

# PS213907 - Wangaratta Climate Adaptation Plan - Comment Tracker

No.	Source	Comment	Comment Type	Comments	Status of Action
1	Feedback Survey	Give significant support and funding to Wangaratta Sustainability and Landcare and any similar groups/businesses conserving the environment and strengthening renewable energy projects.	Note (no action required)	Throughout the actions, we have addressed partnerships with local groups and believe this is already addressed within the plan. Council will continue to support our local Sustainability and Landcare groups, along with advocacy. Where projects require funding, they will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.	Closed
2	Feedback Survey	It is heartening to see Council be proactive in this important space and plan for a longer period of time. Good job. Will point out that Council should only fill in gaps of other agencies that are already doing work in this space so tax payer money is spent the best way possible.	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
3	Feedback Survey	The RCOW is expanded very quickly to the north west there needs to be a priority undertaking to review infrastructure to support all these developments	Note (no action required)	We currently acknowledge new development areas in Action Area 3. Strategic priorities are consistently changing, and development areas may change in the future. No changes are proposed.	Closed
4	Feedback Survey	Stop any action based upon the flawed premise that climate action is required at all. Its not.	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
5	Feedback Survey	Good to see mental health impacts of climate change being considered by Council alongside the usual like infrastructure, and that forward planning is happening in general.	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
6	Feedback Survey	Well written but order is wrong. Would move the action table to higher up in the document as its easily missed but its also the most important aspect of the document.	Action (additional updates)	Noted, action table has been introduced into the Executive Summary (page 6)	CAP Updated
7	Feedback Survey	The brown haired girl at the kiosk was very friendly and explained about the plan in a very informative way. Good to see council engaging with community in this way	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
8	Feedback Survey	Will be interested to see more detail regarding actual milestones and specific activities	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
9	Feedback Survey	All new roads, bridges and buildings should be built considering the impacts of climate change. Good to see this in there and council showing leadership for a change. Shows we elected a good council.	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
10	Feedback Survey	Positive in taking serious action, but I believe council also has a responsibility to reduce carbon emissions which are causing climate change, as well as adapting to it. (as do all of us)	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
11	Feedback Survey	We need to stop the focus on growth and economics and put higher priority on what it is that we love about the area - the open space with rivers and bush	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
13	Feedback Survey	Selection of trees and shrubs that are both resilient to climate extremes and provide essential services including cooling and water use. The action suggested is good but needs to go a step further to test species in different context within council areas. Water sensitive urban design is critical for mitigation of drought and flood events. Retention of water to infiltrate into the water table rather than direct to stormwater and local creeks and rivers will minimise stormwater impacts and peak flooding. Linking to street trees and constructed wetlands with passive irrigation support greening under low rainfall. Partnering with university will be important for testing innovative solutions.	Action (additional updates)	<b>Updated Action 5.3</b> with "Consideration should be made for partnering with local universities and research groups, to consider how various water sensitive design solutions may improve drought tolerance and minimise impacts to local creeks and waterways." (pg 39) and wording from 'Integrated Water Management Plan' to 'Intergrated Water Management' to encompass a greater range of plans, policies and activities council under takes in this area.	CAP Updated
14	Feedback Survey	I understand that we need to focus investment on supporting people, however many are attracted to Wangaratta by our range of diverse natural spaces within the city, and these assets deserve more support as green refuges as our climate deteriorates	Note (no action required)	Noted. The natural environment is intended to be an area of focus for Action Area 5.	Closed
15	Feedback Survey	Action areas 4 & 5 stand out for me as a person who values people and the environment, it's our responsibility to not repeat the errors of those who went before us.	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
16	Feedback Survey	Overall the strategy is comprehensive but only as good as implementation, and adequate resourcing, and continuous monitoring and evaluation, with updated information where available. Important to have input from health services (NHW, Gateway etc) as well as community groups and to learn from other LGAs	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
17	Feedback Survey	it seems to going in right direction	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
18	Feedback Survey	I support all the initiatives relating to helping the most vulnerable and frail people during a heat wave event. I support Action point 4.2 Page 45 develop "...temperature-based triggers for action" including access to "cool zone" buildings like the library. I support budgeting for staffing the library on a Sunday on a high heat day. 1.3 point 2 "consider installing an emergency phone in each small town" this would be a valuable investment. I support RCOW council joining the - Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
19.1	Feedback Survey	There's a big focus in the plan on communication/education of residents about climate change. While some focus on this is OK (eg incl in every Council page in Chronicle), research in social & health education indicates this has limited effectiveness.	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed

19.2	Feedback Survey	<p>Instead, Council needs to identify, develop and nurture the capabilities critical to managing climate change and target these through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitating/enabling training and development to improve the capacity of key business operators, social and community organizations around climate change mitigation and response</li> <li>• Establish an advisory group of climate change experts within the municipality</li> <li>• Create a role of Climate Mitigation Ambassador, and appoint and support a number of these Ambassadors to spread information and publicize resources</li> <li>• Create a dynamic space within the proposed Council building that provides resources, advice and acts as a focus for people in the municipality, including</li> </ul>	Note (no action required)	<p>- <b>Capacity building:</b> This will be addressed in action 4.4 'Collaborate with partners to enhance community outreach efforts on climate change awareness and adaptation'</p> <p>- <b>Advisory group:</b> Good suggestion, but council currently has an Enviro &amp; Sustainability reference group, who are leveraged when strategies such as this require development.</p> <p>- <b>Climate Mitigation Ambassador role:</b> Good suggestion and something to be considered, but the feasibility of this requires review and would be a separate project as this is a Climate Adaptation Plan and not focused on mitigation.</p> <p>- <b>Climate change focus space:</b> Our website contains information, and links to resources (this material is currently going under review and will be updated). Also have times of year like at the library for events where info is distributed. Given the diversity of spaces, it is not always appropriate to have one focus space. Typically this is reviewed periodically and this will be taken on board</p>	Closed
20	Feedback Survey	Environmental changes we should be making now . Before it's too late to establish new plants. Eg why are there non native plant trees in ovens at new centre of the road plantings. It seems like the usual amount of bureaucracy and committee speak . I'm grateful we are thinking about	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
21.1	Feedback Survey	Page 45, point 3 I think the public library is a much more suitable "cool zone" than the Sports Centre because it has friendly welcoming staff, impressive reading resources and comfortable seating.	Note (no action required)	Reviewed and agreed, the library is noted as a potential refuge space within Action 3.	Closed
21.2	Feedback Survey	I very much support RCOW joining the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Environment listed on page 47 - 3.1. I think this Draft Climate Adaptation Plan should be supported fully by RCOW and any financial concerns should be weighed against the enormous debt burden of dealing with flooding and heat events which are increasing in frequency and magnitude because of climate change, Flooding events are increasing in number each year and I wonder if our Council is focusing sufficiently on building and upgrading facilities and structures to cope with this. As a 72 year old I am increasingly alarmed by particularly hot summer seasons in Wangaratta and am starting to think I would be more comfortable back in Melbourne so am contemplating a move there over the next few years	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
22	Feedback Survey	Planning and the promotion of future-proofing strategies are likely to have wide-ranging effects for the benefit of all members of the community. Equally, leaning into climate change with efforts to create a resilient natural environment could potentially mitigate worsening effects. Congratulations to Council for their initiative in developing this forward-looking, critically important Climate Adaptation Plan	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
23	Feedback Submission	<p>Point one of action 4 cites the RCoW Youth Council as potential partners in "community out reach".</p> <p>I question the suitability of this. The Youth council should be spending time on joint projects that they devise themselves. Did the Youth Council have direct input to this Draft document specifically requesting this partnering arrangement? Or was it a suggestion that came from council officers?</p> <p>It is an understatement to say there are differing views in the population of Wangaratta about the way to respond to climate change. At times these differing views become politically charged. I don't think it is appropriate to engage young people to advocate for council policies and actions. Especially when some of those actions may end up generating criticism from the public.</p> <p>Council staff charged with supervising and mentoring the Youth Council should be careful to not push or reinforce a particular point of view. There must be room for a diversity of view points on this issue and other issues within the youth council.</p> <p>If the youth council come up with their own initiatives to address Climate Change I think that is terrific.....I just don't a reference to partnering with youth in a document of this nature is appropriate.</p> <p>The "Grit and Resilience" organisation would be a much more preferable community group to partner with on outreach projects</p>	Note (no action required)	Noted, however the Youth Council have previously expressed interest and concern in this process and have been a significant contributor. The youth demographic requires representation, and as a volunteer organisation it is appropriate to acknowledge them as part of the wider community.	Closed
	Online Drop-in Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depot – there should be generators, batteries, fuel access in the event of an emergency at the depot. Believed in council 'leading by example' on how we can run self-sufficiently in the event of an emergency. (We discussed this in relation to Actions 2.1 + 2.2)</li> </ul>	Action (additional updates)	<p>Noted. Council has access to generators where needed, and will continue to invest in opportunities for off grid and community batteries. Council may consider undertaking a case study on the next 'disaster', showcasing how new council assets responded during this event.</p> <p>Noting there is an absence in this plan for acknowledging council's position to showcase 'best practice resilience' for the community, adjustments have been proposed within Action 2.1 on pg 31:</p> <p>Throughout this process, key council sites with off-grid capabilities should be established (e.g., solar power, battery storage, rainwater harvesting) and actively publicised, to educate the community on self-sufficiency and resilience.</p>	CAP Updated

	Feedback Submission (Ac	<p>I don't support council expending resources on developing strategies, financial advice, brochures, workshops etc for the business community. There are a multitude of businesses affected by climate change and extreme weather events. For example tourism, music festivals, farming, horticulture, building profession. Each of these sectors have there own professional associations where they can go when seeking resources, expertise and advice.</p> <p>The council should make available to those who seek it, any scientific modelling of projected climate change in our region. This could help businesses understand what is ahead for our part of the world. However I do not support council becoming a defacto training organisation for the business community.</p> <p>accordingly I oppose the inclusion of clause 4 - "Consider procuring a consultant to create bespoke materials"</p> <p>I support advocating to the state government for that tier of government to do more to support small businesses on this issue.</p> <p>I support clause 5 which focuses on sharing information with the wider community. That clause suggests "Consider inviting community members periodically to emergency event simulations". This is a good idea as it would give more people in the wider community (including local business leaders) an understanding of what kind of events the council are planning for.</p>	Note (no action required)	<p>If there is a need addressed for the community, the action is specific to identification of existing resources first. The business community are part of the wider network within Wangaratta and should be acknowledged within this plan.</p> <p>Regarding consultant procurement for bespoke materials, the action is specific to the Municipality only if available resources are deemed insufficient to address challenges that are identified through other areas of the action.</p>	Closed
	Feedback Submission	<p>I don't support RCoW paying for a "....First Nations subcontractor."</p> <p>It is my understanding that there is scientific uncertainty about whether a re-introduction of indigenous fire regimes (into what are very different landscapes to pre-colonial times) will have the positive effect proponents are expecting.</p> <p>It is important the council operates from evidence based decision making. All interventions that RCoW make into the local landscape should be justifiable using scientific principles.</p> <p>I do support RCoW staff strengthening respectful communication channels with local indigenous leaders. However I can't support adopting a blanket proscription that RCOW "work with traditional owners to incorporate cultural knowledge and practices in bush reserve management plans for the municipality."</p>	Note (no action required)	<p>As part of this initiative, consideration for appropriate practices relevant to the current landscape are included. Representation is important of the wider community.</p> <p>No changes are proposed to Action 5.4. Fire regimes are not mentioned within the report and action references existing initiatives within the municipality.</p>	Closed
	Feedback Submission	<p>The library already is a place many people enjoy relaxing in comfort on a very hot day. I would like to see the library given higher importance in heat wave planning. Increasing the hours the library is open during Summer heatwaves should be considered. When considering the frail and the elderly it is obvious the library is a much more suitable place as a heat relief location than the Wangaratta Sport Centre at Barr reserve.</p> <p>There is reference in this document to communication strategies with the wider public. The library could be the ideal venue for such efforts. The Library already has an annual event program called "March into Sustainability" why not make council climate adaptation outreach a regular part of the annual "March into Sustainability" programming. If there is a library staff member who wished to be given professional training to enable them to participate in RcoW community outreach efforts on the climate topic I would be fully supportive.</p>	Note (no action required)	Agreed, the library is acknowledged as part of Action 1.3	Closed
	Feedback Submission	<p>Supportive of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* considering the CAP in "...each Annual Budget cycle and long-term financial plan"</li> <li>* annually reporting on the progress of CAP</li> <li>* up dating the Municipal Emergency Management Plan in collaboration with state government and voluntary agencies</li> <li>* proposed yearly schedule of emergency response operation simulations</li> <li>* creating a list of priority assets to be upgraded to be climate resilient</li> <li>* Create draft plans and applications for funding for infrastructure upgrades that are ready to go following a disaster</li> <li>* working with engineers to understand the infrastructure upgrades our city needs</li> <li>* ensuring new developments include climate-smart design</li> </ul>	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed

	Feedback Submission	<p>Extremely supportive of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* “continue to develop a heatwave policy or plan in conjunction with heat-health experts”</li> <li>* “consider installing an emergency phone in each small town to be used to establish communications between communities, Council and emergency services”</li> <li>* expanding the flood overlays to include consideration of increasing flood probabilities &amp; incorporating changes into the Wangaratta Planning Scheme.</li> <li>* develop a sustainable drainage policy for the drainage and storm water systems.</li> <li>* Work with NEW and NECMA to develop an Integrated Water Management Plan.</li> <li>* investigating the feasibility of installing permanent generators in the small RCOW townships for use during power outages</li> <li>* improve community access to relief centres</li> <li>* develop a Climate Adaptive Planting Project</li> </ul>	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
	Email	<p>Support the following points of the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•More support for vulnerable people during extreme heat, cold, bushfire and flooding events</li> <li>•Library to be better resourced so it can be a "cool zone" in heat waves for vulnerable people.</li> <li>•RCOW joining the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Environment.</li> </ul>	Note (no action required)	Noted.	Closed
	Email	<p>My new comment It would be good to build synergies amount the different actions. Here I would advocate for planning to avoid high impact areas, building in mitigation mechanisms to avoid heat, drought and flood impacts with specific actions for stormwater and greening projects. Here we can see passive irrigation of street trees links to species selection to minimise stormwater, enhance cooling and minimise heat and drought impacts.</p> <p>As mentioned I am a wang resident and <i>[redacted - personal info]</i> . Here I have active research in plant response to the environment specialising in heat and drought adaptive capacity. Current project include ecological restoration and urban greening. My webpage for some details: <i>[redacted - personal info]</i></p>	Note (no action required)	Thank you and agree that synergies are important and this will be considered, however steps to implement also include partnerships with existing projects and organisations.	Closed
	Email	<p>Shade trees are important and the council has been proactive in street plantings.</p> <p>I think when the council buys trees from a supplier they should get some extra and offer them for sale to the public at cost.</p> <p>Also council may consider offering the public a service re advice on saving and caring for important shade trees at their residential properties. Such advice can assist before people employ an arborist at great cost.</p>	Note (no action required)	Good suggestions, council will look at this for future projects. Currently we collect and grow seeds within a nursery, and the library will be launching a seed library in March.	Closed
	Online Drop-in Session	•Council should be keeping an eye on technology and being ready to go when electrification tech improves / grants are available.	Note (no action required)	Take onboard your comment, thank you. This is considered within the Environment & Sustainability	Closed
	Online Drop-in Session	Felt there was business focus more than community	Note (no action required)	Action 4 ' A prosperous, prepared, and healthy community ' is included to address this and feels community is well represented , but we note the comment.	Closed
	Online Drop-in Session	Housing construction code - advocacy piece for council to ensure code updates are mandated to achieve emissions reduction commitments (Action 3.1)	Note (no action required)	Included in action 3.1.	Closed