

Declaring a Climate Emergency

Frequently asked questions

In the agenda for the March Council Meeting Crs Dickinson and Hayes-Burke lodged a Notice of Motion (NOM) to:

1. **Declare a Climate Emergency, and**
2. **Following community engagement, develop an Emissions Reduction Pledge under the Climate Change Act 2017 and in accordance with the Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Strategy and Action Plan.**

At the meeting the NOM was deferred to seek input and create understanding in our community.

The following frequently asked questions will provide you with further information about what this means.

What is the climate emergency?

Climate emergency is understood in two ways:

1. The climate emergency situation refers to significant changes to the world's climate caused by human activity. This aspect of the climate emergency is extensively documented. The science tells us that the earth has warmed, and is continuing to warm, and as a result we face serious consequences for weather systems, for human ability to produce food, and for all people and species.
2. The climate emergency response refers to a specific approach to tackling climate change. The response stresses the need to devise measures that try and stop human-caused global warming.

What does declaring a climate emergency mean?

It means we acknowledge that the current levels of global warming and projected future warming require urgent action. This action is needed by all levels of government.

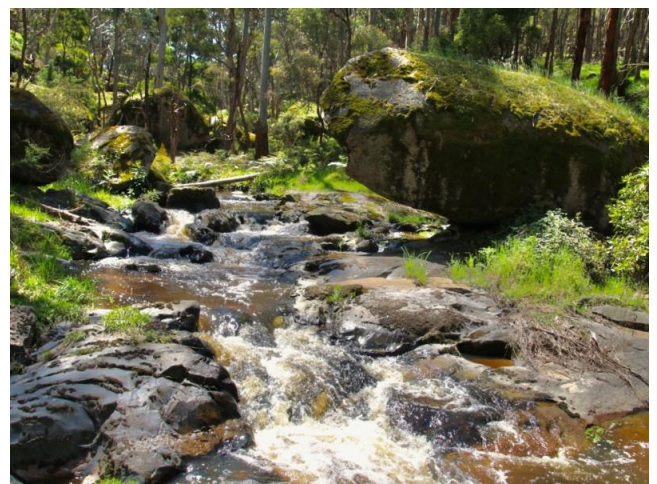
However, we believe, as the closest tier of government to the community, we are well placed to deliver and support climate change mitigation actions.

What does Council need to do after declaring a climate emergency?

Our next steps would be developing a Climate Change Action Plan that prioritises our direction.

To do this, we'll work with our community to understand their priorities and ensure they are represented in our action plan.

Council has already endorsed the Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 plan which has much valuable information and will help us develop our action plan. You can read Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 on our [website](#).



Fact Sheet

What do households have to do?

Nothing. Declaring a Climate Emergency means the actions and outputs sit firmly with our organisation. It's about determining what Council can do to reduce its carbon footprint and emissions.

Will declaring a Climate Emergency mean the Shire has greater access to funding/grants for mitigation initiatives?

While declaring a Climate Emergency doesn't give us priority to grants over those who have not, it shows we mean business. It shows we're taking the impact of Climate Change seriously and we want to take action.

Having Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 and a Climate Emergency Action Plan – means we can show we've done the thinking, we've engaged our community, and we're ready for action. This stands us in excellent stead to apply for external funding.

How is the Climate Emergency manifested in our Shire?

The emergency is manifested in our Shire in more severe and frequent extreme weather events, insecurity in our electricity supply.

Drought, and periods of low rainfall, increases in insurance policies and decreasing diversity of native flora and fauna. There are also serious implications for land use planning, infrastructure, transport, food and water security and human health.

Will declaring an emergency increase rates?

The act of declaring a Climate Emergency will not have a direct impact on rates. Rating decisions are made as part of the budgeting process.

Who else has declared a Climate Emergency?

In Australia 98 local governments have already declared a Climate Emergency. You can see the

full list on the Climate Emergency Declaration [website](#).

What would change for ratepayers if we declare a Climate Emergency?

Declaring a Climate Emergency would mean Council is committed to reducing its emissions and helping our community adapt to the changing climate.

It would mean we take the impact of Climate Change into account when we're making decisions. Any specific actions we take will be outlined in the Climate Change Action Plan that we would develop with our community.

Will it mean insurance companies can lift their fees on home insurance?

Council declaring a climate emergency will not allow insurance companies to increase their prices in our Shire. In general insurance is a risk game based on the chance that your home may or may not be impacted by a disaster.

As severe weather events continue to increase in number then the number of properties that require an insurance payout will increase. This will then increase the cost across the board. For more information on how climate change is impacting insurance prices – we encourage you to read this [ABC news article](#).

