

Terms of Reference: Climate Emergency Working Group

Name Climate Emergency Working Group.

Establishment The working group is a sub-committee to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC).

Term The working group will function until dissolved by Council or ESAC, or until ESAC is dissolved prior to the Council election in September 2020.

Delegations The working group has no delegations from Council.

Financial Arrangements The working group has no powers to commit or expend any Council funds.

Purpose and Goals The working group will research, explore funding opportunities, encourage, and seek to implement initiatives in the short, medium and long term that Council and our community can undertake to:

1. Reduce greenhouse emissions, aiming, by 2030, for no additional contribution from our region to the global temperature rise
2. Adapt to current and anticipated climate change impacts
3. Reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, e.g. sequester and store carbon in trees and soils
4. Respond in other ways to the Climate Emergency, declared by Council on 23 October 2019.

Core Responsibilities The core responsibilities of the working group are to:

- Recommend actions that Council and the community can undertake, after considering available information on the costs vs benefits of those activities
- gather a list of current activities and future actions for Council and the community to reduce global warming and adapt to current and anticipated climate change impacts, including those listed in EcoARC
- where appropriate, engage the community and stakeholders to develop this list, after considering whatever information is available on the costs vs benefits of each action
- explore funding options for Council and the community
- inspire action and seek to implement initiatives that will achieve the goals set out above
- by April 2020 prepare an initial report that will be used as input to the report required by ARC Resolution 266/19 (11 December 2019, detailed in the minutes of ARC's website)
- prepare further reports as required.

Membership The working group membership will be determined by an Expression of Interest process, and will include members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee and other interested people. All potential members must apply through an Expression of Interest, which will be assessed by the ESAC as soon as possible after the closing date. The working group will comprise up to 12 people, depending on the skills and ability of applicants to contribute to goals of the working group. No more than 50% of members should be members of ESAC. Membership will be supported by a council officer.

Reporting The CEWG will report to the ESAC.

Frequency of Meetings Meeting schedules will be determined by the Chairperson, in consultation with working group members.

Code of Conduct The Model Code of Conduct applies to the members of the working group.

Code of Meeting Practice The Council's Code of Meeting Practice shall guide the meeting procedures. However, videoconferences e.g. by Zoom or GoToMeeting will be permitted if members desire this option.

Remuneration of Members Working group members will not be remunerated for attending meetings and no reimbursement of travel expenses will be payable, without prior approval from the CEO (or delegate).

Chairperson The chairperson shall be determined by an election at the first meeting of the working group. Non-working group members may attend meetings on the invitation of the Chairperson.

Call for Expressions of Interest

Do you want to help Council Respond to the Climate Emergency?

The severe effects of the recent unprecedented drought and bushfires demonstrate the urgent need for our region to play our part in adapting to climate change and protecting our future and our planet's future. Armidale Regional Council Residents are invited to express their interest in membership of the Climate Emergency Working Group (**CEWG**) that will help Council and our region manage the risks posed by a changing climate.

The CEWG It will be a sub-committee of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee. Young and Indigenous community members and those involved with UNE's Project Zero30 are encouraged to apply.

Goals The working group will research, encourage, explore funding opportunities and seek to implement initiatives in the short, medium and long term that our community and Council can undertake to:

1. Reduce greenhouse emissions, aiming, by 2030, for no additional contribution from our region to the global temperature rise
2. Adapt to current and anticipated climate change impacts
3. Reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, e.g. sequester and store carbon in trees and soils
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- prepare further reports as required.

Expenses will not be reimbursed

Unless Council resolves otherwise, working group members will not be remunerated for their time and no reimbursement of travel expenses will be payable, except in special circumstances. However, it might be possible to attend meetings via video-conferencing.

Further Information

For further information and the Terms of Reference, see yoursay.armidale.nsw.gov.au. Information is also available on other Environmental Sustainability policies including:

1. The EcoARC 'GreenPrint' strategy that was adopted on 11 December 2019 and will guide Council's operations and assist groups in the community to improve sustainability in our region
2. Information on Project Zero2030, a partnership with UNE that aims for no additional contribution from our region to the global temperature rise by 2030
3. Background report to the Climate Emergency Declaration adopted by Council on 23 October 2019
4. Adapt NSW website. Understanding and adapting to climate change in NSW <https://climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/>.

Selection Criteria

The most important selection criterion is the ability to contribute to the goals of the working group and act on Council's Climate Emergency Declaration. For this, you will need skills, knowledge and enthusiasm, e.g.

- Knowledge of climate change and the types of activities that can reduce emissions
- Being passionate and able to make a positive contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the current political environment
- The understanding and ability to gather ideas from the community, and to inspire and implement action to achieve the goals set out above
- The ability to explore funding opportunities and work towards obtaining funding for the activities needed to achieve these goals. What skills and experience can you offer?
- An understanding of Environmental Sustainability policies, and the ability and sufficient free time before the initial report is due, to work with other members of the CEWG and ideally with UNE's project Zero30, to recommend actions on climate change, and to produce reports that will be used as input to the report required by ARC Resolution 266/19 (11 December 2019 – more details in the meeting minutes on ARC's website)

If you think you have the ability, skills and enthusiasm to serve on the CEWG, please email an expression of interest (EOI) of 1 – 2 pages addressing the Selection Criteria and how you can contribute to its goals to council@armidale.nsw.gov.au and to the Chair of ESAC drobenson@armidale.nsw.gov.au.

We'd appreciate it if EOI could be submitted as soon as possible. Preference may be given to applicants who are most likely to help achieve one or more of the CEWG's goals or core responsibilities. Applications will be distributed to ESAC members for assessment.