

Introduction to WALGA Climate Change Templates and Guidelines



Acknowledgement

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present. WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.



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Background

Climate Change Declaration and Climate Emergency Declaration

WALGA has developed an updated Climate Change Declaration, as well as a Climate Emergency Declaration for use by Local Government in WA to establish their position on climate change. These declarations will also support WALGA to advocate for the appropriate funding and development of legislative mechanisms to support Local Government climate change management. The Climate Change Declaration and Climate Emergency Declaration templates can be modified to suit each Local Government.

Developing and publishing a Climate Change Declaration and/or a Climate Emergency Declaration are important first steps in a local government's climate change journey, however, these are optional steps and local governments may choose to not make these declarations prior to conducting more detailed climate change action planning. It is, however, recommended that declarations are made, as they set out the local government's position on climate change and high level commitments, which can then be expanded upon in Action Plans.

Climate Change Action Plan Templates

In addition to the Declarations, four climate change Action Plan templates have been developed for Local Governments in WA. These were developed with the intent to provide Local Governments with a base level template for action planning, which can be tailored to suit the needs of the Local Government and to align with any existing work already undertaken or underway. The templates that have been developed are:

- Corporate Mitigation Action Plan
- Community Mitigation Action Plan
- Corporate Adaptation Action Plan
- Community Adaptation Action Plan.

These Action Plans have been designed to provide Local Governments with a resource for climate action planning and are targeted primarily at Local Governments who are at the beginning of the journey in relation to climate change planning and programs. They may also be a useful resource for other Local Governments.

Developing climate change action plans will help to inform the design of a program of work by the Local Government, which will address the impacts of climate change on its operations and community, and ensure the Local Government contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimising the extent of future climate change. These plans can be taken to Council as part of, and in support of, a business case for increased funding to implement the plans. They can also be used to improve engagement across the Local Government and stakeholders on the Local Government's climate change response. They can also help the local governments consider and commit to implementing tangible and demonstrable actions.

When developing Action Plans Local Governments should consider the current availability of resources to deliver on the selected actions, the steps required and likely success of, and proposals to seek increases in resources. This will ensure the proposed Action Plans are realistic and achievable.

It is understood that Local Governments select their own focus, sequence and timing of developing and implementing their climate response. This will be informed by Local Government policies, current priorities, resourcing and expertise, and understanding of emerging risks and opportunities. Hence, Local Governments may choose to develop and implement different elements of the climate template plans together, or sequentially.

The WALGA Climate Change Action Plan templates have been structured in such a way that Local Governments can choose to only include specific aspects within their climate action planning. For example, a Local Government may prefer to focus on developing a corporate **mitigation action plan** and **corporate adaptation action plan** at first, and then expand upon this at a later date to develop a **community mitigation action plan**, and a **community adaptation action plan**.

The templates have been developed to allow Local Governments to create content to meet their needs. A common introductory section has been developed which is applicable to all action plans and can therefore be selected for use within each plan. Alternatively, Local Governments could choose to group multiple action plans together in one document, with just one introductory section.

Note on terminology: Local Governments may choose to use the name 'Emissions Reduction Plan' instead of 'Mitigation Action Plan'.

Climate Change Action Plan Definitions and Aims

The aims of each of the Action Plans are outlined in the table below.

	Corporate	Community
Mitigation Focused on actions to help prevent climate change from further occurring	Corporate mitigation actions relate to actions that the local government can implement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within its operations to help avoid future impacts of climate change beyond what is already projected.	Community mitigation actions relate to actions that the local government can implement to reduce emissions within its community, including its residents and businesses, to help avoid future impacts of climate change beyond what is already projected.
Adaptation Focused on actions to adjust to the current or future impacts of climate change	Corporate adaptation actions relate to actions that the local government can implement to improve the resilience of its operations to climate change.	Community adaptation actions relate to actions that the local government can implement to improve the resilience of its community to climate change.