



Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025



DRAFT



Litchfield Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we work on and recognises their continuing connection to land, water and communities. We pay our respects to all Traditional Owners and to the Elders past, present and emerging.

INTRODUCTION

WHAT

The **Litchfield Council Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2022 - 2025** guides Council on how it will integrate climate adaptation and mitigation opportunities across Council operations. The Strategy will provide a framework to:

1. Demonstrate Council's understanding of climate risks.
2. Reflect the importance of community feedback and demonstrate how their input has been considered.
3. Provide a best practice approach in all climate adaptation activities.

WHY

Effective, proactive and responsive action by Council increases community confidence in Council, informs decision making and produces informed outcomes. Effective climate adaptation actions contribute to realising our vision of Litchfield as 'the best place to live in the Top End'.

HOW

Council will implement climate adaptation actions that are appropriate for Litchfield municipality and arise from community engagement activities in a timely and effective manner.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of developing a Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan is to improve the resilience of the local environment, communities, and economies to help withstand the unavoidable impacts of climate change and contribute to the development of a plan for Councils future environmental sustainability.

This Strategy has the following objectives:

1

Enhanced and aligned decision making - develop and foster climate adaptation considerations in all decision making and seek opportunities for innovation.

2

Comprehensive engagement - facilitate and support local, community led community groups in initiatives at a community level that support the development of practical skills to tackle climate change.

3

Innovation appropriate for Litchfield - responding to new initiatives that support residents in implementing climate adaptation actions and improve Council cost efficiencies in the long term and create improved outcomes for residents.



CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTION PLAN

Objective 1: Enhanced and aligned decision making

Develop and foster climate adaptation considerations in all decision making and seek opportunities for innovation.

What we will do

- Apply the decision-making hierarchy of avoid, reduce, replace and offset to emission creation through carbon intensive activities
- Empower the community to engage with Council by demonstrating how their input has been considered in climate adaptation outcomes and include the next steps for all projects.

Key Actions

| Action | Success Measure | Outcome |
|---|--|--|
| Unpack complex climate adaptation concepts and processes | Complex information is presented in an easy-to-understand format that encourages input to deliver community led outcomes | Greater involvement by trusted community leaders resulting in productive local actions |
| Engage in dialogue with local environmental groups, energy providers, local businesses and scientists, as well as established national organisations. | Regular sharing of information to inform Council and individual decision making Participation in the Cities Power Partnership | Provide an evidence base of the effectiveness of climate adaptation actions |
| Utilise the opportunity of the Annual Report to report back on progress against targets | Provide meaningful reporting on targets set or agreed actions | Transparency around implementation of strategic direction |

Objective 2: Comprehensive engagement

Improved understanding, capacity and skill in community-based actions and solutions.

What we will do

- Work with the whole community by providing resources, training, and guidance to help residents effectively participate in waste management, recycling and other climate adaptation actions
- Ensure commitment by Councillors and Council staff to implement climate adaptation actions into daily operations and decision making
- Leverage influence by engaging with Territory and national policies and programs
- Provide ongoing review and evaluation and consider ways to improve existing activities.

Key Actions

| Action | Success Measure | Outcome |
|---|--|---|
| Establish a community grant category for community led climate adaptation initiatives at a community level. | Number of community groups participating in the grant program Level of engagement from the community in local community led initiatives | An engaged community that actively participates in climate adaptation actions |
| Facilitate meetings and workshops to increase awareness of impacts and solutions. | Number of meetings and workshops and level of attendance. | Ongoing community engagement in identifying impacts and solutions |
| Connect with Cool Mob, Greening Australia and similar organisations to develop and implement green strategies including community gardens | Partnerships developed | Collaborative implementation of strategies to improve environmental outcomes Establishment of community gardens on more reserves |

| Action | Success Measure | Outcome |
|---|--|--|
| Continue active implementation of the waste hierarchy in Council's Waste Strategy across all Council operations | Continued diversion of Council waste from landfill to recycling Greater awareness of cost efficiencies through power and water conservation | Reduction in costs of waste management Better efficiencies in watering of Council reserves and properties |
| Support meetings and workshops to increase awareness of impacts and solutions. | Establishment of a climate adaptation community advisory committee Engagement with local traditional owners and their land management practices Resources available to established local community groups such as schools and Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades | Ongoing conversation and community moderation through regular feedback to Council Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) links with Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan Council website provides a 'one stop shop' that is home to all climate adaptation activities and support material Ability to demonstrate to the community how their participation and input has helped inform and guide climate adaptation outcomes |

Objective 3: Innovation appropriate for Litchfield

Responding to new initiatives that support residents in implementing climate adaptation actions and improve Council cost efficiencies in the long term and create improved outcomes for residents

What we will do

- Provide opportunities for residents to improve the level of native vegetation through tree planting
- Advocate to other levels of government for expenditure on climate adaptation issues of concern beyond the scope of council responsibilities
- Adopt strategies designed to reduce impact of Council operations on climate and the environment

Key Actions

| Action | Success Measure | Outcome |
|--|--|---|
| Support tree planting programs and retention and planting of native vegetation on Council owned land. | Number of residents participating in free plant offers Number of reserves implementing tree planting programs with volunteers | Reduction of heat through increased shade on private and public properties |
| Minimise water wastage by not watering Council properties and reserves during daylight hours. | Implementation of automated water systems where not currently in place | Improved reserve management and reduction in water usage |
| Move towards powering all new Council buildings with renewable energy, such as solar or battery energy, and explore the feasibility for older buildings. | Number of buildings fitted with renewable energy sources | Reduction in reliance on fossil fuel generated power Reduction in energy costs |
| Transition to green fleet | Number of vehicles replaced with fuel efficient and environmentally friendly vehicles | Sustainable fleet management costs |
| Advocate to other levels of Government for climate adaptation actions | Number of issues raised with Northern Territory and Federal Governments in relation to renewable energy, public transport and weed and fire management | Improved outcomes for Litchfield residents |
| Seek innovative opportunities to reduce Council running costs | Water capture options explored and considered. Energy efficient appliances and practices implemented Energy efficient design incorporated into new Council buildings | Reduction in operational costs |

