GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY STATEMENT

Shaping our State's future

DevelopmentWA

Commitment

DevelopmentWA is committed to addressing climate change by implementing mitigation and adaption strategies to reduce our carbon footprint, create positive environmental outcomes and build resilient communities. As a developer of residential, commercial and industrial land, we are committed to action on climate change because:

- the built environment is a significant contributor to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions (23%);
- we are in a position to facilitate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the built environment;
- our developments are exposed to the impacts of climate change; and
- we can create communities and infrastructure that are more resilient to climate change impacts.

Climate change impacts on Western Australia

The impacts of climate change in the State include:

- increased risk of bushfire and drought;
- decreased average rainfall in south-west Western Australia;
- less fresh water;
- the need to accelerate infrastructure development, for example, additional water supply sources;
- increased risks to coastal settlements of coastal erosion, saltwater inundation and storm surge flooding;
- increased heat stress-related mortality and morbidity, particularly among the elderly;
- decreased agricultural production, potentially increasing the costs of both food and water and changing population distribution in regional areas;
- adverse impacts on recreation and tourism;
- increased risk of erosion in areas where low rainfall results in low biomass, especially where overgrazing occurs; and
- loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

Management approach

Each project delivered by DevelopmentWA is unique and our level of influence varies according to the nature of the project. Depending on the lifecycle stage and specific project needs, DevelopmentWA's action on climate change reflects the control and influence we have in each project.

Policy statement

We are committed to addressing climate change impacts through working with other stakeholders and implementing the following mitigation and adaption strategies:

Mitigation

- Implementing climate responsive urban and landscape design to offset urban heat island effect, reduce energy use, increase energy efficiency and respond to increases in temperature by reducing the need for mechanical heating, cooling and maximising access to natural light and ventilation.
- Exploring strategies to incorporate renewable energy sources such as wind and solar energy into development projects.
- Exploring ways to reduce water use, and particularly potable water use, through efficiency measures (e.g. fixtures and fittings, waterwise landscapes, and efficient irrigation systems) and secondary non-potable supplies (e.g. rainwater, recycled water and stormwater).
- Implementing strategies and practices to manage, reduce and recycle demolition and construction waste to promote the efficient use of resources.
- Creating medium to high density residential and employment centres that maximise the use of public transport, walking and cycling and that optimise existing amenities and infrastructure.
- Retaining vegetation and undertaking revegetation to protect biodiversity, offset carbon emissions and reduce the heat island effect.
- Measuring and reporting on our energy, water, waste and biodiversity initiatives as part of our corporate sustainability reporting.
- Encouraging sustainable behaviours at work and home through staff education and training.

Adaption

- Planning for and responding to, future climate change impacts such as sea level rise, coastal flooding, bushfire risk and urban heat.
- Integrating and assessing climate change risks and cost considerations into business cases, master planning, built form design and development.
- Identifying opportunities for research and innovation to strengthen the resilience of DevelopmentWA projects, and the residential and employment communities we create, against climate change impacts.

Detail on our corporate sustainability reports can be found below:

- management of water;
- energy;
- waste resources; and
- biodiversity management.

[1] *Low Carbon, High Performance, Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council, 2016.*

[2] *Western Australian Government: Adapting to our changing climate, Department of Environment and Conservation, 2012.*

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