

Climate Change

Position Paper 2018

QFES has developed this position paper to guide an integrated and holistic approach to our department's actions on Climate Change.

2017-2030 Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy

We recognise the interdependencies across Sector Adaptation Plans. We will continue to contribute to the Government Adaptation Action Plan and influence discussions at Local, State and Federal forums on policy development and implementation.

Our Position

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is a committed supporter of the Queensland Government's Climate Change Response.

We believe better decisions on climate change now, will improve our ability to deliver the right services in the right locations for Queenslanders, well into the future.

For many years, the impact of a changing climate has been recognised as a strategic risk for QFES. This paper provides greater visibility and clarity of our commitment and actions.

Case for Action

The anticipated physical, transitional and legal risks of climate change requires QFES to examine all aspects of its value chain, including its key role in Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements.

With long-range investment in our people, buildings, fleet and equipment, we must be vigilant in looking ahead and anticipating change.

Our operating environment is complex, with many partner organisations and diverse communities working with us for a connected and capable Queensland in the face of emergencies and disasters.

With agile systems and thinking, we can embed climate change considerations in our decision-making frameworks to reduce the impact of climate change and associated risks to our strategic objectives.



Integrating Our Climate Change Commitment

Principle 1: Integrated Approach

Climate change affects QFES decisions across our strategy, policy and operational environment.

We must ensure our efforts are aligned, transparent and accountable. We will integrate our approach through governance arrangements. We will mainstream climate change in our strategy and planning by embedding best available climate change projections in our strategic and operational decision-making, including our emergency management capabilities and capacity.

Principle 2: Risk-based decision-making

We will remain at the forefront of climate science to underpin a contemporary understanding of associated risk.

We will engage appropriate expertise to examine a range of climate scenarios to test our strategy and planning and to help us better prioritise our adaptation and transition efforts.

Principle 3: Sustainability

We will work toward quantifying and improving our energy efficiency across our supply chain, buildings, fleet and equipment.

Transition criteria will inform design, acquisition and maintenance decisions to reduce our emissions, while maintaining high reliability and continuity of services during periods of high-demand.

Principle 4: Systems thinking

We recognise that QFES must be part of a whole of government and community effort to transition and adapt to climate change impacts.

Land-use planning, infrastructure resilience and community resilience have a significant influence on Queensland's ability to manage the effects of climate change. We will continue to collaborate with the community and across levels of government and non-government sectors on these important topics.

Principle 5: Knowledge sharing

Community knowledge and understanding of climate change is a cornerstone in the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation strategies.

QFES has a role in supporting Queenslanders to have access to the right information to make decisions on how best to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related disasters. Through our leadership and participation on cross-agency and cross-sector forums, we will work toward a common understanding of the risks associated with climate change.

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