



# cairns climate change strategy 2030

## consultation update

Cairns Regional Council is preparing a climate change strategy for the next decade of climate action. The strategy builds on previous work undertaken by Council including planning for natural hazards, investment in renewable energy and a target of emissions reduction of 50% on 2007/08 levels by the end of 2021.

The strategy will:

- 1** Identify emissions reduction pathways and targets for Council
- 2** Set goals and actions for Council's own operations
- 3** Identify actions to support the wider community in climate mitigation and adaptation
- 4** Identify opportunities for building prosperity through Cairns and FNQ region as Capital of the Smart Green Economy for Australia

## WHO WE'VE HEARD FROM








130 experts, community and industry leaders provided early input into the strategy throughout May and June 2021, with 11 workshops and meetings on:

- E-mobility and sustainable transport
- Local disaster management
- Resilient communities
- Natural environment
- Built environment
- Energy
- Smart green economy
- Peak organisations - tourism, ports, airport and economic development and State agencies.

→ We also spoke to people attending the Cairns Ecofiesta. Nearly 6,000 people attended the festival, giving them the opportunity to find out about the strategy. Around 400 people visited the stall or provided feedback about climate change.

→ 571 people completed the online survey. The survey asked what people know – and wanted to know – about climate change impacts in Cairns, and how Council could better support individuals and businesses to take their own action

### Climate change impacts on the Far North Queensland region

-  HIGHER TEMPERATURES
-  RISING SEA LEVEL
-  HOTTER AND MORE FREQUENT HOT DAYS
-  MORE FREQUENT SEA LEVEL EXTREMES
-  MORE INTENSE DOWNPOURS
-  WARMER AND MORE ACIDIC SEAS
-  LESS FREQUENT BUT MORE INTENSE TROPICAL CYCLONES

Source: adapted from Queensland Government Climate Summary for FNQ

Council's climate actions relate to both mitigation and adaptation

**MITIGATION:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions or capturing these gases to contribute to global emissions reduction.

**ADAPTATION:** Improving the resilience of ecosystems, communities and economies to help withstand the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

**CAIRNS  
CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
STRATEGY  
2030**

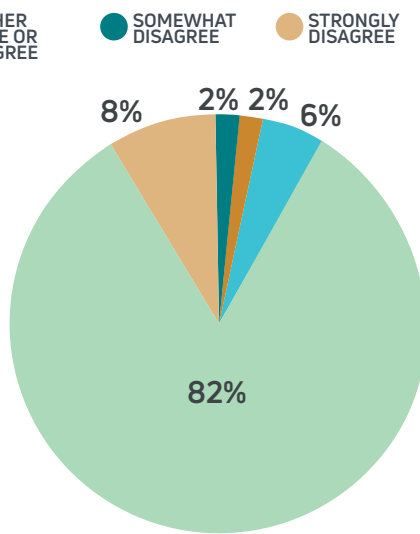
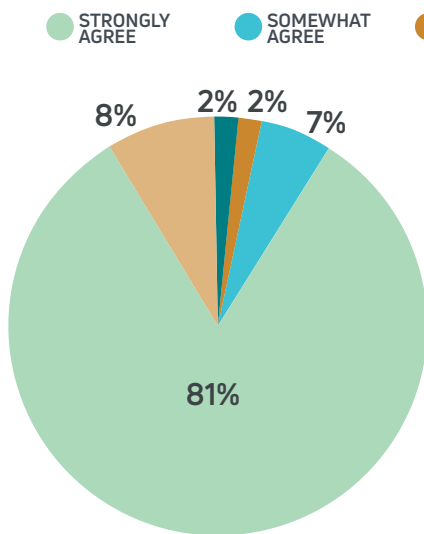


[www.cairns.qld.gov.au/climate](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/climate)

# WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR

It is important for Cairns Regional Council to show leadership and action on climate change.

Cairns and Far North Queensland should make the most of the global transition to a smart, green economy (e.g. renewable energy projects, restoration of vegetation and carbon credits).



## Respondents said...

- “Biodiversity is the biggest capital we have in the far north. It’s also the best insurance against effects of climate change.”
- “I think it is important to be responsible and care for the environment well. But I don’t think we need to get anxious about an impending climate crisis. I also think it is important to consider the economic and social implications of climate-related decisions. Steps forward need to be balanced and measured.”
- “I would like to see Cairns be innovative and forward thinking around climate change and caring for our environment. If we don’t protect our gorgeous natural environment then we lose the region’s greatest asset and both our economy and health suffer.”
- “As Cairns continues to spread, it is vital we have an effective public transport system to reduce emissions, traffic congestion and improve visitor experience.”
- “Choose practical steps that can be undertaken now”
- “A community that is proud of its city’s action on climate change, informed about risks and actively engaged in supporting their homes, natural environment - with opportunities for clean jobs.”

## top 5 actions that council can take to support the community



Support uptake of renewable energy



Advocate to government and industry for more climate action



Support biodiversity and help the natural environment adapt



Support the transition to a Smart Green Economy to strengthen and diversify our economy



Support public transport and electric vehicles

## next steps

Council will use the information gathered as part of the engagement to prepare a preliminary draft of the Cairns Climate Change Strategy 2030. A Climate Summit will be held in mid-September to present the preliminary draft strategy and obtain feedback.

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