


# CLIMATE CHANGE 3 YEAR ACTION PLAN 2024-2026



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Grevillea and Pandorea on offer as part of the One Million Trees program at Canungra Free Tree Day, September 2022 (Credit: Byron Struck).



# 1. OVERVIEW

Council has developed this *Scenic Rim Climate Change 3 Year Action Plan 2024-2026 (Action Plan)* to drive and manage implementation of the high level actions identified in the *Scenic Rim Climate Change Roadmap 2024-2034* intended to improve the resilience and adaptive capacity of the Scenic Rim and reduce regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the next 3 years.

The Action Plan Summary of Actions includes metrics, lead and additional stakeholders, related objectives or actions, and anticipated time for completion for those high level actions that have already commenced or are due to commence 2024-2026. Information relating to stakeholders, roles and responsibilities, and potential funding sources for these actions is also included in the following sections.

## VISION

**"By 2034, the Scenic Rim will have made significant progress towards net zero emissions and have greater resilience to climate change impacts. The region will be responsive to climate change as a catalyst for reducing our dependence on natural resources, increasing the sustainability of our businesses and industries, and improving the resilience of our natural systems, communities, and built environment."**

Climate change has the potential to impact all aspects of our lives and, as such, requires action by all areas of Council. Consequently, the objectives and actions within this Roadmap are interlinked with

objectives in many Council strategies and plans. The following are some examples.

- The *Scenic Rim Community Plan 2011-2026* states "Adapting to a changing climate" and "Reducing resource consumption, lowering our carbon footprint and moving the renewable energy" as priorities.
- The *Scenic Rim Corporate Plan 2026* lists 'Adaptation to changing climate and weather patterns' as an area of focus.
- The *Scenic Rim Regional Prosperity Strategy 2020-2025* includes Climate Change as a risk to the future economic development of the Scenic Rim.
- From the *Scenic Rim Growth Management Strategy 2041*, "Land use planning directions ... ensure that new development is resilient to the effects of climate change, including the effects of bushfire, drought, heatwaves, increased rainfall intensity and flooding".
- The *Scenic Rim Agribusiness and Agritourism 10-Year Roadmap 2023-2033* lists "Agriculture sector recognised for role in reducing and sequestering greenhouse gas emissions" as a desired outcome.

Achieving these aims will require collaboration among various groups internal and external to Council and will be supported by this Action Plan. The following section lists various stakeholders that will be involved in implementing these actions and describes their roles and responsibilities.

Photographs on cover page; i) Planting at Sundown Council Reserve, 2023 (Credit: Lara Solyma), (ii) Flooding in the Scenic Rim resulting from Tropical Cyclone Debbie, March 2017, (iii) Solar panels in Running Creek (Credit: Adam Nicholas, AdNic Photography).



## 2. STAKEHOLDERS, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL

The role of the Scenic Rim Regional Council, in collaboration with the local community and other levels of government, is to provide essential services, manage local risks, and support disaster recovery. Supporting Council's adopted *Climate Change Statement of Intent*, the *Scenic Rim Climate Change Roadmap 2024-2034* (Roadmap) and this Action Plan have been developed to guide Council and the Scenic Rim region towards reducing GHG emissions, building climate resilience within our communities and ecosystems, and enabling our region to withstand and recover quickly from climate change impacts.

The Council also plays a key role in advocating for the Scenic Rim at Queensland and Australian Government levels to ensure the needs of the region are represented in broader government policy and initiatives.

### QUEENSLAND AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS

The Queensland and Australian Governments play critical roles in supporting the Scenic Rim Regional Council vision for climate change resilience and emission reductions whether this be through policy settings, planning and regulatory frameworks, supporting soft and hard infrastructure, or provision of financial support. Some of the relevant Queensland and Australian Government agencies and departments are Queensland Climate Resilient Council, Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES), Queensland Department of Energy and Public Works, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) and Clean

Canungra Township, July 2022 (Credit: Lachlan Gardiner).







Villis Bridge on Niebling Road, Tarome, was rebuilt following Oswald in 2013 using state recovery funding and has remained well maintained and functional, withstanding impacts from five natural disaster events between 2013 and 2024 including Cyclone Debbie in 2017 as seen here.

Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC), and will be consulted to support the development and/or implementation of actions in this Action Plan where necessary.

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Various Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups carry out science and research, onground actions, training and workshops, and collaborate with government, private industry, and the community. They also drive and influence decisions, policy and actions by government, with the objective of improving the health of land and water in Queensland.

Landcare is a national not-for-profit organisation that supports the Landcare community with funding, capacity-building, on-ground projects, information, networking and promotion of Landcare achievements. There are four active Landcare groups in the Scenic Rim region.

Scenic Rim Regional Council currently collaborates

with local NRM groups, Landcare, and community groups on projects that contribute to environmental resilience.

## SCENIC RIM COMMUNITY

There are various environmental community groups in the Scenic Rim including Boonah Organisation for a Sustainable Shire (BOSS), Logan Albert Conservation Association (LACA), Logan and Albert Rivers Catchment Association (LARCA), Bremer Catchment Association, Wild Mountains Trust, Scenic Rim Wildlife, and regional indigenous leaders, the Mununjali Elders, that may be willing to contribute to or take ownership of some of these actions.

The following Summary of Actions lists metrics to assess success, action leads and additional stakeholders, related objectives or actions, and estimated time for completion for high level actions to be initiated in the next 3 years (2024-2026). For further information on the themes, please refer to the Roadmap.

# 3. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS 2024-2026



## THEME 1 – STRONG LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES What are our objectives over the 3 year life of this Action Plan?	HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS How will we achieve our strategic objectives or encourage positive change?	METRICS How will we measure effectiveness or success of actions?	IMPLEMENTATION LEAD Who has the primary responsibility for this action?	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS Who will collaborate with or assist the Lead?	RELATED OBJECTIVES OR ACTIONS	COMPLETION Anticipated year of completion
1.1 Embed climate change considerations in all aspects of government decision-making	1.1.1 Embed climate considerations within all relevant Council policies, plans and strategies, i.e., implement the recommendations from the <i>Climate Change Adaptation Governance Assessment 2018</i> .	Relevant Council policies have incorporated a climate response Strategies and plans have incorporated climate response objectives and actions	Biodiversity & Climate Change Governance and Corporate Assurance	All of Council	1.4, 5.1, 2.2.3	2026
	1.1.2 Establish a Council reference group for climate change that periodically meets to provide information and advice to Council on climate issues, required actions, barriers and successes, and ongoing program development.	No. Council briefings No. successful action completions	Biodiversity & Climate Change	CCST		2032
	1.1.3 Educate Council staff about energy conservation and proper waste management at home and work so that they can lead by example.	Staff survey indicates an improvement in understanding of energy conservation and waste management	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Waste Services		2032
1.2 Strengthen partnerships with governments and stakeholders to take urgent action to achieve a low carbon economy and resilient community	1.2.1 Collaborate with other local governments to address climate risks and help build a low carbon economy. This includes opportunities for bulk buying of EVs, storage batteries, etc., as well as collaborative community education and carbon reduction initiatives across local government areas in SEQ.	Collaborations with other local governments and progress made Bulk buys leading to Council savings	All of Council	Biodiversity & Climate Change	2.1, 2.2	2032
	1.2.2 Utilise existing relationships and establish new relationships with the manufacturing industry in the region in order to assess energy efficiency and emissions reduction efforts and provide guidance and support if needed.	Number of assessments made	Regional Prosperity	State Development Trade and Investment QLD Other QLD and Australian agencies	1.2.2	2029





## THEME 1 – STRONG LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE CONTINUED...

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES What are our objectives over the 3 year life of this Action Plan?	HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS How will we achieve our strategic objectives or encourage positive change?	METRICS How will we measure effectiveness or success of actions?	IMPLEMENTATION LEAD Who has the primary responsibility for this action?	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS Who will collaborate with or assist the Lead?	RELATED OBJECTIVES OR ACTIONS	COMPLETION Anticipated year of completion
1.3 Advocate to all levels of government and encourage the community to drive decisive climate action	1.3.1 Advocate to the Federal and State governments to increase support for renewable energy, transitioning to a low carbon economy, and addressing climate risk impacts from flooding, drought, heat risk, bushfires and biodiversity loss in regional areas.	Climate advocacy actions Available grants, incentives and funding	All of Council	Biodiversity & Climate Change CoMSEQ		2032
	1.3.2 Advocate to State government and transport providers to: Improve and increase public transport services in the Scenic Rim region Provide leadership, direction and incentives regarding EV technologies and investment.	Advocacy actions Available grants, incentives and funding	Capital Works & Asset Management Regional Prosperity	DTMR CoMSEQ	2.2	2032
	1.3.3 Utilise existing events to communicate key climate change messages to communities within the Scenic Rim region.	Events and promotion activities Numbers of attendees at events	Community Development Comms & Marketing	Biodiversity & Climate Change		2029
1.5 Report on Council GHG emissions annually	1.5.1 Develop a GHG data management system.	Corporate GHG data management system established that enables easy data collection and calculation	Biodiversity & Climate Change			2024
	1.5.2 Calculate Council emissions profile according to GHG Protocol.	Emissions profile for financial year calculated and reported by the end of the corresponding calendar year	Biodiversity & Climate Change	All of Council		2032





## THEME 2 — ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES What are our objectives over the 3 year life of this Action Plan?	HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS How will we achieve our strategic objectives or encourage positive change?	METRICS How will we measure effectiveness or success of actions?	IMPLEMENTATION LEAD Who has the primary responsibility for this action?	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS Who will collaborate with or assist the Lead?	RELATED OBJECTIVES OR ACTIONS	COMPLETION Anticipated year of completion
2.1 Transition Scenic Rim Council to renewable energy and ensure the transition is within the capacity of Council to do so	2.1.1 Assess opportunities, barriers and financial models for potential Council- based renewable energy projects, such as mid-scale and behind-the-meter solar including batteries for solar power storage.	Pathway identified including next steps for implementation	Capital Works & Asset Management Biodiversity & Climate Change		1.2	2026
	2.1.2 Continue to implement renewable energy measures within Council owned and controlled properties including any public lighting.	kWh of renewable energy generated for Council operations increases Council's grid electricity and stationary fuel use decreases	Capital Works & Asset Management	Biodiversity & Climate Change	1.2	2032
2.2 Transition Council and the community to sustainable transport use	2.2.1 Develop a Council EV transition plan that requires the selection of lowest emission vehicles that are fit for purpose to show leadership and to be a positive example of climate action.	Plan developed and next steps for implementation identified	Fleet Management		1.2	2024
	2.2.2 Continue to seek funding for Council owned/ controlled EV charging stations to increase the availability for residents and visitors in the Scenic rim region and, in the longer term, for Council's own fleet.	Number of EV charging stations installed by Council	Capital Works & Asset Management	Fleet Management		2032
	2.2.3 Encourage businesses to take advantage of co-funding opportunities available through government grants and form partnerships with EV providers to increase the availability of EV charging stations in the Scenic Rim region.	Number of EV charging stations in the Scenic Rim	Regional Prosperity	Strategic Planning	1.2	2029
	2.2.4 Amend Scenic Rim planning scheme to include requirements for new multi-residential and non-residential developments for carparking areas to be 'EV ready'.	EVs factored into development requirements Number of EV charging stations in Scenic Rim region	Strategic Planning		1.2	2026
	2.2.5 Investigate biofuels as an interim measure during EV transition	Sustainability assessment of available biofuels complete	Fleet Management	Biodiversity & Climate Change		2024





## THEME 2 — ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CONTINUED...

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES What are our objectives over the 3 year life of this Action Plan?	HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS How will we achieve our strategic objectives or encourage positive change?	METRICS How will we measure effectiveness or success of actions?	IMPLEMENTATION LEAD Who has the primary responsibility for this action?	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS Who will collaborate with or assist the Lead?	RELATED OBJECTIVES OR ACTIONS	COMPLETION Anticipated year of completion
2.3 Invest in energy efficiency measures within Council and for Council owned buildings	2.3.1 Assess opportunities, barriers and financial models for efficiency measures.	Pathway identified including next steps for implementation	Capital Works & Asset Management Biodiversity & Climate Change		2.3.2 Predecessor	2026
	2.3.2 Continue to implement energy efficiency measures within Council owned and controlled properties including any public lighting.	Council's grid electricity and stationary fuel use decreases	Capital Works & Asset Management	Biodiversity & Climate Change	2.3.1	2029
2.4 Inform community and business on ways to reduce energy consumption	2.4.1 Make an information toolkit available to assist households and businesses to reduce emissions and energy costs.	Information tool kit developed	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Communications & Marketing	1.3.3	2026
	2.4.2 Provide information on energy efficiency to households and businesses and promote new technologies and tools that assist with sustainable behaviour change, through a web-based platform.	Website and dashboard developed and updated Number of website visits	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Communications & Marketing		2026
	2.4.3 Provide information on solar PV and storage batteries to households and businesses including mechanisms for savings and funding, through a web-based platform.	Website and dashboard developed and updated Number of website visits % of solar PV systems installed annually	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Communications & Marketing		2026
2.5 Provide information to community groups and business on available resources for mid to large scale renewable energy projects	2.5.1 Assess opportunities, barriers and financial models for community owned renewable energy projects, such as solar farms, microgrids, solar gardens, community batteries for solar storage.	Assessment complete and next steps identified	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Financial Management		2026
	2.5.2 Develop a web-based platform and dashboard to provide information on mid to large scale renewable energy projects including regulatory requirements and funding mechanisms.	Website and dashboard developed and updated Number of website visits Number of mid to large scale projects in the region	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Community Development	2.5.1 Predecessor	2032



## THEME 3 — HEALTHY AND RESILIENT NATURAL SYSTEMS AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES What are our objectives over the 3 year life of this Action Plan?	HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS How will we achieve our strategic objectives or encourage positive change?	METRICS How will we measure effectiveness or success of actions?	IMPLEMENTATION LEAD Who has the primary responsibility for this action?	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS Who will collaborate with or assist the Lead?	RELATED OBJECTIVES OR ACTIONS	COMPLETION Anticipated year of completion
3.1 Undertake revegetation and ecosystem restoration of Council owned and controlled land to support ecosystem and species resilience, and for carbon sequestration	3.1.1 Survey Council owned and controlled lands to establish the best sites for revegetation, restoration and carbon sequestration projects.	Investigation of Council land suitable for revegetation, restoration and carbon sequestration projects complete	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Property Management	3.1.2	2026
	3.1.2 Revegetate and restore selected Council sites for native species habitat and recreation.	Area of land revegetated	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Land for Wildlife Landcare	3.1.1	2032
	3.1.3 Investigate any State/Federal mechanisms for funding carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation projects.	Investigation complete Funding (\$) Grants (including disaster and resilience)	Biodiversity & Climate Change		3.1.1	2024
3.2 Encourage and undertake revegetation and ecosystem restoration of privately owned non-agricultural rural landscapes to support ecosystem and species resilience, and for carbon sequestration	3.2.1 Continue existing initiatives/partnerships and seek out new initiatives/partnerships that support ecosystem and species resilience.	One Million Trees program — number of trees distributed Land for Wildlife — number of property registrations Partnerships in other initiatives	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Land for Wildlife		2032
	3.2.2 Implement management plans for priority species.	Protection and condition improvements for threatened plant and animal species	Biodiversity & Climate Change			2029
	3.2.3 Continue to make grants available for groups within the community delivering environmental projects that increase the resilience of our natural systems and/or sequester carbon.	Number of environmental grants provided for initiatives with potential climate change mitigation and/or adaptation outcomes	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Community Groups NGOs Businesses Schools Property Owners		2032
	3.2.4 Hold/promote workshops or events to educate landholders about revegetation and ecosystem restoration and potential funding sources.	Number of events Survey or visit to determine progress	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Community Development Comms & Marketing Healthy Land & Water Landcare Watergum Queensland Trust for Nature	1.3.3	2029





## THEME 3 — HEALTHY AND RESILIENT NATURAL SYSTEMS AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION CONTINUED...

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES What are our objectives over the 3 year life of this Action Plan?	HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS How will we achieve our strategic objectives or encourage positive change?	METRICS How will we measure effectiveness or success of actions?	IMPLEMENTATION LEAD Who has the primary responsibility for this action?	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS Who will collaborate with or assist the Lead?	RELATED OBJECTIVES OR ACTIONS	COMPLETION Anticipated year of completion
3.3 Encourage and undertake revegetation and greening in urban and peri-urban spaces and promote use of water-sensitive urban design to reduce urban heating and increase carbon drawdown	3.3.1 Develop and propose an urban greening target (Action 1.1f Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan)	Whether action is completed	Biodiversity and Climate Change	Strategic Planning	3.2.2, 5.1	2026
	3.3.2 Develop an urban greening program for streets and public spaces that increases tree canopy cover, native vegetation, biodiversity, and carbon drawdown and reduces urban heating.	No. trees planted % urban canopy cover (long term)	Biodiversity & Climate Change (1)	Asset Management (2) Parks & Landscape Maintenance (2) Capital Works or Survey & Design (2) Strategic Planning (3)	3.2.1, 5.1	2026
	3.3.4 Develop a policy for preferred species for biodiversity, shade and carbon drawdown.	Whether action is completed	Biodiversity & Climate Change		5.1	2029
3.4 Investigate options regarding the sale and purchase of carbon offsets by Council	3.4.1 Determine costs and benefits of purchasing different types of carbon offsets.	Investigation is completed and next steps identified	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Financial Management		2024
	3.4.2 Investigate requirements for Council to receive ACCUs for restoration/revegetation projects through ERF and LRF.	Investigation is completed and next steps identified	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Financial Management		2026
3.5 Increase the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and rural water supply sources by improving the condition of regional surface and subsurface catchment water systems	3.5.1 Continue to implement initiatives that help landholders to restore and rehabilitate riparian vegetation and other practices that improve catchment water quality.	Number of landholders involved in Resilient Rivers Initiative and related programs. % of mapped vegetated riparian zones (long term) Aquatic biota surveys	Biodiversity & Climate Change			2032
	3.5.2 Educate non-agricultural landholders about water sensitive design and other measures to preserve or improve water quality through information toolkits and web-based platforms.	Website and toolkit developed Number of website visits Number of toolkits distributed	Biodiversity & Climate Change			2032



## THEME 4 — SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES What are our objectives over the 3 year life of this Action Plan?	HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS How will we achieve our strategic objectives or encourage positive change?	METRICS How will we measure effectiveness or success of actions?	IMPLEMENTATION LEAD Who has the primary responsibility for this action?	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS Who will collaborate with or assist the Lead?	RELATED OBJECTIVES OR ACTIONS	COMPLETION Anticipated year of completion
4.1 Support the creation of a sustainable and regenerative food system that includes consideration of and preparation for climate change risks	4.1.1 Promote Landcare and other workshops and programs, grants, and guidance material, including access to climate projections, that encourage and inform the adaptation of farming practices for future climate conditions and improve the resilience of crops and livestock.	Number of farmers participating in on-ground actions through land management programs	Regional Prosperity Biodiversity & Climate Change	Landcare Healthy Land & Water Carbon Farmers of Australia QLD Farmer's Federation QLD and Australian agencies	4.1.2, 4.3.1	2032
	4.1.2 Through the <i>Scenic Rim Agribusiness and Agritourism Three-Year Action Plan</i> and <i>10-Year Roadmap</i> : Diversified and Sustainable Agribusinesses: Initiative 1.8 Promote existing agribusiness sustainability practices and encourage industry leading sustainability practices and innovation	Increased diversity in agribusiness products and services within the region Carbon reduction in agribusiness activities Research and development grants	Regional Prosperity	Industry Representative Groups Australian Certified Organic QLD and Australian Agencies	4.1.1, 4.3.1	2032
4.2 Promote sustainable, locally produced food and improve local food access for farmers, residents and visitors	Through the <i>Scenic Rim Agribusiness and Agritourism Three-Year Action Plan</i> and <i>10-Year Roadmap</i> : Action 2.2.2 Continue to support industry through popular events and initiatives such as the Scenic Rim Farm Gate Trail, Eat Local Month, and agriculture industry events	Survey/phone call to determine if there is an associated increase in revenue due to promotion Action 2.2.2: Increased visitors at key events	Regional Prosperity Destination Scenic Rim	Industry Representative Groups QLD Government Agencies Local Industry		2032
	4.2.2 Through the <i>Scenic Rim Agribusiness and Agritourism Three-Year Action Plan</i> and <i>10-Year Roadmap</i> : Action 2.3.1: Identify strategic locations for hub-and-spoke model farm doors, or centralised outlets for local food, beverage and other products, and support industry led development of collective farm-to-shop distribution facilities which support the vibrancy and sustainability of existing towns and villages.	Action 2.3.1: Increased availability and sales of local agri-products	Regional Prosperity	Local growers and Producers		2026





## THEME 4 — SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS CONTINUED...

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES What are our objectives over the 3 year life of this Action Plan?	HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS How will we achieve our strategic objectives or encourage positive change?	METRICS How will we measure effectiveness or success of actions?	IMPLEMENTATION LEAD Who has the primary responsibility for this action?	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS Who will collaborate with or assist the Lead?	RELATED OBJECTIVES OR ACTIONS	COMPLETION Anticipated year of completion
4.3 Support farmers to reduce their emissions through changes in agricultural practices and technology implementation	4.3.1 Promote platforms and programs for farmers to access training, workshops, grants and guidance material for reducing agricultural emissions including current technology, regenerative farming, water sensitive design.	Number of workshop/ training attendees Website visits	Regional Prosperity	Biodiversity & Climate Change Healthy Land & Water Landcare Carbon Farmers of Australia	4.1.1, 4.1.2	2032
4.4 Encourage farmers to take up opportunities for income generation through carbon sequestration activities	4.4.1 Investigate opportunities to encourage rural landowners to sequester soil carbon and accrue carbon credits through agricultural and revegetation methods (e.g. ERF, LRF, Carbon Farmers of Australia) and disseminate information through workshops and information toolkits.	Number of carbon sequestration projects	Biodiversity & Climate Change Regional Prosperity			2026

Boonah

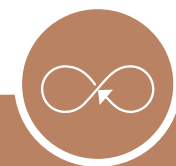




## THEME 5 — RESILIENT COMMUNITIES, BUSINESSES AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES What are our objectives over the 3 year life of this Action Plan?	HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS How will we achieve our strategic objectives or encourage positive change?	METRICS How will we measure effectiveness or success of actions?	IMPLEMENTATION LEAD Who has the primary responsibility for this action?	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS Who will collaborate with or assist the Lead?	RELATED OBJECTIVES OR ACTIONS	COMPLETION Anticipated year of completion
5.1 Create a resilient built environment by considering potential climate change impacts	5.1.1 Research best practice in climate responsive urban planning and design and develop materials for Council planning, asset management, place making, design and construction, to increase climate resilience and liveability within Council's public areas, streetscapes and buildings.	Best practice information made available to relevant areas of Council	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Capital Works Asset Management Parks & Landscape Maintenance	3.2	2024
	5.1.2 Apply climate responsive best practice to Council planning, asset management, place making, design and construction, to increase climate resilience and liveability within Council's public areas, streetscapes and buildings.	Best practice incorporated into Council planning, design and construction	Capital Works Asset Management Parks & Landscape Maintenance	Strategic Planning Biodiversity & Climate Change	3.2	2032
	5.1.4 Advocate to State and Federal governments to lift standards across the building and development sectors to climate adaptation best practice for cooling of heat island effects, improved amenity, and reducing energy demand.	Climate advocacy actions Changes to construction and development standards that address predicted temperature increases	Biodiversity & Climate Change			2026
5.2 Build Council and community awareness and preparedness for climate change and extreme weather events	5.2.1 Continue to educate the community through awareness programs including information toolkits, events, and web resources, to raise awareness and understanding of disaster management and preparedness.	Number of information toolkits distributed Number of events Website visits (Disaster Dashboard)	Disaster Management Local Disaster Management Group	Biodiversity & Climate Change		2032
	5.2.2 Monitor disaster management research and development to ensure the latest information, methods, and technologies, are incorporated into the Scenic Rim Local Disaster Management Plan and/or associated sub plans and disaster management standard operating procedures.	Scenic Rim disaster management plans are current in relation to developments and trends	Disaster Management	Local Disaster Management Group		2032
5.3 Educate business and industry on potential climate change impacts and encourage them to take action to increase their resilience to these impacts	5.3.1 Leverage existing relationships and/or establish new relationships with businesses in order to assess levels of disaster preparedness and climate resilience. If they require assistance, connect them with programs for disaster preparedness and building adaptive capacity within their business.	Number of assessments made	Regional Prosperity Disaster Management			2029

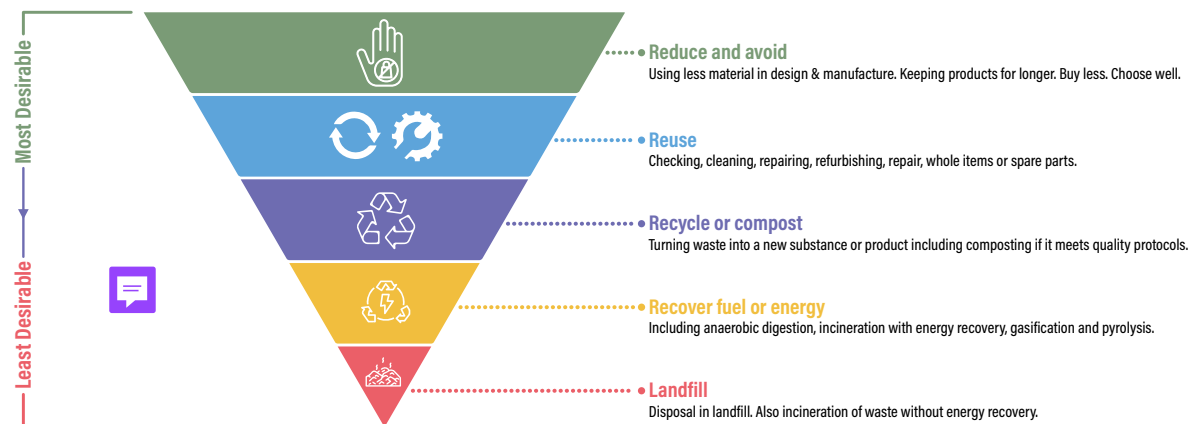




## THEME 6 — WASTE EMISSIONS REDUCTION

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES What are our objectives over the 3 year life of this Action Plan?	HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS How will we achieve our strategic objectives or encourage positive change?	METRICS How will we measure effectiveness or success of actions?	IMPLEMENTATION LEAD Who has the primary responsibility for this action?	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS Who will collaborate with or assist the Lead?	RELATED OBJECTIVES OR ACTIONS	COMPLETION Anticipated year of completion
Minimise organic matter going to landfill	Minimise organic matter going to landfill through actions related to the <i>Waste Management &amp; Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2026</i> : Strategic Outcome 6: Increase knowledge of waste reduction by residents and businesses Strategic Outcome 7: Reduce food waste generated by residents and businesses	Website, workshops and toolkits developed Feedback from workshop participants Bin waste audit results	Waste Services	Biodiversity & Climate Change	Integrate with 1.4.1	2026
	6.1.2 Minimise organic matter going to landfill through actions related to the <i>Waste Management &amp; Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2026</i> : Strategic Outcome 10: Promote recovery of resources and discourage disposal to landfill Strategic Outcome 11: Increase recovery of organic waste	Amount of organic waste diverted for re-use	Waste Services	Biodiversity & Climate Change Regional Prosperity		2026
	6.1.3 Promote Scenic Rim as a suitable area for waste to energy, recycling and reuse projects.	Number of interactions with investors	Regional Prosperity	State Development Trade and Investment QLD Other QLD and Australian agencies	1.2.3	2029
6.2 Manage the landfill in accordance with best practice to minimise greenhouse gas emissions	6.2.1 Continue to install landfill gas wells and improve the quality of the landfill cap to increase capture of landfill gas	Increase in captured and flared methane	Landfill			2026

Waste Hierarchy Diagram



## 4. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### INTERNAL

Some short-term and smaller scale actions will be funded by Council. Some actions will not require additional funding allocation and will be implemented using existing resources.

There are environmental grants that can be provided by Council to encourage and assist community involvement to preserve the Scenic Rim's natural environment. Projects that involve habitat enhancement and extension, riparian restoration, and species recovery, increase ecosystem resilience and often have additional carbon sequestration benefits. Community grant-in-kind could also assist with workshops/events involving community groups.

### EXTERNAL

Council will require additional or external funding to implement some of these actions. There are a number of Queensland and Australian Government programs that may suitably, and align with the strategic priorities of the *Scenic Rim Climate Change Roadmap 2024-2034* and this Action Plan.

#### Queensland Government Grants and Funding

##### Get Ready Fund

The Get Ready Queensland funding program provides a total of \$2 million in Queensland Government funding to help local governments improve their communities' resilience. Get Ready Queensland is about building resilience to deal with the extreme weather and natural disasters that are part of living in Queensland.

#### Australian Government Grants and Funding

##### Community Energy Upgrades Fund

The Australian Government is partnering with local governments to deliver energy upgrades for community facilities like local pools, sporting clubs and community centres. This financial assistance will help councils cut their emissions and reduce their energy bills.

##### Growing Regions Program

The *Growing Regions Program* will deliver community and economic benefits by investing in community-focused infrastructure which revitalises regions and enhances amenity and liveability throughout regional Australia. One of the intended outcomes of the program is to contribute to the achievement of broader Government priorities such as net zero emissions. Council would need to co-fund 50% of project costs.

##### Disaster Ready Fund Round Two 2024-2025

The *Disaster Ready Fund* is providing up to one billion dollars over the next five years, from 2023-24 for natural disaster resilience and risk reduction across Australia.

##### Regional Australia Microgrid Pilots Program (RAMPP) — Stage 2: \$20 million available from CY2023

RAMPP aims to improve the resilience and reliability of electricity supply in regional communities, and demonstrate solutions to technical, regulatory or commercial barriers to the deployment of microgrid technologies in Australia.

## Emissions Reduction Fund

The Emissions Reduction Fund offers landholders, communities and businesses the opportunity to run projects in Australia that avoid the release of greenhouse gas emissions or remove and sequester carbon from the atmosphere. A number of activities are eligible under the scheme and participants can earn Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs). Each ACCU represents one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e) emissions stored or avoided by a project. ACCUs can be sold to generate income, either to the Australian Government through a carbon abatement contract, or to companies and other private buyers in the secondary market.

## Nature Repair Market Bill

The Australia Federal Government is currently working towards a world first nature repair market to reward landholders who restore and protect nature. The Nature Repair Market will make it easier for companies and other businesses to invest in and drive nature repair across Australia.

Demand for the market is expected to come from several sources, including:

- carbon market participants seeking projects which also benefit nature
- philanthropic and Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) motivated investment, driven by reporting and disclosure requirements such as the Taskforce for Nature Related Financial Disclosures.

Projects may include:

- improving or restoring native vegetation through activities such as fencing or weeding
- planting a mix of local native species
- protecting rare grasslands that provide habitat for an endangered species.

Koala Mum and Joey sleeping in a Queensland Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) (Credit: Tracey Moffatt).





## 5. MONITORING AND REVIEW

Understanding how climate actions are actually reducing vulnerability or emissions or increasing the adaptive capacity of communities and organisations is complex. Monitoring and reporting on progress are critical to understanding the effectiveness of actions and to ensure delivery of the objectives and high level actions in this Action Plan. A review of progress against the objectives, actions and metrics will occur in 2026 at the end of the term for this Action Plan to allow Council to assess progress and the effectiveness of actions taken and to inform the next Action Plan. Smaller interim reporting will also occur as required to inform Council budget process and planning.

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**An overall performance indicator is Council's carbon footprint, which will be recalculated on an annual basis and reported to Council and the community. Further municipal emissions profiles for the Scenic Rim will be available through the Snapshot Community Climate Tool.**

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An adaptive approach should be taken with respect to actions overall. Keeping abreast of new developments in the sphere of climate change is essential. Our understanding of climate change is evolving in terms of what makes people, communities and environments vulnerable to climate impacts, and what to do about it. Actions that reflect new climate change mitigation and adaptation knowledge, technology, legislation, ideas or lessons learnt may need to be added or substituted at any time.

Giant or Blue Water Lily (*Nymphaea gigantea*) near Kulgun (Credit: Catherine Madden)





Mount Barney viewed from Rathdowney in the morning mist, 2008 (Credit: Tourism and Events Queensland)

## 6. DEFINITIONS

**Adaptation** — Regarding climate change, adaptation is the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. It seeks to moderate or avoid harm or take advantage of beneficial opportunities.

**Adaptive Capacity** — The ability of a system to adjust, modify or change its characteristics or actions to moderate potential damage, take advantage of opportunities, or cope with consequences of shock or stress. Low adaptive capacity generally leads to increased vulnerability, but resilience can increase adaptive capacity.

**Carbon sequestration** — The removal of carbon from the atmosphere by capturing or storing it through biological, chemical and physical processes. Otherwise referred to as 'carbon drawdown.'

**Climate** — Relates to the average weather over various timescales, including over a period of months up to millions of years.

**Climate Change** — Any change in the climate lasting for several decades, including changes in temperature, rainfall and wind patterns. It refers to the average weather conditions over a period of 30 years or longer. Climate change is different from weather. Weather refers to what you see and feel outside from day to day (e.g. sunny, rainy).

**CO<sub>2</sub>-e** — CO<sub>2</sub>-e or carbon dioxide equivalent is the combination of the GHGs that contribute to climate change adjusted using their global warming potential. This can be calculated by multiplying the individual GHGs by their global warming potentials and then summing these results to get total GHG emissions in CO<sub>2</sub>-e. For example, methane is 28 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. To calculate methane GHG potency, multiply the amount of methane by 28 to get CO<sub>2</sub>-e.

**Hazard** — The potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced event, trend or impact that may cause damage, including loss to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, and ecosystems.

**Mitigation** — With respect to climate change, mitigation is a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

**Resilience** — The capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event, trend, or disturbance, responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity, and structure, while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning, and transformation.

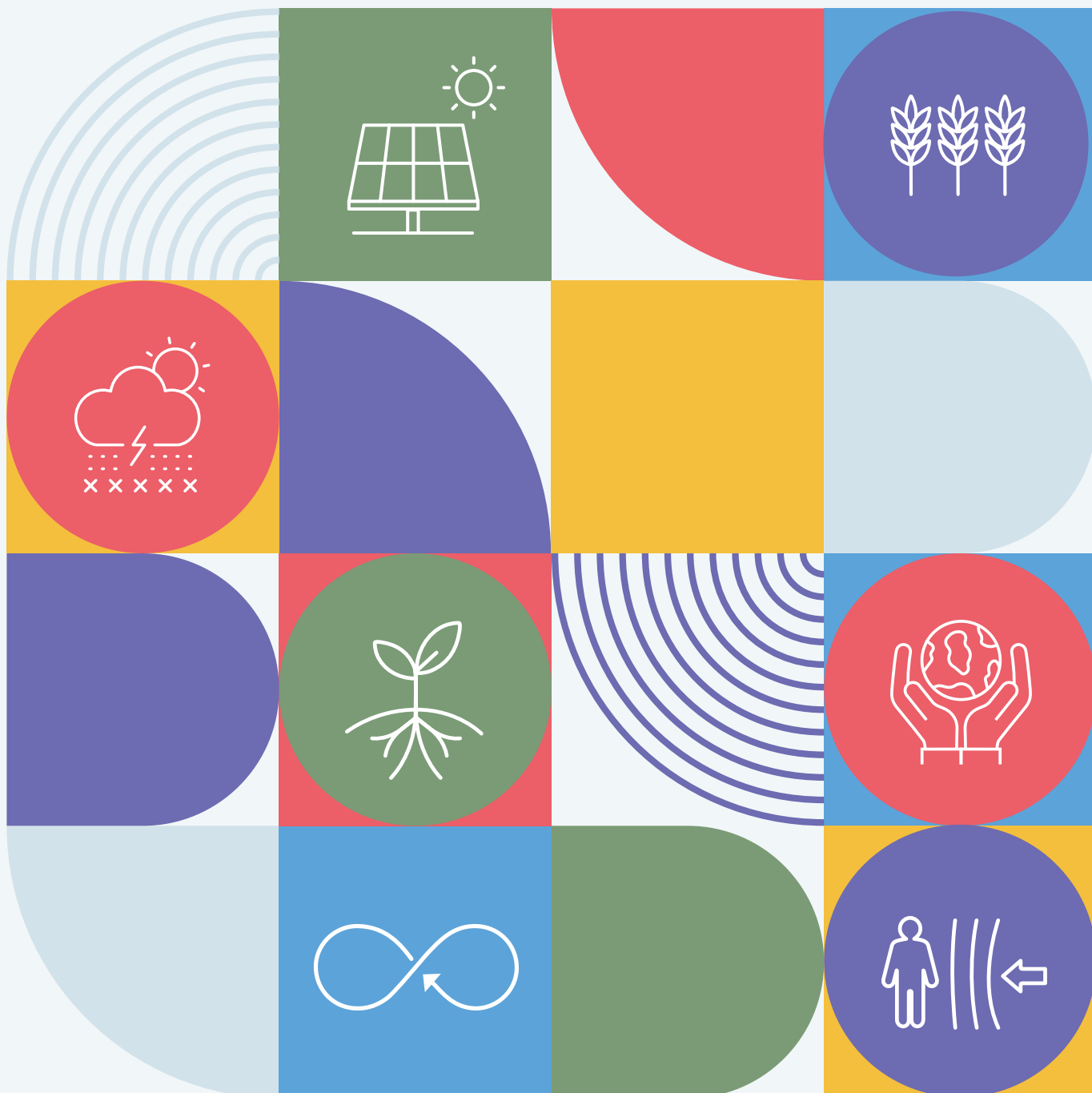
**Risk** — Risk is often represented as probability of occurrence of hazardous events (likelihood) multiplied by the impacts (or consequences) should these events or trends occur.

**t CO<sub>2</sub>-e** — Metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e

**Vulnerability** — Climate change vulnerability (or climate vulnerability or climate risk vulnerability) is a concept that describes how strongly people or ecosystems are likely to be affected by climate change. This can be thought of as the opposite of adaptive capacity.

**Water sensitive urban design** — A holistic approach to water management that integrates urban design and planning with social and physical sciences in order to deliver water services and protect aquatic environments in an urban setting.





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