

Climate Change Position Statement

Vision

The Kangaroo Island community is working together to mitigate and adapt to climate change and is innovative and open-minded in identifying solutions, embracing opportunities for positive change. We think outside the square, are well informed, and make decisions that do not limit future options. Taking advantage of the opportunity offered by our iconic status, intact landscape and self-reliant and resilient community, Kangaroo Island thrives and sets the example for others to learn from and follow.

The KI NRM Board and KI Council:

- Recognise the reality of human induced climate change
- Accept responsibility for demonstrating suitable leadership on this critical issue in our region, and lead by example in the conduct of our business
- Will ensure that climate change projections inform our work and that the best available science and knowledge underpin our decisions.

The global situation:

- Concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have increased to levels not seen for at least 800,000 years and there is unequivocal proof that these gases are largely derived from human activities
- The world's scientists studying the climate, atmosphere and ocean are in almost complete agreement: the world's climate is warming significantly.

The Kangaroo Island regional outlook:

- Temperature will increase in all seasons
- There will be more very hot days and heatwaves, and more days of extreme bushfire risk
- Winter rainfall is likely to decline, while changes in summer rainfall are still uncertain
- Extreme rainfall events causing flooding will occur more frequently
- Sea level will rise, leading to coastal erosion and damage to infrastructure
- Ocean warming and acidification will damage marine ecosystems and fisheries.

Climate change will impact on:

- People's physical and mental health as they face more frequent extreme weather events
- The ability of emergency services and the health system to cope with increasing demands
- Utilities (e.g. power and water supply) and services (e.g. road maintenance and transport infrastructure)
- Primary production and fisheries and therefore food supply and cost
- Coastal infrastructure including houses and boating facilities
- Plants and animals including pests, weeds and diseases.

What does this mean for Kangaroo Islanders?

Climate change is likely to present significant challenges, globally as well as locally, and the sooner we accept responsibility and move to address these the greater our chance of success will be. We need to work together to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and our ecological footprint. We need to identify integrated solutions and implement these synergistically. We need to turn challenges into opportunities and through careful consideration, collaboration and perseverance, ensure that Kangaroo Island is a place that our children, our grand-children, and their children can live and prosper in.



Government of South Australia
Kangaroo Island Natural Resources
Management Board

