

THREE-YEAR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

- Break O’Day Council
- Dorset Council
- Flinders Council
- City of Launceston
- Meander Valley Council
- George Town Council
- West Tamar Council
- Northern Midlands Council

NORTHERN TASMANIAN ALLIANCE FOR RESILIENT COUNCILS

(NTARC)

2023 – 2026



NTARC

INTRODUCTION

The Northern Tasmanian Alliance for Resilient Councils is a unique executive led Partnership across the 8 northern councils to increase their capacity and capability to understand and respond to the changing climate and associated broader social, economic, cultural and environmental resilience challenges at both local and regional dimensions.

The program emphasises the coordination and strengthening of the corporate governance and operational responses of councils to climate risk and hazards, mitigating exposure to potential liability for decision making and increasing resilience across assets and services; and working to reduce their and greenhouse gas emissions, and energy use. It sets a strong foundation, and evidence base, aligned to core roles and responsibilities

NTARC is scalable from an individual council level to the Northern region. It uses science-evidence-based information to mitigate and avoid maladaptive outcomes and provides the foundation to work with communities to integrate behaviours and action that increase resilience.

BACKGROUND

Climate change presents a diverse range of risks and opportunities to Local Government. A changing climate and extreme events will impact on infrastructure, roads, the local community and the environment. The financial markets, particularly the insurance sector, are starting to expect customers to disclose and manage their climate related risk. Councils will both be impacted by a changing climate and have the potential to exacerbate or mitigate the impacts of climate change on their local community and natural resources.

NTARC PROGRAM

The Northern Councils have identified that in order to prepare for climate change there is a need to:

- Build capacity within councils to incorporate climate change considerations in their operational and strategic decision making;
- Work collaboratively across councils to harmonise responses and ensure consistent approaches are adopted to assess and adapt to climate risks and hazards ;

- Work collaboratively with State Government to influence and inform State policies, processes and legislative instruments, such as the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which affect Councils' ability to adapt to climate change; and
- Share data, knowledge and other resources to ensure best practice and best evidence approaches to adaptation are applied.

COUNCILS AND CLIMATE RESPONSES

The responses of council's includes:

- council leadership: as the tier of government closest to, and most trusted by, communities lead and share knowledge/expertise across Tasmanian councils and communities to: build capacity, coordinate and avoid duplication of effort for mitigation and adaptation responses, develop policy and advocate to State and Federal Government, research sector and peak organisations.
- corporate (council) adaptation: increase the capacity of councils to: protect and future proof their assets/services; respond to increased and intensified natural hazards: flooding, bushfire, sea level rise, heat and storms; reduce exposure to potential liability in decisions making; and minimise financial risks which arise from the transition to a low carbon economy and increased natural disasters
- community (municipal / regional) adaptation: assist and facilitate community resilience building and adaptive capacity by providing information on local climate change risks to enable informed decision making and risk assessment
- corporate (council) emissions and energy reduction: reducing energy and emissions across council owned assets, buildings, fleet and services; to realise cost savings
- community (municipal / regional) emissions and energy reduction: programs to influence and assist: households, business, commercial and community groups to reduce emissions and energy use and realise cost savings

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Administer relevant state and / or Commonwealth legislation to promote adaptation;
- Manage risks and impacts to public assets owned and managed by councils;
- Manage risks and impacts to council service delivery;
- Collaborate across councils and with State and Territory Governments to manage risks of regional impacts;
- Ensure policies and regulations under their jurisdiction, including local planning and development regulations, incorporate climate change considerations and are consistent with State and Commonwealth Government adaptation approaches ;
- Facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in the local community, including through providing information about relevant climate change risks;
- Work in partnership with the community, locally-based and relevant NGOs, business and other key stakeholders to manage the climate risks and impacts; and
- Contribute appropriate resources to prepare, prevent, respond and recover from detrimental climatic impacts.