



Climate Change Policy

Document Control

Version	Approved By	Approval Date	Revisions
V.01	GCWA Board	12 December 2022	Initial Version

Purpose

To outline Gold Coast Waterways Authority's (GCWA) commitment to action on climate change mitigation and adaptation commensurate with the predicted timing and magnitude of the impacts on Gold Coast waterways.

This policy will also support GCWA in managing its responsibilities in alignment with the *Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act (2012)*, and the objectives of *Gold Coast Waterways Management Strategy (2021-2030)*.

Authority and Scope

Policy is given effect by the authority of the Board and applies to all GCWA staff, contractors, and consultants acting on behalf of GCWA.

Policy Statement

GCWA acknowledges that human-induced climate change is a recognised and measurable phenomenon with significant scientific modelling of its potential future impacts and effects on the usage and operation of the Gold Coast's waterways.

GCWA acknowledges that its operations currently contribute to the increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHG) and that actions must be taken to eliminate this impact as soon as practically possible.

GCWA acknowledges its ability to work with its supply chain to have them reduce and eliminate their carbon footprint, and more broadly to influence waterways users to do similarly.

GCWA is committed to maximising the climate change resilience and adaptive capacity of Gold Coast waterways through a strategic adaptation planning within its scope of coverage as defined by the *Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act (2012)*.

GCWA commits to use its position to influence waterway users to further mitigate the impacts of climate change to its core business, environment, and the wider Gold Coast community.

Specifically, GCWA will:

1. Recognise the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as the principal source of global climate change estimations. GCWA will use local-scale climate science aligned with IPCC estimates as the foundation of climate change projections.
2. Establish a Climate Change Management Strategy that identifies climate change risks and actions to mitigate, adapt, and build resilience to changing climate aligned with Gold Coast Waterways Management Strategy.
3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve net zero scope 1 & 2 emissions as soon as possible and preferably by 2025.

4. Work with key areas of our supply chain, such as dredge operators and marinas, to achieve net zero scope 3 emissions by 2030 or sooner.
5. Incorporate climate change resilience and net zero carbon emission targets into evaluation metrics in all procurement and asset management decision making, as well as statutory and strategic planning.
6. Incorporate climate change disclosures as recommended by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) as a part of GCWA annual and financial reporting.
7. Ensure all GCWA staff undertake climate change awareness training.
8. Ensure that all GCWA contractors and consultants are made aware of this policy, the GCWA Climate Change Management Strategy and implications for undertaking works.
9. In collaboration with local research organisations and other relevant organisations, continue to raise awareness on climate change impacts relevant to Gold Coast waterways.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Climate Change	A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. (UNFCCC Article 1)
GCWA	Gold Coast Waterways Authority
GHG	Greenhouse gases (GHG) are the atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change. The major GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO ²), methane (CH ⁴) and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O). Less prevalent --but very powerful -- greenhouse gases are hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆).
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
TCFD	Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

References

1. Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012
2. National Greenhouse and Energy Report Act 2007
3. Financial Reporting Requirements for Queensland Government Agencies 2022
4. Gold Coast Waterways Management Strategy 2021-2030