



**Memo to:** Councillor Jurd

**Copy to:** Mayor Watton, all Councillors, General Manager, Directors, Senior Leadership Group, and Communications & Engagement Team

**From:** Warren Murphy, Acting Director Planning and Environment

**Subject:** [RM1/2026] - [Suspension of all non-legislated net zero expenditure to support financial sustainability] – Information regarding Climate Change Policy

**Date:** 19 January 2026

**Reference:** CRM 832/2026 - DOC2026/005992

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Dear Councillor Jurd

I refer to your request for information in relation to (Council Report number – RM1/2026) as follows;

1. *'Can i please get the information that is in our climate change policy,*

*Energy Efficiency & Emissions Reductions*

*6.14. Develop a Cessnock Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory using regional data and establish baseline emissions for the region. Undertake regular monitoring so that Council knows if the actions being employed to reduce emissions are succeeding and can amend actions if required.*

*6.15. Undertake an annual corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory including Scope 1 (direct) and Scope 2 (indirect) emissions utilising the National Greenhouses and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (Cth).*

*At the last council meeting i asked about emissions and it was either said to take it on notice, which i haven't received the information if it had been taken on notice, or it was said that they didn't know how much emissions we produce and what we have saved by the policy. Going off the climate change policy on councils website, 6.14 and 6.15 says we should have this data.'*

Table 5.1 on page 26 of the Climate Change Resilience Plan outlines the greenhouse gas emissions inventory from Council operations in 2019. This emissions profile was prepared by Ironbark Consulting and shows Council operational activities generated 29.8 kilotonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in 2019.

Indicative modelling from the 2023-24 financial year has shown Council's total greenhouse gas emissions to be 26927 tCO<sub>2-e</sub> or a 9.6% reduction from 2019 to 2024. However, the indicative modelling is not as detailed as the profile provided by Ironbark Consulting.

2. *'Can i also get information on our assets & if we have done any of 6.17*

*6.17. Commit to continually improving energy efficiency, reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and improving climate change resilience at all Council sites/assets. When replacing assets, more efficient and low greenhouse gas emitting assets shall be selected'*

Council has implemented a number of projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions based on capability and availability of technology and cost effectiveness. A detailed overview of the projects will be provided in the Councillor workshop regarding the Climate Change Resilience Plan as part of the adopted motion for RM1/2026 dated 14 January 2026.

Please note a copy of this memo will be uploaded to Council's website.