City of Stirling climate planning

Climate Change Adaptation Plan summary and Strategic Community Plan context
Prepared 25 October 2026 for councillors and City officers

Purpose This note brings together the City's adaptation planning and its current strategic direction. It summarises the City's documents for the Climate Compensation Fund e-petition; it is not a City document and does not imply Council endorsement of a levy or fund.

1. Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The City's plan was developed in 2013 to identify climate risks to City services and operations and set priority actions. It uses a risk-management approach across the natural environment, built environment and community.

Climate pressures identified

- Sea-level rise and coastal erosion or inundation; rising average temperatures and heat; reduced rainfall and water infiltration; and more frequent or intense storms.
- Potential consequences include stress on biodiversity and bushland, damage to buildings and infrastructure, pressure on drainage and sewerage, and health and wellbeing impacts—especially for people more exposed to heat or service costs.

Adaptation actions in the plan

- Manage heat: assess urban heat and tree canopy, review outdoor recreation during hot weather, and incorporate climate projections into street-tree planning.
- Prepare infrastructure and services: test drainage against future rainfall, consider climate risks in emergency plans, use climate-resilient asset standards, and improve irrigation and soil-moisture management.
- Protect nature and the coast: monitor biodiversity and disease vectors, restore wetlands and native vegetation, and map coastal erosion and inundation risks while informing the public.

What the 2025 review found

The City's high-level review reported that most of the plan's 45 actions had been delivered or remained in ongoing programs. It also found that climate risks had increased faster than the plan projected: half of the City's control ratings were assessed as 'Poor', and long-term risks with controls were rated 'Catastrophic'. The review identified gaps in strategic integration, project risk, financial impacts, shade, water infiltration and social impacts. It recommended updated risk assessment and adaptation actions, community engagement, and better integration with City planning and business processes.

Current status Council received the review on 1 April 2025 and noted proposed community engagement and work through the City's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. The City's public page still links the 2013 plan and contains an old note that review was due in 2022; the 2025 review record is the more recent status source used here.

2. Strategic Community Plan: local context

Council adopted **Sustainable Stirling 2026–2036** on 7 July 2026 after a major community-informed review. The City describes it as its primary planning document, guiding decisions, resources, services and projects across five key result areas.

The plan recognises that climate change and biodiversity loss can increase neighbourhood heat, reduce habitat and place pressure on ecosystems and community amenity. Its environmental direction includes an energy-smart, waterwise, biodiverse and waste-wise City. The City also identifies actions such as restoring biodiversity, expanding tree canopy and green corridors, reducing water and emissions, managing waste, and addressing coastal erosion.

> **“Climate change and biodiversity loss can make neighbourhoods hotter, reduce habitats and put pressure on local ecosystems and community amenity.”**

How these plans relate to the petition

Together, the documents establish a local policy context: the City identifies climate-related risks to people, infrastructure and nature; it has assessed gaps in its controls; and its current strategic plan recognises climate and biodiversity pressures. This supports asking how adaptation will be prioritised, funded, delivered and monitored. The petition’s proposed Climate Compensation Fund is a community proposal; neither plan itself commits the City to a polluter levy or to establishing that fund.

Sources and scope

[1] City of Stirling, Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2013), including the community guide and priority actions. City adaptation-plan page and download.

[2] City of Stirling, Community and Resources Committee minutes, 25 March 2025, item P1, ‘Climate Change Adaptation Plan Review’; and Council Resolution 0425/004, 1 April 2025. Committee minutes · Council motions database.

[3] City of Stirling, Sustainable Stirling 2026–2036, adopted 7 July 2026. Strategic Community Plan · Strategic plans and adoption details.

This is a concise, attributed summary rather than a full extract. The quoted sentence is from the City’s Strategic Community Plan. Pages checked 25 October 2026.