



# Adaptation and Resilience

## **Outcome 2041:**

An adaptive and resilient community which anticipates and is responsive to a changing environment.

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## **Target:**

Maintain or increase community resilience by 2041.





## We need to build our community's ability to respond and adapt to changing climatic conditions.

Based on recent climate projections, we can expect our natural and built environments and communities to be exposed to a range of impacts such as more intense storms and flooding; increased damage to buildings and infrastructure; prolonged heat waves impacting public health and increased bush fire risk; as well as likely shifts in the diversity of our plants and animals as conditions change due to increased climate variability.

These impacts have the potential to affect the way in which we live, how we recreate and experience our natural environment and ultimately the liveability of our region. Adaptation and resilience focuses on minimising the impacts of climate change and natural disasters within the context of an increasing population and changing economy.

As a region we need to be proactive with managing future risks and to increase our capacity to recover quickly from disruptions as hazards become more severe. We also need to have the flexibility to adjust and reorganise our social, economic and environmental systems when and where required. Our approach to decision-making and adaptation planning also needs to be agile and responsive as new information and evidence of changing risks and vulnerability becomes available.

Taking a 'No Regrets' approach to adaptation decision-making enables this flexibility. 'No Regrets' approaches are based on taking action now without being certain about all dimensions of future climate change. In this context, measures are implemented in a precautionary sense with the aim of responding to likely impacts before the risks become too great, providing benefits for future generations, while also enhancing the living conditions of people in the present.

It is an approach designed to respond to different types of hazards while also delivering environmental, social and economic benefits. Underpinning this approach will be the application of innovative thinking to processes and systems as we seek to identify appropriate adaptation pathways and deliver successful adaptation outcomes.

Becoming a well-adapted and resilient community is a long-term strategy which requires shared responsibility with collective outcomes achieved through planning and the implementation of timely action by householders, asset owners, communities, businesses and government.

Successful adaptation can offer both long-term and short-term gains, including:

- increased social, economic and environmental resilience to the impacts of climate change across all sectors
- improved community safety and wellbeing (especially for vulnerable members of the community)
- ensuring the built environment is resilient to environmental change
- ensuring critical infrastructure is resilient to natural disasters and climate change influences
- enhanced financial advantages and performance
- ensuring a sustainable balance between human activity and the natural environment.



## Planning for change

The drivers of change will have varying levels of impacts on our ability to adapt and respond to change and will continue to present challenges for the future.

Key impacts may include:

- potential degradation and loss of natural values and ecosystems
- increasing numbers of people and assets exposed to the consequences of natural hazards
- escalating operational, living and insurance costs for asset owners and operators
- increasing health impacts as temperatures and heat waves become more frequent and prolonged.

To proactively respond to these likely impacts and seek new opportunities, a strong set of policy positions has been prepared to achieve the desired outcome.

## Council's role

As an asset custodian and provider of public infrastructure council plays a key role by ensuring these assets are appropriately located, designed, constructed, managed and maintained to enable ongoing functionality and accessibility.

Council also provides strong leadership and strategic direction which supports the development of community capacity and communities that are resilient to natural disasters and climate change via its legislative roles in land use planning and disaster management.

In addition, council's role is to embed adaptation and resilience measures into systems and processes.



## Adaptation and Resilience policy positions

### 12.1 Adaptation enables the whole community to build climate and disaster resilience:

- a Risk assessment, risk reduction, adaptation, and disaster management are embedded into decision-making, systems and processes.
- b Resilience is enabled through cost effective investment in risk assessment, adaptation, disaster management and the utilisation of innovative technologies and concepts.
- c Accurate and current models, mapping and other corporate datasets inform the understanding of the risks associated with climate change.
- d Adaptation and disaster risk reduction planning minimises economic, social, environmental and infrastructure impacts.
- e Strong and enduring partnerships are established and supported to improve understanding and action on climate adaptation.
- f Collective action delivers a resilient Sunshine Coast.

