

It is essential for Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire Council to identify climate change risks to its operations and its communities and work together with Commonwealth and State Governments to plan and implement appropriate adaptation strategies.

4. Setting clear objectives and targets

In order to achieve outcomes and engage in 'best practice' climate change management processes it is essential for Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire Council to set and work towards a set of internal targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction. It is necessary to adopt these targets at Council and publicise the targets in order to achieve stakeholder and community support.

5. Establishing clear roles and responsibilities

While climate change management is the responsibility of all Local Government Officers and Elected Members, there is an expectation that a primary 'team' will be established within Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire Council in order to ensure that outcomes are met within a reasonable timeframe. As a significant global concern, climate change must be addressed at all levels of Government., Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire Council in its turn, must address climate change at all levels of its own operations, with support from the Leadership Team.

6. Acknowledging resourcing barriers and constraints

Climate change management costs, while representing a relatively small financial commitment on a global scale, are likely to represent a larger proportion of Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire Council spending. Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire already has a wide range of responsibilities in the community and climate change is a new and additional aspect of environmental management that Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire Council will have to broaden its suite of services to include.

The cost impacts of addressing climate change, exclusive of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme direct costs, are likely to be proportionately high for Local Governments. Additionally Local Governments are likely to be expected to undertake projects and policy work in this area.

Local Governments must be adequately resourced via Australian Government revenue avenues to meet these community and political obligations. Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire Council asserts that funds from the Climate Change Action Fund (CCAF) or a similar funding mechanism should be made available to Local Governments to fund these costs and additional activities.

7. Apportioning costs appropriately

Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire Council in acknowledging the immediacy and importance of climate change management, will ensure that high priority climate change risks are directly resourced or externally funded so that impacts can be ameliorated and/or adapted to.