

Overarching Goal: Establish adaptation strategies within statutory and non-statutory planning processes to minimise the region’s vulnerability and risks from climate change impacts, including the changing nature and/or intensification of natural hazards.

Key words: urban planning and management, coastal landscapes, inland landscapes, adaptive capacity

Policy 1. The statutory and non-statutory planning processes must seek to minimise the vulnerability of coastal landscapes to storm tide and sea level rise inundation, coastal erosion, cyclones and severe winds, severe storms and hail, and flooding.

Policy 2. The statutory and non-statutory planning processes must seek to minimise the vulnerability of inland landscapes to heatwaves and high temperatures, flooding, severe storms and hail, and bushfires.

Policy 3. SEQ’s planning processes must have strong adaptive capacity to improve decision-making to adapt to climate change.

Program 1.1 Consolidation of urban development: Urban development is consolidated by favouring infill and redevelopment of existing urban areas to minimise the extent of development occurring in highly vulnerable coastal areas.

Program 1.2 Infrastructure sites: Essential infrastructure sites and corridors are identified, protected and managed from climate change impacts.

Program 1.3 Community planning: Residential accommodation, which is designed and located to integrate with the surrounding community, is provided to meet the specific needs of youth, the aged, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups to minimise their vulnerability to coastal hazards.

Program 1.4 Building code design criteria: Building codes are reviewed to incorporate design criteria for buildings to resist future loads that may result from the impact of climate change-exacerbated hazards during a minimum service life of 50 years.

Program 1.5 Retrofitting of residential properties: A program to assist households to retrofit high risk homes is created to reduce or eliminate damage caused by flooding as a result of sea level rise and coastal storm surge events.

Program 1.6 Planned retreat: Building structures, infrastructure and public facilities in areas adjacent to receding shorelines are sited landward and/ or relocated.

Program 1.7 Strategic relocation and upgrade of essential emergency and health services: Emergency and health services departments (e.g. disaster management warehouses, disaster coordination centres, evacuation centres, hospitals, aged care facilities) are strategically relocated into low risk areas and upgraded to appropriate building standards to projected risks so they can continue to operate during emergencies. This should consider threats to communications, transport and water infrastructure.

Program 1.8 Coastal defence: Coastal defence mechanisms are implemented to provide continuing flood and erosion risk management due to storm tides and sea level rise.

Program 1.9 Hazards full disclosure clause: A Coastal Hazards Full Disclosure Law is implemented to alert buyers of coastal properties about current and future climate related risks such as erosion rates, storm history, inundation and sea level rise.

Program 1.10 Redundancy and back-up for essential services and buildings: High priority buildings and services, such as Local Disaster Coordination Centres; hospitals; essential council buildings and evacuation centres; alternative access routes; communication; and supplies of power, fuel and water are decentralised and/ or equipped with back-up systems.

Program 1.11 Innovative design for coastal areas: Innovative engineering and design solutions are employed to manage coastal hazards in low risk areas.

Program 1.12 Flood immunity: Flood immunity for essential infrastructure and buildings is achieved through water sensitive movement and detention infrastructure that minimises alterations to natural flow regimes, including floodplain connectivity.

Program 1.13 Protection of coastal habitats: Areas that provide for the landward retreat of coastal habitats and species at risk from predicted sea level rise are identified and protected.

Program 1.14 Long-term (strategic) planning: Planning and decision-making consider the potential implications of climate change over the life of long-term assets (100 year planning horizon).

Program 1.15 Coordinated response to sea level rise: A coordinated response to sea-level rise is initiated to develop measures related to coastal defence, accommodation and planned retreat.

Program 1.16 Land use conversion: Scenarios for land use conversion are defined to accommodate future population growth and incorporate future projected climate change threats over the next 50 to 100 years.

Program 1.17 Coastal erosion risk minimisation: A coastal erosion preparedness and awareness scheme is initiated to minimise risks from coastal erosion, including climate change projections, in vulnerable areas.

Program 1.18 Coastal inundation risk minimisation: A coastal inundation preparedness and awareness scheme is initiated to minimise coastal inundation risks, including climate change projections, in vulnerable areas.

Program 1.19 Urban parks and open spaces: Urban parks and open spaces are protected, enhanced and restored to protect and strengthen community wellbeing under a changing climate.

Program 2.1 Consolidation of urban development: Infill development is consolidated in existing urban areas while avoiding areas with high exposure to flooding and bushfire.

Program 2.2 Infrastructure sites: Essential infrastructure sites and corridors are identified, protected and managed from climate change impacts.

Program 2.3 Community planning: Residential accommodation, which is designed and located to integrate with the surrounding community, is provided to meet the specific needs of youth, the aged, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups to minimise their vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Program 2.4 Building code design criteria for floods: Building codes are reviewed to ensure building structures withstand projected site-specific flood levels.

Program 2.5 Building code design criteria for bushfire: Building codes are reviewed to ensure building structures are more resilient to bushfires.

Program 2.6 Retrofitting of residential properties: A program to assist households to retrofit high risk homes is created to improve adaptation to heatwaves and high temperatures, flooding, severe storms and hail, and bushfires.

Program 2.7 Planned retreat: Building structures, infrastructure and public facilities in areas adjacent to floodplains are sited landward and/ or relocated.

Program 2.8 Strategic relocation and upgrade of essential emergency and health services: Emergency and health services departments (e.g. disaster management warehouses, disaster coordination centres, evacuation centres, hospitals, aged care facilities) are strategically relocated into low risk areas and upgraded to appropriate building standards to projected risks so they can continue to operate during emergencies. This should consider threats to communications, transport and water infrastructure.

Program 2.9 Hazards full disclosure clause: A Hazards Full Disclosure Law is implemented to alert buyers of properties about current and future climate related risks associated with flooding, including riverine and flash floods, and bushfire.

Program 2.10 Redundancy and back-up for essential services and buildings: High priority buildings and services, such as Local Disaster Coordination Centres; hospitals; essential council buildings and evacuation centres; alternative access routes; communication; and supplies of power, fuel and water are decentralised and/ or equipped with back-up systems.

Program 2.11 Innovative designs for floods: Innovative engineering and design solutions are employed to minimise vulnerability to flooding in low risk areas.

Program 2.12 Flood immunity: Flood immunity for essential infrastructure and buildings is achieved through water sensitive movement and detention infrastructure that minimises alterations to natural flow regimes, including floodplain connectivity.

Program 2.13 Mapping of flood vulnerable areas: A program is created to map and catalogue developed building sites that are flooded three or more times over a 10 year-period.

Program 2.14 Land use conversion: Scenarios for land use conversion are defined to accommodate future population growth and incorporate future projected climate change threats over the next 50 to 100 years.

Program 2.15 Flood risk minimisation: A flood preparedness and awareness scheme is initiated to minimise both flash flood and riverine flood risks, including climate change projections, in flood prone areas.

Program 2.16 Bushfire risk minimisation: A bushfire preparedness and awareness scheme is initiated to minimise bushfire risks, including climate change projections, in bushfire prone areas.

Program 2.17 Heatwave risk minimisation: A heatwave preparedness and awareness scheme is initiated to minimise heatwave risks, including climate change projections, in heatwave prone areas.

Program 2.18 Urban parks and open spaces: Urban parks and open spaces are protected, enhanced and restored to protect and strengthen community wellbeing under a changing climate.

Program 3.1 Leadership development: Leadership must be developed by encouraging strong partnerships across government, business and the community in order to improve communication of climate change risks to decision-makers and wider community.

Program 3.2 Capacity building: Local governments’ capacity must continue to be built through improved knowledge and skills about climate change.

Program 3.3 Risk communication on climate change: Communication of climate change risks to decision-makers and wider community (flooding, storm surge, heatwave and sea level rise) must be improved.

Program 3.4 Risk allocation mechanisms: Climate change risks must be incorporated into decision-making processes.

Program 3.5 Professional and sub-professional education and training: A mandatory training program is created to educate professionals and sub-professionals in relevant fields (e.g. planning, architecture, surveying, building certification, real estate agents, engineering, and construction management) on the need to incorporate adaptation to climate change and natural hazards as a basis for establishing design criteria for new infrastructure and housing estates.

Program 3.6 Anticipatory planning response: The vulnerability of existing settlements in SEQ to climate change-exacerbated hazards, including natural hazards must be reduced through pro-active action.

Statutory planning
Non-statutory planning
Non-statutory and/or statutory planning