

Climate, health and wellbeing in Western Parkland City

Part 2: Legislative and policy background information

Prepared by the Climate and Health Alliance for the Western Sydney Health Alliance

Recognition and Commitment

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work and acknowledge that the sovereignty of the land we call Australia has never been ceded. We commit to listening to and learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and groups about how we can better reflect Indigenous ways of being and knowing in our work.

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Introduction

This is the second of three guidance documents titled 'Climate, Health and Wellbeing in Western Parkland City'. Part 2 provides:

- a snapshot of the legislative and policy context , and
- suggestions where climate - health issues can be incorporated into the NSW Local Government planning process.

2. Legislative Context

2.1 NSW Local Government

Local Governments in NSW are guided by a range of laws, regulations, and policies. The Local Government Act 1993 is the overarching local government legislation in NSW that sets out the functions of a council (“to provide guidance to enable councils to carry out their functions in a way that facilitates local communities that are strong, healthy and prosperous”), including governance arrangements, a process to engage with community, reporting and accountability processes, and setting out the powers and responsibilities of councils. Figure 1 provides an overview of local government planning and reporting processes.

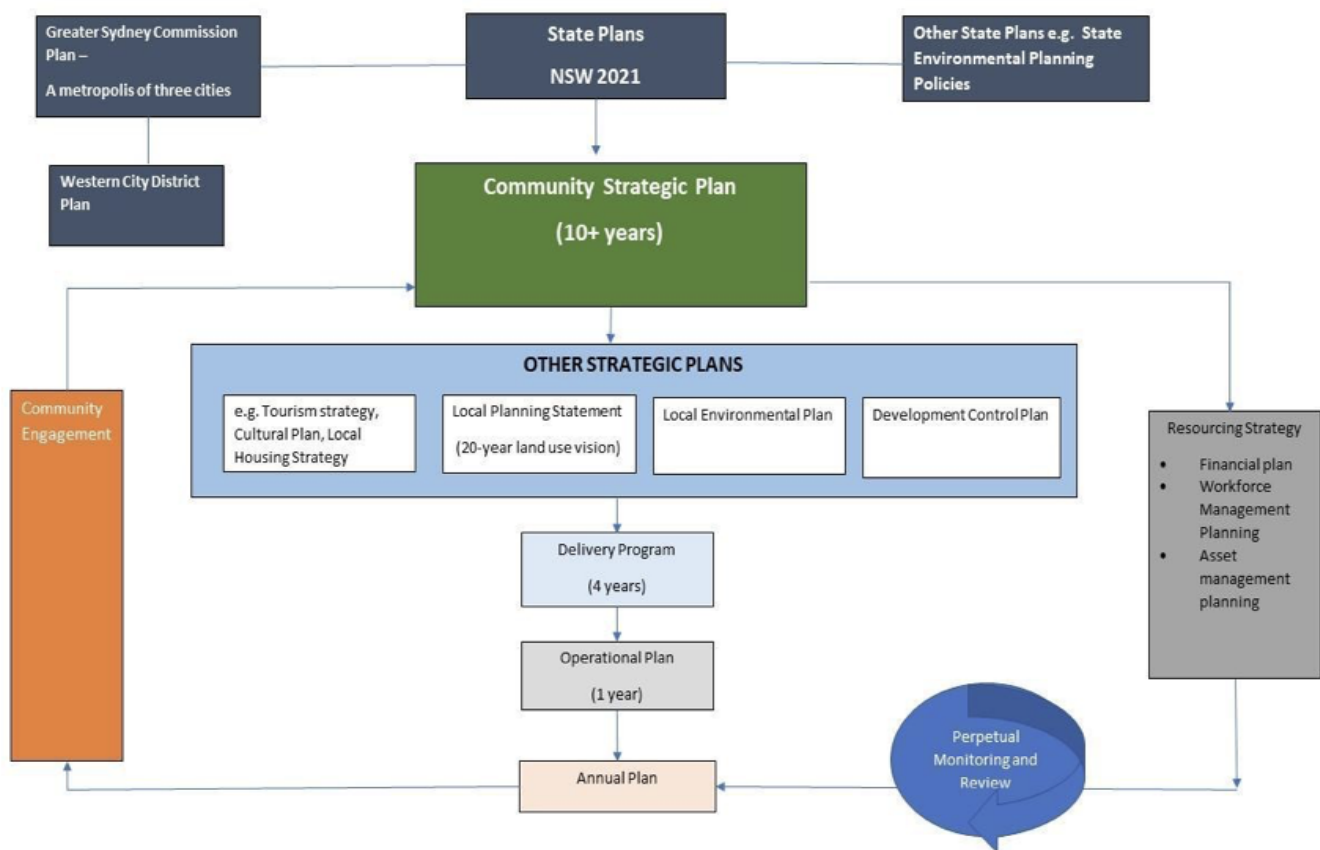


Figure 1 NSW Local Government Planning Process (adapted from NSW Government Premier & Cabinet Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework)

The Local Government Act also provides a set of principles to follow, to inform a council's decision-making processes. These oblige Councils to:

- (a) recognise diverse local community needs and interests
- (b) consider social justice principles
- (c) consider the long-term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations
- (d) consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- (e) ensure decision-making is transparent, and decision-makers are accountable for decisions and omissions. [Local Government Act 1993 Clause 8A2].

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) sits at the top of council planning hierarchy. The purpose of the CSP is to identify community priorities and aspirations, and to achieve these goals over a minimum of 10 years. While CSP's are also informed by State plans, Regional plans and District plans, they often contain activities outside the purview of local government. This means in order to meet communities' goals, Councils need to work collaboratively with other partners, such as State agencies, industry, and community groups^[1].

The NSW planning system can be divided into two broad areas: land use planning; and development control. The planning instruments include Local Environmental Plans, Local Planning Strategy Statements and Development Control Plans.

The work of local governments is also guided by other legislation, including the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979). This is the primary legislation for the urban planning system, including strategic planning and development assessment. It also provides the overarching environmental legislation in NSW, while the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 supports day-to-day requirements of the planning system^[2]. This is, however, currently under review.

2.2 Health legislation

The Public Health Act 2010^[3] (amended in 2017), covers public health matters, such as notification of diseases and conditions, and regulation of matters of public health, such as drinking water, water cooling systems, skin penetration and public swimming pools.

The objectives of the Public Health Act are to:

- protect and promote public health
- control the risk to public health
- promote the control of infectious diseases
- prevent the spread of infectious diseases
- recognise the role of local governments in protecting public health
- monitor diseases and conditions affecting public health (new)

3. Policy context

3.1 NSW State Plan and Premier's Priorities

Policy in NSW is shaped by the NSW State Plan, NSW 2021 - a ten-year plan focussed on rebuilding the economy, providing quality services, renovating infrastructure, restoring government accountability, and strengthening local government and communities ^[4].

A number of key areas called the 'Premier's priorities' align with the NSW State Plan, for the government to focus over four years. There are currently four Premier's priorities, with two directly related to local government. They are 'Great public spaces' (which aims to deliver a range of projects across NSW, including eight new and improved parks across Sydney with inclusive play spaces); and 'Greening our city' (which aims to increase the tree canopy and green cover across Greater Sydney by planting one million trees by 2022) ^[5].

3.2 State, Regional and District Plans

The State is divided into nine regions, with the Greater Sydney Commission as one of these regions. There are five district plans ^[6] and each region has its own strategic plan. As the overarching plan for three 'cities'/districts, the Greater Sydney Commission's plan 'Metropolitan Sydney: A metropolis of three cities' includes a vision where most residents live within 30 minutes of their jobs, education and health facilities, services and great places.

The Greater Sydney Commission's three planning districts are Western Parkland City, Central River City, and Eastern Harbour City. The main focus for the Western Parkland City is the Western Sydney City Deal and the development of the Western Sydney Airport and Badgery's Creek Aerotropolis. This plan focuses on four main areas: infrastructure, liveability, productivity, and sustainability, with 10 directions and the vision for the Western Parkland City. Climate change is explicitly referred to in the sustainability direction under Objective 33: 'A low-carbon city contributes to net-zero emissions by 2050 and mitigates climate change' and Objective 36: 'People and places adapt to climate change and future shocks and stresses'.

Within the direction for sustainability there is recognition that a healthy natural environment is important to improve liveability, create healthy places, and mitigate the effects of climate change. It requires new approaches to water management and urban design to help to cool the Western Parkland City, and targeted mitigation strategies focusing on neighbourhood design, managing land use, infrastructure, and transport.

Hazards from floods, bushfires, severe storms, heatwaves, and air pollution are also discussed as climate change related issues that will impact on liveability and sustainability in the Greater Sydney region. Human health is referred to in the Liveability section, referring to access to infrastructure, health care services, transport, housing, and healthy lifestyles (with cycling, sports and walkable communities with open spaces) and connected social infrastructure to improve mental and physical health.

3.3 Climate change and related policy in NSW

State government policies

In the absence of legislation in NSW, such as the Victorian Government's Climate Change Act 2017, NSW has the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework, published in 2016. This framework defines the NSW

Government's role in reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change, sets policy directions to guide implementation and commits NSW to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and to help NSW become more resilient to a changing climate^[7]. It is focused on the State Government's operations in relation to emissions reduction and adaptation and includes reducing climate change impacts on health and wellbeing as one of the policy directions. This is framed in terms of anticipating increased demand for health care services and emergency services and identifying ways to support communities that are more vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change. It is not a framework that directs action for local governments.

Another policy document related to the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework includes the Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030^[8] in which the objective is "to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 by creating new jobs, cutting household costs and attracting investment". It recognises this will require more than action from the State government; it will also require action from local government, business, communities, and individuals. This aligns with the 'Health in All Policies' approach mentioned previously. The NSW Government has also created the Climate Change Fund with \$30 million allocated to help households, businesses and councils reduce their exposure to climate risks.

The NSW Government also provides funding for a range of initiatives including energy transition and energy efficiency projects. This includes the NSW Adaptation Research Hub, and the Adapt NSW website that provides information about climate change and its impacts (including on human health), how we can adapt, along with educational resources and a checklist for adaptation planning by local government^[9].

There are a number of strategies for addressing the health impacts of hotter temperatures in NSW, including the NSW Heatwave Sub Plan and Beat the Heat resources. In response to back-to-back national disasters, floods, fires, drought and Covid-19, the NSW Government has created a new agency called Resilience NSW. This agency is focused on building community resilience, specifically to assist communities to prevent, prepare for, and recover from emergencies and disasters^[10]. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment also has number of project areas related to climate change and planetary health such as strategic conservation planning, bushfire recovery, coastal and marine management, greener public spaces, resilience and natural hazard risk, renewable energy (for wind energy) and State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) including the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979^[11].

Health Policy

The health system in NSW has two parallel parts, the public health and hospitals system and the primary health care sector. The overarching health policy framework for State public hospitals and community health services is the NSW State Health Plan - Towards 2021^[12].

The NSW State Health Plan - Towards 2021 has three strategic directions: keeping people healthy; providing a world class clinical care; and delivering truly integrated care.

It then focuses on four main strategies: supporting and developing our workforce; supporting, and harnessing research and innovation; enabling eHealth; and designing and building future focused infrastructure. Although the NSW Health Plan is predominantly focused on the health care system, the strategic direction 'Keeping people healthy' includes services that aim to prevent illness and injury, promote healthy lifestyles, provide child and maternal health services, and work in partnership with local governments on healthy urban environments.

Local governments also deliver environmental health-related services (including water fluoridation, sanitation services, water and food inspection and food safety monitoring) ^[13].

It is also worth noting that NSW public hospitals and community health services must be accredited by meeting the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards regulated by a Commonwealth statutory body called the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Traditionally focused on clinical care, the Commission recently sought feedback on introducing a new standard around climate risk^[14]. If endorsed, this will mark a significant transformation in understanding and managing climate risk in the healthcare sector. As local governments in NSW have been operating in this space for quite some time, this is a great opportunity for the health care sector to partner with and learn from local governments in how to manage climate risk and undertake strategic planning and community engagement on climate change.

The Climate Risk Module aims to:

- Incorporate climate risk monitoring into the organisations regular monitoring and performance reporting structure
- Incorporate climate risk into routine clinical practices focusing on mitigation, resilience, and adaption
- Build the health workforce’s carbon literacy to enable clinical decision making which is sensitive to climate risk.

NSW Health divides NSW into 15 local health districts (LHDs). South Western Sydney and the Nepean Blue Mountains are the two LHDs within the Western Parkland City area.

The primary health care sector (including the primary health networks or PHNs, and General Practice) is under the Federal Government’s jurisdiction. There are 31 primary health networks (PHNs) across Australia, with two (the Nepean Blue Mountains PHN and the South Western Sydney PHN) within WPC^[15]. PHNs principally work closely with general practitioners (GPs) and other health professionals working outside the public health and hospital system. Their aim is to commission health services in order to meet the needs of people in their regions and address gaps in primary health care^[16]. Through their commissioning work and grants, PHNs are supporting their communities in mental health, flood response and bushfire support and recovery.

The concept of climate health and wellbeing is developing in health sector strategic planning and services. For example, the Primary Health Network, Sydney North Health Network have developed the Climate and Health Strategy 2020, with five strategic goals: Community Activation, System Transformation, Commissioning Member and Provider Support, and An Exceptional Organisation. Northern Sydney Local Health District has developed the Planetary Health Framework 2021–2023 . This framework outlines the district’s vision to become a more environmentally aware and sustainable organisation in the field of planetary health.

3.4 Snapshot: Climate and health in other States and Territories at the policy level

Table 1 provides a brief overview of how other States and Territories are including climate change and health into their policy frameworks and legislation. South Australia and Victoria now have legislation that directs local councils to undertake public health planning that includes addressing climate change. Victoria also has a set of guidelines to assist councils in meeting their legislative obligations. Western Australia has recently

completed a climate and health inquiry and is in the process of developing climate change adaptation plans in response to the recommendations from this inquiry.

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) does not have a dedicated climate and health strategy, however, they have several climate change strategies and legislation in place, including participation of the ACT Health Directorate in the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network in enacting climate solutions such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning from fossil fuels, increasing active travel and public transport usage, and supporting a low carbon and climate resilient health sector - all goals which also support health and wellbeing.

The Climate and Health Alliance Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being has been used to inform the development of the Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Queensland and also to guide policy development in Tasmania. The Northern Territory has published the Northern Territory Climate Change Response: Towards 2050. Health and wellbeing are referred to in the document as part of building a resilient Territory.

Table 1 Snapshot showing actions in other States and Territories Governments in relation to climate, health, and wellbeing policy

Jurisdiction	Example of climate and health government action/policy	Key points
<p>Australian Capital Territory</p>	<p>Climate change strategy 2019-2025</p>	<p>Although not a strategy explicitly aimed at health and wellbeing outcomes, it supports these outcomes through its intention to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition from fossil fuels. The strategy outlines the next steps that community, business, and Government will take to reduce emissions by 50–60% (below 1990 levels) by 2025 and establish a pathway for achieving net zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>The strategy outlines actions aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reducing residential sector emissions and non-residential sector emissions with the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS), building standards for residential buildings, and community and business engagement on climate change ▪ Reducing emissions in the transport sector, and waste sector ▪ Transitioning to large-scale renewable energy ▪ Adapting to a changing climate - including an ACT-wide Risk Assessment

	Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010	The ACT has climate change legislation that sets targets to achieve zero net emissions by 2050 and an interim target to reduce emissions to 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020. This interim target was achieved as planned in 2020.
Northern Territory	Northern Territory Climate Change Response: Towards 2050 ^[17]	<p>This framework has 4 key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Net Zero Emissions by 2050 ● A resilient Territory - health and wellbeing is a component of this ● Opportunities for a low carbon future ● Inform and involve all Territorians
Queensland	Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy- Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Queensland (2018) ^[18]	<p>This plan draws on the Climate and Health Alliance Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being. The Priority Adaptation Measures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leadership and governance—empowering leadership at all levels to plan and implement responsible, evidence-based, locally relevant climate change adaptation. ● Building the preparedness and ability of the health and wellbeing services sector and the community to respond to climate threats to health. ● Specific public health measures—evaluating specific vulnerabilities in the population and implementing appropriate measures to reduce avoidable morbidity and mortality. ● Risk management and legal liability—ensuring the operational and strategic plans of all facilities and services acknowledge and reflect the short-, medium- and long-term risks of climate change to health and wellbeing services. ● Research, data, and evaluation—guiding policy and decision-making through well-planned research and climate-health risk surveillance to build greater understanding of risks, vulnerabilities, and effective strategies. ● Economics and financing—ensuring that financing decisions to support climate change related programs and initiatives include assessment of all the relevant

		<p>health costs and benefits associated with climate change and adaptation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaboration across agencies, sectors, and stakeholder groups—ensuring that government agencies, peak bodies, and industry and professional associations and service providers work together to achieve climate change adaptation and sustainability goals. ● Education and communication—developing communication, education and training initiatives that inform and build capacity across the health and wellbeing workforce, policymakers, and the wider community to respond to the health impacts of climate change. ● Policy, regulation, and legislation—providing policy certainty for services, sectors, and industries to guide decisions and investment for effective climate change adaptation. ● Infrastructure, technology, and service delivery.
South Australia	State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 ^[19]	<p>In South Australia, under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011, local councils are required to prepare and maintain regional public health plans for their areas. The State Public Health Plan has four priority areas: Build stronger communities and healthier environments; Protect against public and environmental health risks and respond to climate change; Prevent chronic disease, communicable disease, and injury; and strengthen the systems that support public health and wellbeing. Under the protect against public and environmental health risks and respond to climate change priority area action that could be implemented include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public health regulations, policies, and guidelines, ● Prevention and management of public health impacts of major incidents, emergencies, and disasters ● Connection to Country initiatives to support Aboriginal people’s health and wellbeing
Tasmania	Tasmanian Climate Change and Health Roundtable event 2019[20]	<p>This event informed by the Climate and Health Alliance Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being brought together a number of researchers,</p>

		<p>clinicians, and policy makers from around Australia to discuss the priority areas for climate change and health in Tasmania. Over 40 actions were identified across seven priority areas that include (but are not limited to) the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote healthy foods, especially those related to reduced emissions (for example, local fresh fruit and vegetables) ▪ Develop a risk framework and plan around frequency and severity of disasters ▪ Promote liveability agenda ▪ Provide education on co-benefits and linking personal decisions to climate ▪ Conduct legislative and policy scan then update/create to address gaps ▪ Establish a sustainability unit within health – drive initiatives and develop guidelines.
Victoria	<p>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and</p> <p>The Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2019–2023 [21]</p>	<p>In Victoria, the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 gives State and local governments specific responsibilities to plan for and contribute to protecting and improving health and wellbeing. The Act requires a State public health and wellbeing plan and municipal public health and wellbeing plans to be prepared sequentially every four years. These plans inform each other and provide the basis for an integrated planning approach in the state. Tackling climate change and its impact on health is one of four priority areas.</p>
	<p>Climate Change Act 2017 [22]</p>	<p>Under the Climate Change Act 2017 municipal public health and wellbeing plans must have regard to climate change.</p>
	<p>Tackling climate change and its impacts on health through municipal public health and wellbeing planning: Guidance for local government, 2020 [23]</p>	<p>This guidance document has been developed to assist councils in meeting their legislative obligations under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and Climate Change Act 2017. The document provides guidance on 7 themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. leadership, governance, and council assets 2. communication, engagement, and capacity building 3. emergency management

		<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. environmental health services, surveillance, and monitoring5. built and natural environments6. healthy and sustainable food systems7. improving mental health and wellbeing and preventing family violence.
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4. Incorporating climate, health, and wellbeing into the NSW Local Government planning system

This section summarises how climate change and health can be incorporated into different stages of local government planning. Components of the planning process and how climate, health and wellbeing can feature within them, is outlined in Table 2.

A considerable amount of work is being undertaken in NSW to review and update State Planning processes and to enable local governments to learn from each other in responding to climate change. For example, podcasts available from Local Government NSW share a range of content on local government initiatives on planning and engagement, adapting to heat and drought, adapting to floods and storms, and reducing emissions [24].

In October 2021, the Hunter Joint Regional Councils released a Climate Change Integrated Planning and Reporting Package. This package seeks to revolutionise the way local councils embed climate change resilience within their Community Strategic Plans [25]. The package is being implemented as a pilot and will provide user-friendly, practical tools and templates for councils to embed climate change as “business as usual”, by aligning activities with the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework and timelines and State and Federal Climate policy. Although this package does not address climate- health issues explicitly, this package could become a useful guide for other local governments to guide them through the process of developing climate change strategies from gaining commitment from within council to suggested terminology to use in Community Strategic Plans, delivery programs and operational plans.

The following table proposes a range of ways in which legislation, policy and planning could be amended to further embed integrated approaches to climate, health, and wellbeing in NSW.

Table 2 Examples of how climate, health and wellbeing can feature in the NSW local government planning system

NSW Local Government Planning stage	Description of plan	Examples showing how climate change and health can be incorporated into NSW planning frameworks and plans
<p>State health and environment legislation</p>	<p>Public Health Act Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</p>	<p>Making the responsibility of local government and the health system clear by identifying the legislative requirements in State health and environmental legislation could support positive outcomes on climate change and health (e.g. setting a clear greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, undertaking a state-wide climate health risk assessment and mandating that climate and health be considered in all State Health Plans, SEPPs, regional plans, district plans, local strategic planning statements and LEPs).</p> <p>The EP&A Act could be amended to include a specific human health objective and require health impacts from climate change (locally, regionally, internationally) in business cases and environmental assessments.</p>
<p>State plans and Environmental Planning Policies</p>	<p>Deal with matters of state or regional planning significance. E.g., NSW State Plan and State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) - Design and Place SEPP (currently being reviewed) and a new Environment SEPP (currently in development).</p>	<p>NSW State Plan and the NSW Health Plan</p> <p>There is an opportunity to place climate and health on the state-wide agenda as a whole of government approach (in line with legislative requirements as above) by explicitly outlining the need to tackle climate change and its impacts on health and wellbeing in all sectors in the NSW State Plan.</p> <p>The NSW Health Plan could include specific health related strategic directions to tackle climate and health issues, such as the establishment of a Sustainable Healthcare Unit to guide the transition to low carbon, environmentally responsible healthcare.</p> <p>SEPPs</p> <p>A new clause could be added in each SEPP that aligns with climate and health objects and targets in the amended Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (as above)</p>

		<p>and require all development to consider climate change and health risks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The new Design and Place SEPP could, for example, outline how the council can control or contribute to climate related infrastructure and planning decisions.</p> <p>A SEPP could be developed specifically for the Western Parkland City, with the eight councils taking a lead on climate and health</p>
Regional plans	<p>Clause 3.3 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</p> <p>Identifies the basis for strategic planning in the Greater Sydney region and contains a vision statement, related objectives, strategies, and actions for achieving these. The Greater Sydney Commission – Metropolis of three cities – the Greater Sydney Region Plan is an example of a regional plan.</p>	<p>Climate change and health issues are not limited by geographic boundaries; therefore, a regional and district approach makes sense. However, the current version of the Greater Sydney Commission Plan does not mention climate change.</p> <p>However, since the GSC is due to develop a new regional and set of district plans in 2023, this presents the perfect opportunity to include climate change along with health and social equity. The Regional and District Plans can include climate change and health impacts and risks, health statistics, targets and indicators, climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. This could include consideration of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity indicators when considering how to frame the particular climate change challenges in the region / district and to inform potential priority areas of focus.</p>
District plans	<p>Clause 3.4 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</p> <p>Contain planning priorities for the district that are consistent with the objectives, strategies and actions specified in the relevant regional plan. The Western City District Plan is an example of district level plan.</p>	<p>As the highest level of local council plans, the CSP could be an important document in setting the local climate and health agenda. Climate health impacts could be incorporated into a CSP either as a standalone pillar / action area or integrated as a principle and priority in sustainability, climate action, community wellbeing, economic sustainability / economic development pillars in a CSP.</p> <p>The CSP can outline how taking climate action can lead to co-benefits for improving community health. The CSP could also address</p>
Community Strategic Plan	<p>Clause 402 of the Local Government Act 1993</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 10 years. • The CSP is the highest level plan a council will prepare. • The purpose of the plan is to identify the community’s main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies for achieving these goals. 	<p>As the highest level of local council plans, the CSP could be an important document in setting the local climate and health agenda. Climate health impacts could be incorporated into a CSP either as a standalone pillar / action area or integrated as a principle and priority in sustainability, climate action, community wellbeing, economic sustainability / economic development pillars in a CSP.</p> <p>The CSP can outline how taking climate action can lead to co-benefits for improving community health. The CSP could also address</p>

		<p>the issue of equity, recognise the impact of climate on vulnerable communities, and outline council plans to address these and support the community.</p> <p>Local councils can include this Guidance framework as part of the CSP.</p> <p>This could also include identifying evidence of the current or potential impacts of climate change on health and wellbeing in the local government area, and present this in the profile of health and wellbeing challenges facing the LGA.</p> <p>When engaging with the community about the CSP, climate related issues can be presented in the context of health and wellbeing and strategies to respond identified as win-win opportunities with co-benefits for health and climate.</p>
<p>Local Strategic Planning Statements</p>	<p>Clause 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sets a 20-year vision for a Council will use land in a local area to achieve the community’s goals (as per CSP) ● Outline local identity characteristics ● Explain how future growth and change will be managed to shape and maintain local identity. ● Outlines how the LGA will implement the Regional and Western City District Plans ● “The LSPS will act as a unifying document. Drawing together and summarising planning priorities identified through State, regional, district and local strategic work. They provide the local context and local-scale expression of actions and priorities from these plans”.^[26] 	<p>Climate change and health could be incorporated as an overarching strategic priority area in LSPs that connect with other strategies e.g. concepts of liveability, sustainability, productivity and resilience.</p> <p>LSPSs could outline science/ evidence informed challenges for climate and health risks in the local government area, present solutions, and opportunities as co-benefits for health and climate, and along with social and economic development.</p> <p>LSPSs can identify strategies and actions to tackle climate change and its impacts on health and wellbeing. e.g., low-carbon building design, water management, flood mitigation, active transport, and urban greening.</p> <p>LSPSs could outline the imperative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and relevant actions to improve health and wellbeing, whilst strengthening and protecting the environment.</p> <p>The LSPS could embed a net zero commitment within the statutory planning process.</p>

<p>Local Environmental Plans</p>	<p>The LEP is a legal document that outlines where and under what circumstances places should be developed or environmental controls imposed.</p> <p>It provides the legal structure for “implementing the land use vision and planning priorities set out in a regional or district plan and a local strategic planning statement” [27] and guides land use planning decisions in local government areas through zoning and development controls.</p>	<p>LEPs could include particular aims and objects relating to tackling climate change and health risks for specific locations in the local government area. The LEP could also detail how the Council will address climate risks and include details of climate health risks.</p> <p>Local planning panels could include a panel member with expertise in climate and health related issues.</p> <p>The LEP could include a climate and health risk clause to stipulate climate and health targets and actions to address climate change and its impact on health.</p> <p>Councils could review and amend building codes in their LEP and DCP to incorporate controls to reduce the UHI effect, incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design, include tree canopy targets, and prescribe landscape management.</p>
<p>Development Control Plans</p>	<p>Provide more detailed planning and design guidance to support planning controls in a local environmental plan and can be applied more flexibly than a local environmental plan</p>	<p>The inclusion of climate and health risk clauses in the DCP plan and mandating a climate health risk impact assessment as part of development controls. e.g., using the UNSW Healthy Urban Design Checklist would ensure these considerations are embedded in planning controls.</p> <p>DCPs could include specific measures for community wellbeing as well as infrastructure / design to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimise waste, increase tree canopy / urban greening/ green infrastructure / water management, sustainable infrastructure and precincts that enhance physical and mental wellbeing whilst strengthening environmental protection and conservation.</p> <p>DCPs could outline requirements for specified climate health risks e.g., bush fire, heat, floods, air pollution, and describe areas of environmental protection.</p>
<p>Resourcing Strategy</p>	<p>Clause 403 Local Government Act 1993</p>	<p>Presenting specific climate issues as a health and wellbeing priority to council decision-</p>

	<p>A long-term strategy (called its resourcing strategy) for the provision of the resources required to perform its functions (including implementing the strategies set out in the community strategic plan).</p>	<p>makers could help to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated to enable strategies to be put into action.</p> <p>The resourcing strategy could include specific funding measures for climate and health related strategies.</p>
Delivery Program	<p>Clause 404 Local Government Act 1993</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 4-year plan developed after each ordinary election of councillors to cover the principal activities of the council for the 4-year period. • The delivery program provides details of the principal activities to be undertaken by the council to perform its functions (including implementing the strategies set out in the community strategic plan) within the resources available under the resourcing strategy for the 4-year period. 	<p>Presenting climate change or specific climate issues as a health and wellbeing as a priority for council decision makers, management, and staff could support its inclusion in delivery programs.</p>
Operational Plan	<p>Clause 405 Local Government Act 1993</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A one year plan • Operational plan provides details of the activities to be engaged in by the council during the year as part of the delivery program for that year. 	<p>Operational plans should include actions and programs to tackle climate change and its impacts on health and facilitate the use of a climate change lens when implementing actions related to other local government priorities.</p>
Annual reports	<p>Clause 428 Local Government Act 1993</p> <p>The Annual report details council achievements in implementing its delivery program and effectiveness of principal activities undertaken.</p>	<p>Providing a summary of activity on addressing climate and health risk in annual reports for each local government area, including details on how emissions have been reduced, could illustrate progress and build support for further investment.</p>
Monitoring and review (Integrated planning and reporting)	<p>Clause 8A1c,8A1d, 8C,406 Local Government Act 1993</p> <p>Integrated planning and reporting guidelines provide a set of strategic planning principles including identifying and prioritising local community needs, activities to meet those needs, a process to review and evaluate</p>	<p>This process should include an evaluation framework which includes reporting on climate and health outcomes, financial and workforce investments in climate, health, and wellbeing initiatives, and details on what is successful and what is not.</p> <p>This should incorporate indicators and measures to track progress on actions to</p>

	<p>progress, evidence-based actions, and proactive risk management.</p>	<p>tackle climate change and its impacts on health.</p> <p>Indicators and targets can be drawn from United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the planetary boundaries, doughnut economics and the Lancet Countdown indicators [see here: https://www.lancetcountdown.org/].</p>
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5. References

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