



ADVOCACY PLAN: COOLING THE CITY – PLANNING FOR HEAT

THE ASK

Council is advocating to the NSW Government and the Australian Building Codes Board for changes to codes, legislation and plans to address extreme heat including:

- Cooling buildings and neighbourhoods by increasing vegetation and canopy cover.
- Ensuring residential dwellings keep inhabitants safe and comfortable during extreme heat, including in cases where mechanical cooling cannot be used, now and into the future.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Council will help to facilitate higher levels of canopy cover in greenfield sites by:

- Advocating to the NSW Government to mandate urban tree canopy cover targets in any future release areas. These should be embedded in the master planning process
- Advocating for the mandating of larger verge widths or alternate street designs within Department led DCPs of new greenfield subdivisions to facilitate canopy tree planting
- Advocate to DPIE to amend the Exempt and Complying Code, requiring higher landscaped areas for smaller lot residential development, which is supported by a tree selection guide

Council will help to ensure development does not contribute to the cumulative urban heat island effect in Western Sydney by:

- Advocating to DPIE [and the Australian Building Codes Board] to undertake a holistic review of BASIX and the Building Code of Australia (National Construction Code) to ensure improved outcomes to address extreme heat
- Advocate for DPIE to amend industry design guides to embed mitigation of the urban heat island effect in new developments



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POTENTIAL TARGET STAKEHOLDERS AND ORGANISATIONS

Federal Government

- Local MPs
- Energy Ministers Forum (formerly COAG Energy Council)
- Australian Building Codes Board

NSW Government

- Local MPs
- Portfolio and Shadow Ministers – Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, Health, Local Government and Western Sydney
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Greater Sydney Commission, NSW Government Architect, Resilience NSW, NSW Health, Infrastructure for NSW

Industry Stakeholders

- Developers
- Industry groups

POTENTIAL ALLIES AND COLLABORATORS:

- Councils, and council organisations across Greater Sydney
- Industry associations and peak bodies
- Thought leaders including tertiary education institutions
- Thought leadership organisations
- Interest groups
- Community housing providers



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ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES

- Clearly articulate the community need for dwellings and neighbourhoods that keep people safe and comfortable during extreme heat.
- Secure commitment from the NSW and Federal Governments to changing codes, legislation, plans and design guides to better address extreme heat.
- Build strong, enduring relationships with decision-makers and partners.
- Strengthen Penrith City Council's reputation for credibility and legitimacy as an advocate for community needs and priorities.
- Strengthen community trust in Penrith City Council as a credible and legitimate advocate for community needs and priorities.

KEY MESSAGES

- Extreme heat is one of the most critical risks facing communities within the Penrith LGA. It is impacting community health and safety and increasing costs for households, businesses and governments
- Extreme heat decreases productivity and places strain on health systems and energy infrastructure
- Australians pay amongst the highest energy bills in the world. By cooling our houses and neighbourhoods we can decrease household bills and ensure communities can stay safe in their homes when power is unavailable, or air conditioning is too expensive to run.
- There is potential for jobs growth and market development for technology and products that improve the energy performance of homes.
- Penrith City Council is taking a leadership role within our own LGA, and the issues paper builds on the success of actions such as the Cooling the City Strategy, Resilient Penrith Action Plan and Cooling the City Masterclass.
- However, some of the most impactful changes lie outside of Council's control.
- We are looking forward to working with the State and Federal Government on creating practical and realistic actions that will prioritise community health and safety and decrease costs by making sure homes and neighbourhoods in western Sydney are designed and built to mitigate and adapt to impacts of extreme heat so that they are safe now and into the future.



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ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

- Meetings and correspondence with target stakeholders and organisations.
- Consistently advocating for our 'asks' when providing submissions, input and feedback during consultation activities (including submissions) for the development or review of NSW and Federal Government legislation, codes and plans. This could include major land use, infrastructure, transport, health strategies and plans.
- Developing a media and social media campaign to enable Council to advocate over summer and respond when heat becomes a topical media issue (for example during heatwaves)
- Consistently advocating for our 'asks' when participating in workshops, conferences and other public forums
- Collaborating with allies to amplify our advocacy wherever possible (joint letters, submissions and/or campaigns)