

	<p>Council Policy</p> <p>Lake Macquarie Waterway Flooding and Tidal Inundation Policy</p>	
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Policy

Policy Objectives

OUR COMMITMENT

Lake Macquarie City Council is committed to working with its residents to identify and respond to hazards and risks associated with sea level rise (SLR). We are committed to preparedness and adaptation responses informed by environmental, social, economic sustainability and good governance.

OUR GOAL

To provide a policy framework to assist Council and Lake Macquarie residents, as stewards of our City's environment, to respond responsibly and proactively to emerging flooding and sea level rise hazards and risks.

Policy Statement

OUR PLAN

To achieve this, Council:

1. Has adopted sea level rise planning benchmarks that are widely accepted by scientific opinion and were established in the former *NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement (2009)*. The planning benchmarks are a rise from 1990 levels of 0.4 metres by 2050 and 0.9 metres by 2100 and will be used as the basis for Council staff and the community to proceed with risk assessment, policy development, community empowerment, and planning and development decisions.
2. Has also adopted Flood Resilient Housing Guidelines as part of Lake Macquarie Development Control Plan (DCP) 2014. Council and the community can use these guidelines to facilitate developments that incorporate innovative design solutions to adapt to sea level rise impacts where levels lower than the planning benchmarks are proposed.
3. Will continue to monitor, review, and manage the risks associated with climate change relating to local government functions.
4. Will review the above benchmarks if and when the NSW Government recommends a new level under its planning policies, guidelines, or manuals, and/or in the light of new scientific evidence.
5. Will continue to undertake community consultation and community empowerment activities in partnership with Lake Macquarie residents and other stakeholder partners.

GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are provided to assist staff in implementing this Policy:

1. Council has to consider the effect of climate change including sea level rise to inform planning decisions and when determining development applications.
2. Required floor levels for buildings will be considered in accordance with the following principles:
 - (a) Each DA or planning decision is to be considered on a case-by-case basis (as is required by law).
 - (b) Flood planning levels are based on the findings of the *Lake Macquarie Waterway Flood Study (2012)*, incorporating Council's sea level rise planning benchmarks and adding 0.5 metres freeboard as recommended in the *NSW Government Floodplain Development Manual, April 2005*. For habitable dwellings the flood planning levels are:

Risk measure	Planning level to 2050	Planning level to 2100
1:100 year lake flood (including sea level rise of 0.4 m by 2050) 1.86 m AHD	1.86 m AHD + 0.5 m freeboard = 2.36 m AHD	n/a
1:100 year lake flood (including sea level rise of 0.9 m by 2100) 2.32 m AHD	n/a	2.32 m AHD + 0.5 m freeboard = 2.82 m AHD

For ease of calculation, it is assumed that sea levels and lake flood levels will increase linearly between these benchmarks.

- (c) Planning and development assessment guidelines will include criteria for the three risk areas identified in the *Lake Macquarie Waterway Flood Risk Management Study and Plan (2012)*:
- “high lake hazard” area below 1.0 metre AHD
 - “high flood hazard” area below 1.5 metres AHD
 - “low flood hazard” area for flood-affected properties above 1.5 metres AHD and below 3.0 metres AHD.
- (d) If a developer seeks to fix a lower level for their proposal, or propose alternative methods to deal with the flood and inundation risk, they will submit a flood risk assessment and management plan and/or an appropriate alternative design solution that is consistent with DCP 2014 Flood Resilient Housing Guidelines, which enables Council to evaluate the proposal on its merits. However, Council reserves the right to submit the proposed solution to peer review or evaluation by an independent expert.

Controlled Document Information

Authorisation Details

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Department:	Environmental Systems		
Officer:	Senior Sustainability Officer (Climate Change) - Neale Farmer		
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Related Document Information, Standards & References

Related Legislation:	(Legislation Name) N/A	(Relationship/Context) N/A
Related Policies (Council & Internal):	(Policy Name) Lake Macquarie Development Control Plan (LMDCP) 2014	(Relationship/Context)
Related Procedures, Guidelines, Forms, WHS Modules/PCD's, Risk Assessments, Work Method Statements:	(Document Name) Assessing Development Proposals on Land Affected by Sea Level Rise Procedure Lake Macquarie Waterway Flood Study 2012 Lake Macquarie Waterway Flood Risk Study and Management Plan 2012 LMDCP 2014 Flood Resilient Housing Guidelines Lake Macquarie Coastal Zone Management Plan 2015	(Relationship/Context)
Standards COP's & Other References	(Standard, COP or Other References)	(Relationship/Context)

Definitions

Term / Abbreviation	Definition
SLR	Sea Level Rise
DA	Development Application
AHD	Australian Height Datum

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Consultation (update for each version created)

Key Departments, Teams, Positions, Meetings:	Environmental Systems, Asset Management, Development and Certification, Integrated Planning, City Projects, Community Partnerships. Lake Macquarie Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Group, March 2020 Unique Landscapes Portfolio Committee, April 2020
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Version History

Version No	Date Changed	Modified By	Details and Comments
1	September 2008	Neale Farmer	Original version based on Council resolution of 25 August 2008
2	June 2012	Greg Giles	Name change and incorporation of 2011 Lake Waterway Flood Study and Flood Risk Management Plan
3	January 2016	Ann Stewart	Several minor changes to the draft policy have been made. These changes support the comments made by key Council staff as part of the review. The proposed changes are considered to be clarifications to the policy language intended to enhance the policy's understanding and application. The proposed changes do not materially change the policy intent and should not make any detrimental change to the policy's implementation.
4	July 2020	Neale Farmer	Update reference to NSW Government Floodplain Development Manual. Include reference to good governance. Update title to comply with policy naming convention; correct minor typographical, grammatical, spelling and formatting errors. Include an additional point/number under the "Our Plan" part of the Policy to reference to Flood Resilient Housing Guidelines.