

Late Addendum Report

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

c16 [CNR-CM] Draft Submission to NSW Climate Change Fund Draft Strategic Plan and Plan to Save Energy and Money

SUBMITTED BY: Natural Resource Management

Validms



Civic Leadership

LINKAGE TO INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK:

- 1 Civic Leadership
 - 1.1 Ensure actions taken and decisions reached are based on the principles of sustainability
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SUMMARY OF REPORT:

A Council submission has been prepared in response to the NSW Government's draft strategic plan for allocating \$500m from the Climate Change Fund.

The NSW Government climate change and energy strategies provide high level direction on potential actions to enhance the generation and use of renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and better adapt NSW to the impacts of climate change.

Consultation material poses more than 100 questions for response. Council officers from across planning, development, building, agriculture, biodiversity and sustainability programs have reviewed the consultation material. Commentary and feedback has been provided, with input from a Council workshop, consistent with the direction of existing Community Strategic Plan, climate change, energy, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, operational sustainability strategies and land use policies, and related Council resolutions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorses Tweed Shire Council's submission to the *Climate Change Fund Draft Strategic Plan* and *Draft Plan to Save NSW Energy and Money*. The submission includes:

- support for the target for NSW to emit net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050;
- a call for the NSW Government to outline the state's plan to decarbonise NSW's energy supply;
- support for a fiscally responsible approach, with independent evaluation and full life-cycle costing of new initiatives;

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- a greater role for land use planning and development to be innovative, use renewable energy, be energy efficient and be adaptable to climate change, without increasing regulatory burden;
- a request for more detail about the proposed actions to be resourced by the Climate Change Fund and what resources will be available for local government;
- a call to recognise the importance of consistency across all state government policies, and resolution of the conflict between the Climate Change Fund objectives, the direction of the state government's planning policies and biodiversity reforms;
- commendation for support of regional areas in NSW and resources to strengthen the agricultural sector's response to climate change;
- a call to implement more effective protections for biodiversity rather than allocation of Climate Change Funds to private land conservation; and
- a call to ensure all government agencies play a role in achieving the aims of the Climate Change Framework, especially the Department of Planning & Environment and electricity network providers.

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REPORT:

On 3 November 2016, the NSW Government released the *Draft Climate Change Fund Strategic Plan* and *A Draft Plan to Save NSW Energy and Money* for public consultation. Submissions are due Friday 16 December 2016.

The plans are initiatives in line with NSW Climate Change Policy Framework which describes two aspirational objectives:

- achieving net zero emissions by 2050
- NSW being more resilient to a changing climate.

The *Draft Climate Change Fund Strategic Plan* describes potential actions to deliver \$500 million in funding from the NSW Climate Change Fund over the next five years. The fund is made up of contributions from electricity consumers via NSW electricity distribution businesses. An additional \$900 million from the fund will be used over the next five years to:

- reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems to climate change on private land
- enhance bushfire management of land management agencies
- deliver ongoing adaptation programs and support councils to reduce exposure to coastal hazards
- future proof the Warragamba Dam
- deliver sustainability programs to improve use of water, energy and land
- understand and plan for climate extremes of flooding and storms.

Actions in the plan relate to three areas:

- Accelerating Advanced Energy
- National Leadership in Energy Efficiency
- Preparing for a changing climate.

The *Draft Plan to Save NSW Energy and Money* provides more detail on actions to deliver on the topic of National Leadership in Energy Efficiency. The plan focuses on:

- Energy efficient homes
- Energy efficient business
- Energy efficient government and infrastructure
- Energy efficient markets and appliances.

Council officers participated in an online webinar to get more detail about the plans and how the draft plans were prepared. A set of high level observations about the plans were endorsed by the Executive Management Team, and distributed through Council divisions for further input.

Councillors Allsop, Cherry and Cooper attended a workshop to discuss the NSW's plans and Council's submission in more detail.

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A submission template provided by the NSW Government outlines the key initiatives of both plans and seeks feedback on:

- whether and how the government should refine and deliver the potential actions identified
- whether there are other actions that should be considered.

Text from Council's submission (attached) has been added to appropriate sections of the submission template.

OPTIONS:

Council has sought leave for an extension on submitting to the *Climate Change Fund draft strategic plan* and *Draft Plan to Save NSW Energy and Money* on the basis of the recent election of councillors and insufficient time to provide a draft submission to councillors for input. At the time this report was prepared, the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage had not advised whether an extension will be granted.

Council may wish to resolve to amend Council's submission.

CONCLUSION:

The NSW Government climate change and energy strategies provide high level direction on potential actions to enhance the generation and use of renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and better adapt NSW to the impacts of climate change.

Consultation material poses more than 100 questions for response. Council officers from across planning, development, building, agriculture, biodiversity, coastal management and sustainability programs have reviewed the consultation material. Commentary and feedback has been provided, with input from a Council workshop, consistent with the direction of existing Community Strategic Plan, climate change, energy, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, operational sustainability strategies and land use policies, and related Council resolutions.

COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS:

a. Policy:

Not applicable.

b. Budget/Long Term Financial Plan:

Not applicable.

c. Legal:

Not Applicable.

d. Communication/Engagement:

Consult-We will listen to you, consider your ideas and concerns and keep you informed.

A Council workshop held on Monday 12 December 2016 was attended by Councillors Allsop, Cherry and Cooper. Councillors' recommendations have been incorporated into Council's submission.

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UNDER SEPARATE COVER/FURTHER INFORMATION:

Attachment 1.

Submission to the NSW Government Climate Change Fund
Draft Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020 and Draft Plan to Save
NSW Energy and Money (ECM 4349589)

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