climate change reference group including merit based appointments from elected members and council officers | <i>LGA; Member Councils</i> | <i>DEC 08</i> |
| | | 2. Identify needs and support Councils to effectively understand and implement climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a 'Local Government Climate Change Technical Panel' as a mechanism to harness relevant technical support on climate change to Councils as required and identify areas of further research. Investigate opportunities for cross-agency support and funding of 'Regional Sustainability Officers' across the state to provide longer term support local Councils and communities in their climate change mitigation and adaptation response Ensure availability of funding from Local Government Research and Development Scheme to councils, regions, professional bodies and other related parties for the purpose of sector-wide projects and research on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. | <i>LGA; UofA Climate Chair; BOM Climate Scientist, Mutual Liability Scheme, Carbon Trading Expert, Legal Expert, Coast/Marine Expert, Biodiversity Expert, Hydrologist, Health Expert, Social Geographer</i> <i>LGA; Australian Govt; DPC, Planning SA, NRM, DTED/ORA, DEH, PIRSA</i> <i>LGA; LGFA</i> | <i>DEC 08</i> <i>DEC 08</i> <i>ONGOING</i> |
| | | 3. Strongly advocate for better communication and consultation with local government by the other spheres of Government before decisions are made pertaining to climate change issues which potentially will affect local communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop appropriate communications protocols and reporting frameworks to ensure that due recognition and consideration is given at State and Federal Government level of local government's role in developing and implementing appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. | <i>LGA; DPC; Aust Govt; LG CC S/C</i> | <i>DEC 09</i> |
| | PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION | 4. Work with State Government to achieve the objectives and focus areas of the South Australian Local Government Sector Agreement under the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise Sector Agreement schedule and administrative arrangements | <i>LGA; Dept Premier & Cabinet; Member Councils</i> | <i>DEC 08</i> |
| | | 5. Facilitate and support a collaborative and integrated 'whole of community' approach to planning for, and managing climate change in this state. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and establish strategic alliances with relevant peak bodies, and non-government agencies at state, national and regional levels Build relationships and cross agency partnerships with key decision making and climate change personnel within State and Federal Government agencies. Consider and integrate climate change within all LGA policies and projects including NRM reform, water, coastal and native vegetation management, environment protection, planning and development, waste management, CWMS and stormwater, financial sustainability and asset management, emergency management, libraries and community information. Encourage collaborative initiatives on research and development with University of Adelaide's Climate Change Centre. Commence identification of appropriate mechanisms to ensure climate change is considered in the formation of strategic plans and programs of both local and state government | <i>LGA; ALGA; ICLEI; Regional LGAs; PCCC, NRM, RDSA; WMAA; SAFF; NCSSA/CC, TFL, GA, IPWEA, PIA, CPA, AIEH, LGMA</i> <i>LGA; Australian Govt - Dept Climate Change, Geoscience Australia, DOTARS; State Govt – PLSA, DEH, DWLBC, DTEI, DTED, SAWI, PIRSA</i> <i>LGA</i> <i>LGA; UofA Climate Chair; DPC; MLS; LG CC S/C</i> <i>LGA; DPC; PLSA, MLS; Aust Govt; LG CC S/C; OSLGR</i> | <i>JUN 09</i> <i>JUN 09</i> <i>JUN 09</i> <i>JUN 09</i> <i>DEC 09</i> |

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| | AWARENESS AND EDUCATION | 6. Facilitate the sharing of experiences by local government in tackling climate change and promote examples of effective adaptation and mitigation strategies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop climate change communication strategy to effectively disseminate information to Councils and stakeholder Investigate development of regular climate change training seminars through the Local Government Training and Development program Coordinate, publish and promote an annual report of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions or programs implemented by local government in South Australia | <i>LGA; LG CC S/C; Member Councils</i> | <i>JUN 09</i> |
| | | | | <i>LGA; MLS; Expert Panel - UofA Climate Chair, BOM Climate Scientist, Carbon Trading Expert, Legal Expert, Coast/Marine Expert, Biodiversity Expert, Hydrologist, Health Expert, Social Geographer</i> | <i>JUN 09</i> |
| | | 7. Support State and Federal Governments to develop and implement a community education program that promotes local and individual behaviour change in order to adapt to and mitigate climate change. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the State Government to develop a community carbon and ecological footprint reduction target that households can readily adopt and that is aligned with the states targets. Support the State Government to monitor and publicly report on community performance in reducing their greenhouse emissions and ecological footprint at a household and community level. | <i>LGA; MLS; OSLGR; DPC; Member Councils</i> | <i>DEC 10</i> |
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