

9.4 Sustain Northern Rivers



Northern Rivers Climate Change Collaboration Agreement

Version 1.1 - 15 February 2010

Preamble

The signatories to this agreement acknowledge and honour the heritage and custodianship of the traditional owners of the lands in the region known today as the Northern Rivers of New South Wales.

The signatories also acknowledge the almost unanimous warnings by the international scientific community that human impacts on the planet's biosphere are likely to result in severe changes to global climatic conditions that will adversely affect the lives and wellbeing of present and future generations for the foreseeable future.

The signatories accept their separate and collective responsibility to offer leadership to the people of the Northern Rivers region to take action now to prepare for and meet the challenges of climate change. We believe these challenges also represent opportunities to make a transition to more sustainable ways of living and working, and commit ourselves to identify and realise these opportunities.

By entering into this agreement, the signatories commit to actively engage the whole community in action on climate change. We believe community engagement and the fostering of stakeholder partnership is essential to strengthening the social and economic resilience of the region.

We also accept the responsibility of the Northern Rivers region to make its best possible contribution to achieving national and global climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainability transition objectives.

Objectives

The signatories to this agreement commit themselves to the following common objectives:

- To achieve the widest possible community involvement in formulating specific climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainability transition goals and targets for the Northern Rivers region.
- To encourage, support, and enable the communities, institutions, organisations and businesses of the region to undertake their own climate change action initiatives in support of the regional goals and targets.
- To jointly advocate for measures to strengthen the resilience of regional communities and businesses, build the region's social, economic, and natural capital, and promote ecologically sustainable ways of living and working.
- To promote the opportunities that climate change offers the region to fashion a new ecologically sustainable, diverse, and creative economy capable of fulfilling the material and cultural needs of present and future generations.
- To establish and monitor key indices of sustainability in the region and review the regional climate change goals and targets against these indices and evolving national and international standards.

Guiding Principles

In pursuing these objectives the signatories to this agreement will observe the following principles:

- **Respect for Aboriginal heritage and values**

The signatories honour the region's Aboriginal heritage, custodianship and values of caring for country and community as fundamental to living sustainably.
- **Communication, consultation and collaboration**

The signatories commit to on-going communication, consultation and collaboration in matters related to climate change policy, planning, strategy development, and resource allocation.
- **Community engagement**

The signatories will seek to engage all sections of the community in understanding and formulating responses to climate change.
- **Stakeholder partnerships**

The signatories will foster the development of collaborative climate change partnerships between diverse stakeholder groups across the region.
- **Learning opportunities**

The signatories will act to build the learning capability of our communities, workplaces, and organisations and promote access for everyone to the skills and knowledge necessary for sustainability.
- **Information sharing**

The signatories will promote the sharing of information on climate change impacts, policies, planning and the availability of resources.
- **Innovation**

The signatories will encourage innovative and integrated approaches to realising climate change related economic, social and cultural opportunities for the region.
- **Efficient use of resources**

The signatories will avoid wasteful duplication of effort and will collaborate to achieve the most efficient and equitable deployment of available resources.
- **Voluntary collaboration**

This framework agreement is intended to guide the voluntary collaboration between the signatories and should not be construed as in any way creating legal obligations or duties.

Mechanism

The signatories to this agreement will each appoint a representative to a Steering Committee that will be the principal forum for on-going strategy development, co-ordination and governance of their collaboration in pursuit of the objectives of this agreement.

The Steering Committee's mission will be to engage stakeholders and communities in setting agreed climate change action goals and targets for the region and then to promote and support local self-organised initiatives to advance these goals. The form of this stakeholder and community engagement process is set out in Schedule 1 to this agreement.

The Steering Committee will have the authority to form such working groups and sub-committees as it considers necessary to advance the purposes of this agreement and to make recommendations to the signatories to the agreement. It will be empowered to amend Schedule 1 as it considers necessary.

I certify that the preceding agreement has been endorsed by the following organisation in accordance with its proper internal procedures.

>

NAME OF ORGANISATION ENDORSING THE NORTHERN RIVERS CLIMATE CHANGE COLLABORATION

>

NAME OF AUTHORISED OFFICER

>

SIGNATURE

>

POSITION

>

DATE

Schedule 1 – The Process

Signatories of the *Northern Rivers Climate Change Collaboration Agreement* have formed *Sustain Northern Rivers (SNR)*, a Collaboration of organisations that work together to help the region shift to sustainable ways of living and working.

SNR has established four action priorities

Sustain ENERGY

To empower and enable the Northern Rivers community to reduce the region's ecological footprint (energy, water, waste)

Sustain FOOD

To increase local food production for local consumption, and increase uptake of sustainable food production methods

Sustain TRANSPORT

To reduce transport emissions, and to increase transport options, physical activity, social capital and resilience

Sustain CHANGE

To provide mechanisms that support and promote sustainability initiatives, including climate change mitigation and adaptation. An important aspect of sustaining forward momentum is to increase social learning.

SNR members work towards shared goals

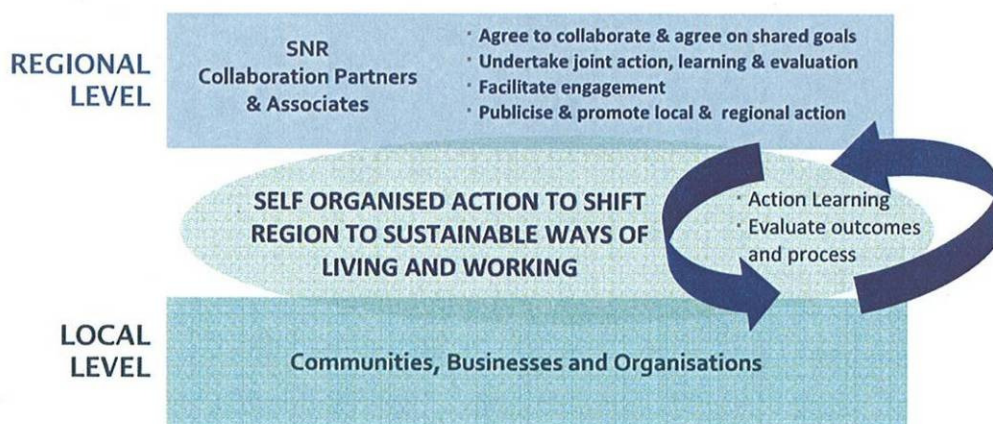
SNR member organisations collaborate in developing goals and targets based on the Action Priorities, and indicators for progress. We develop projects together. We will establish a process to review and report on the outcomes.

SNR maximises network action

Sustain Northern Rivers creates a dense network of organisations engaged in climate change action, creating bridging ties between disparate agencies. This enables projects that are 'larger than the sum of their parts', as partners bring different perspectives and resources to the collaborative process. In order to maximise innovation, SNR seeks to minimise procedural constraints.

SNR seeks to accelerate the process of change across the Northern Rivers

Many communities, businesses and organisations throughout the region are engaged in action to reduce their carbon footprint and to become more sustainable. SNR seeks to publicise innovation and action on climate change. SNR members will extend the network of people and organisations working for climate change action by engaging with stakeholders and communities. The priority action area, Sustain CHANGE is about finding ways to accelerate the process of change.



Schedule 1 for the *Northern Rivers Climate Change Collaboration Agreement*, revised 290910 by the Sustain Northern Rivers Committee