



PO Box 85
Armidale NSW 2350
SLArmidale.org
info@slarmidale.org

Sustainable Living Armidale is a broad-based community group raising awareness of the implications of climate change and the depletion of natural resources, building networks, and inspiring and empowering our community to build a more self-reliant, resilient and sustainable future.

We do this by:

- Holding monthly public meetings, drawing on the breadth of knowledge within Armidale and beyond
- Having a regular stall at both Mall Markets & Farmers' Market
- Organising backyard garden & sustainable house tours
- Maintaining a community garden
- Showing inspiring films
- Enabling action groups: food, energy, transport, education, community garden & mining, to promote local initiatives & local resilience

INC9891413
ABN: 53 925 797 668

20 October 19

Armidale Regional Council
Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350

Attention: All Councillors

Sustainable Living Armidale strongly supports the community call for declaration by Armidale Regional Council of a Climate Emergency.

The current severe and unprecedented drought and water shortage in our region has shown that the global warming trend is exacerbating climate and weather events and is already leading to more severe droughts, heatwaves and severe fire weather close to home.

The possibility of Armidale running out of stored water is extremely serious and could result in collapse of the well-being that has underpinned the success of our community to date. Council has correctly identified the water shortage situation as requiring urgent response and has taken appropriate steps to put in place immediate measures to restrict non-essential uses of water and conserve remaining water for high value uses.

It is time that Council linked the water shortage situation to the bigger picture of what is happening with the climate.

The science informs us that humans must act quickly to bring about strong reductions in greenhouse gas emissions if we are to avoid catastrophic changes to the world's climate.

An increasing number of local government bodies have already recognised the seriousness of this situation and declared a climate emergency (see www.cedamia.org/global/). Recently, on 16/10/2019, the Local Government NSW Annual Conference approved a Climate Emergency Declaration and in June 2019 the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) National General Assembly supported a motion to call on the federal government to declare a Climate Emergency.

The points below are outcomes already listed in Council planning documents which are consistent with Climate Emergency Action.

- complementary adaptation and mitigation strategies to manage climate change risk and impacts, with development of a Climate Change Risk Assessment, Mitigation and Adaptation Plan for the whole ARC area
- reduction of energy consumption from council buildings
- a community that understands and supports renewable energy
- increase in electricity generated and/or purchased from renewable energy sources
- support of electric vehicle uptake
- advocacy for courses in energy efficiency and renewable energy
- advocacy to NSW government for more sustainable whole building design beyond minimum BASIX requirements
- viable sustainably run small and family farms
- build partnerships with the University of New England supporting research into climate adaptation with regard to food production

In an emergency, there is only one form of messaging that has ever been used: tell people clearly and honestly about the danger and tell them what to do to get to safety.

SLA strongly supports Declaration of a Climate Emergency by Armidale Regional Council.

Yours Sincerely

Mahalath Halperin, Convenor, Sustainable Living Armidale