



Help Dora Creek get Climate Ready

Help make things happen in your local community.
Contact the *Dora Creek Climate Ready* Coordinator
to find out more about the local project and how to
get involved.

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How can I help?

There are different ways you can get
involved locally:

- Participate in *Climate Ready Dora Creek* local activities, meetings or workshops
- Help local Landcare groups protect and rehabilitate natural barriers to sea level rise such as vegetated creek banks and wetlands
- Plan new landscaping, buildings and renovations to be energy efficient and adaptable to sea level rise
- Reduce your environmental footprint

Find out more

Lake Macquarie City Council
www.lakemac.com.au

NSW Department of Environment,
Climate Change and Water
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange

Commonwealth Department of Climate Change
www.climatechange.gov.au



Climate Ready Dora Creek



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Climate Ready Dora Creek

In September 2008 fifty members of the Dora Creek community attended a local workshop on Climate Change. In response, the community formed the local group *Climate Ready Dora Creek* with support from the Dora Creek Catchment Group and Lake Macquarie City Council.

Climate Ready Dora Creek now meets regularly and has become the first community in Lake Macquarie to develop a local plan for adapting to climate change. Local residents have volunteered to become neighbourhood coordinators to help implement actions in their area.

The Dora Creek Draft *Climate Change Adaptation Plan* sets out more than 100 actions for Climate Ready Dora Creek to implement in partnership with local householders, the community, Council and State Government. *Climate Ready Dora Creek* will work with the Dora Creek community on priority actions in the upcoming year.

Climate Ready Dora Creek Priority Actions

- Improve stormwater drainage and floodways
- Strengthen flood warning systems
- Support a volunteer emergency planning network to support elderly and less able community members
- Replant cleared areas to prevent erosion
- Work with Council on development, planning and management issues
- Involve groups such as schools, clubs and churches in awareness raising activities

Climate Change

Climate change is the warming of the Earth due to the enhanced greenhouse effect. The impacts of climate change include sea-level rise, changes to temperatures and rainfall patterns, and changes to the frequency and intensity of natural disasters (storms, flooding, bushfires, and drought).

The greenhouse effect describes how certain gases reduce the amount of heat escaping from the atmosphere, acting like a blanket around the Earth. It is a natural phenomenon. The enhanced greenhouse effect refers to additional warming caused by extra quantities of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide and methane from human activities.



Sea Level Rise

Scientists predict global sea levels will almost certainly rise by 0.59 metres by the end of this century. Further research by the CSIRO shows that by 2100, levels on the east coast of Australia will be about 0.12 metres higher than the global average. This increase is due to the effect of the warm East Coast Current. Most of this rise in sea level is due to expansion of the ocean water as it becomes warmer. However, sea levels may rise another 0.20 metres as glaciers and ice sheets melt. This makes a total predicted sea level rise of 0.91 metres by 2100.

What does this mean for Dora Creek?

Lake Macquarie's water level is expected to rise at the same rate as the ocean with implications for our lakeside environment, buildings and local infrastructure.

Some land area will be permanently under water and others at increased risk as flood levels increase with the rise in the lake level and rainfall intensity. Ocean tides may come further into the lake causing an increase in tidal range. Storms may become more frequent and intense, with stronger winds and heavier rainfall. Longer periods of hot dry weather may increase the threat from bushfires and heat stress.

