

Climate Change Policy

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Drafted by	Climate Change Sub-Committee	Approved by Board on	09 / 08/ 2022
Responsible person	Martin Burney (Chair)	Scheduled review date	August 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

The Outdoors Industry

The outdoor industry in NSW and ACT - including outdoor education, adventure tourism and nature therapy and active recreation - are on the front lines of climate change. In particular, extreme weather events including heat waves, extreme rainfall and flooding, and severe bushfires and smoke, directly interfere with the ability of organisations to operate, often posing long-lasting challenges and financial strain, affecting businesses and workers.

The outdoor industry in NSW and the ACT play a critical role in bringing Australians into nature and promoting physical activity, benefiting mental and physical health. In order to continue this very important work, the outdoor industry should advocate for climate solutions, join in efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and develop innovative ways of adapting to a changing climate.

Key strengths and opportunities for action by outdoor organisations in NSW and the ACT:

1. Organisations can play a role in evaluating and taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially across key areas such as energy purchase/generation and use, and transport.
2. Organisations have close relationships with their local communities and play an important role in educating and connecting Australians with and promoting stewardship of the natural environment.
3. Organisations work with various suppliers, subcontractors and stakeholders - including power providers, food vendors, and outdoor equipment brands, providing opportunities for collaboration to reduce impacts to the environment.
4. Organisations are adept at evaluating and managing risk and developing innovative safety solutions, whilst operating in diverse weather conditions; thus providing valuable insight into adapting activities outdoors for a changing climate.

2. PURPOSE

Outdoors NSW & ACT acknowledges the urgency required in addressing climate change and the profound impacts already experienced by communities here in NSW and the ACT, Australia and globally. Climate change is far-reaching, with risks to health, national security, economic prosperity, food systems and the natural environment. In the last number of years, NSW and the ACT have experienced record-breaking, climate-fuelled heatwaves, drought conditions, bushfires and, most recently, floods.

Scientific consensus is clear that climate change is caused by humans, and experts warn that economies must rapidly decarbonise to address this existential threat. The current federal government has committed to

reduce emissions by 43% by 2030, NSW has committed to 50% by 2030, and the ACT 65 to 75% by 2030. Commitments by government will need to be strengthened and delivered, and action is required from all parts of society including business, communities, civil society, and the finance sector.

3. SCOPE

3.1 This policy applies to:

Employees	Directors	Officers	Contractors (including employees of contractors)	Volunteers	Suppliers	Consultants
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

4. POLICY

Outdoors NSW & ACT is committed to showing leadership within the Australia outdoor sectors on climate change by:

- advocating for enhanced government action,
- embracing and promoting climate mitigation and adaptation solutions with member groups, and
- engaging with diverse stakeholders and collaborating widely to further accelerate action.

In the short term, Outdoors NSW and ACT is specifically committing to:

- Measuring the greenhouse gas emissions associated with Outdoors NSW and ACT's operations, both direct and indirect and delivering an emissions reduction target of 80% by 2025
- Provide case studies and other tools that support industry players with advice on best practise adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change
- Advocate for action on climate change that relates to outdoor activities and the industry
- Fostering collaboration between outdoor organisations and the outdoor retail sector to address changing needs within a changing climate

Outdoors NSW and ACT will continue to review, extend and strengthen our climate commitments into the future.

5. NOTES

In carrying out the procedures listed below, Outdoors NSW & ACT will be guided by the information and directions provided by the United Nations and their Sustainable Development Goals as well as public policy driving climate change initiatives in Australia and NSW and the ACT.

6. CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1 Outdoors NSW & ACT is to deliver its operations within the requirements under the Constitution where possible and where activities cannot be delivered or adhered to by higher authoritarian requirements, the CEO is to keep the Directors and membership informed.
- 6.2 Outdoors NSW & ACT is the voice of its members and will take concerns, issues, questions to the higher authorities to ensure the clarity and possible considerations for the sector in this area.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 7.1 United Nations [Climate Action](#)
- 7.2 Sustainable Development Goals - <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- 7.3 Climate action tracker - [Australia](#)

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