

# Climate change Report

## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek the STCA Boards approval for the governance structure and terms of reference for the southern region climate change and sustainability initiative.

## Background

At the June Meeting of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority the Board resolved that the STCA would:

1. Endorses the establishment of the 'Climate Change and Sustainability Initiative' under the auspices of the STCA with assistance from the Hobart City Council.
2. Seek in-kind and other funding from other stakeholders: Councils, State and Australian Government, towards the 'Climate Change and Sustainability Initiative.'
3. Negotiate with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability for cost effective delivery of the Adaptive and Resilient Communities Program to a grouping of Southern regional councils.

In line with this recommendation each Council has nominated an officer to be their representative on a steering group for the initiative.

Two meetings have been held and the structure for the operation of the initiative and the terms of reference have been developed and agreed by the Steering Group.

## Terms of reference

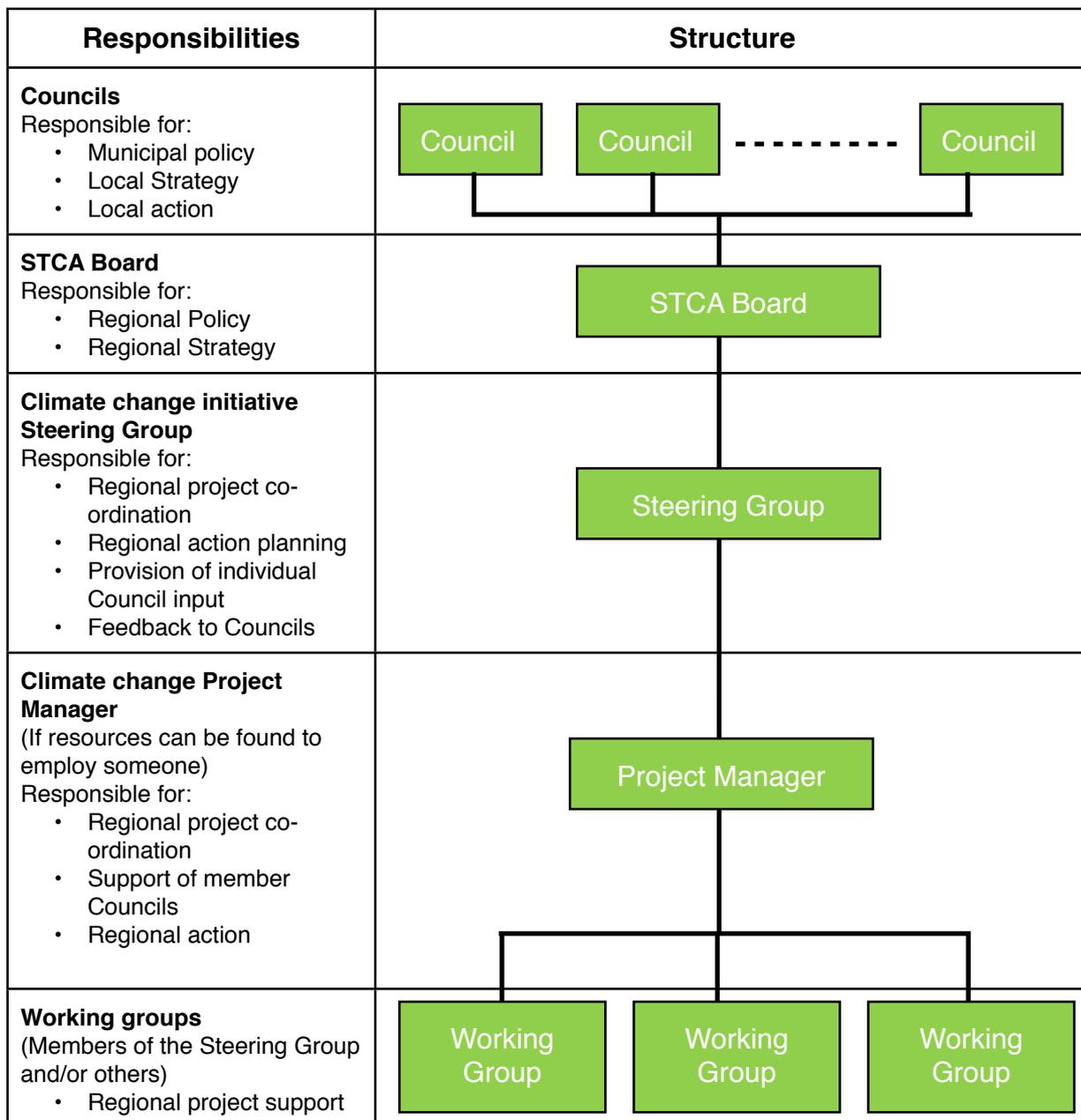
The terms of reference, as proposed by the steering committee for the Climate Change and Sustainability Initiative are as follows:

1. Maintain and establish good communication and relationships with and be in a position to influence the other tiers of government, including:
  - a) State Government Climate Change Office
  - b) Federal Government Department of Climate Change
2. Build and maintain a public profile for local government climate change initiatives that supports regional and local activities through such means as:
  - a) development of a Regional website; and
  - b) introduction of a system of branding of businesses and properties that adopt and implement approved policies and undertake activities in response to climate change.
3. Develop, support and co-ordinate regional activities through such actions as:
  - a) Bulk purchasing
  - b) Resource sharing
4. Provide/instigate research and information collection projects on the impacts of climate change in Southern Tasmania
5. Assist Councils in the preparation of consistent climate change action plans through such means as development of a common reporting template.

6. Assist Councils to provide co-ordinated and consistent reporting on abatement and adaptation approaches to climate change issues such as:
  - a) inventories
  - b) sustainability
  - c) action plans
7. Support and coordinate actions that allow the region to adapt to the impact of climate change

## Structure

The following diagram explains the proposed structure:



## **Current status**

Currently the Joint CEOs are taking responsibility for the day to day activities of the project with general support from the Steering Committee and specific support from Katrina Graham from Hobart City Council (Environment and Climate Change Officer).

The Climate Change Initiative Steering Group, in addition to developing a structure and terms of reference are also developing an action plan tailored to the resources that are available to the project that will be put to the STCA Board for approval.

Discussion have been held with the following to progress aspects of the initiative and to seek opportunities for funding:

- Senator Catryna Bilyk
- Wendy Spencer - State Government Climate Change Office
- MHA Lisa Singh

Wendy Spencer has attended a Steering Group meeting and has requested an opportunity to participate in future meetings to share information with the Councils.

## **Recommendation**

That the STCA Board:

1. Endorse the following Terms of Reference for the Climate Change and Sustainability Initiative:
  1. Maintain and establish good communication and relationships with and be in a position to influence the other tiers of government, including:
    - a) State Government Climate Change Office
    - b) Federal Government Department of Climate Change
  2. Build and maintain a public profile for local government climate change initiatives that supports regional and local activities through such means as:
    - a) development of a Regional website; and
    - b) introduction of a system of branding of businesses and properties that adopt and implement approved policies and undertake activities in response to climate change.
  3. Develop, support and co-ordinate regional activities through such actions as:
    - a) Bulk purchasing
    - b) Resource sharing
  4. Provide/instigate research and information collection projects on the impacts of climate change in Southern Tasmania
  5. Assist Councils in the preparation of consistent climate change action plans through such means as development of a common reporting template.
  6. Assist Councils to provide co-ordinated and consistent reporting on abatement and adaptation approaches to climate change issues such as:
    - a) inventories
    - b) sustainability
    - c) action plans
  7. Support and coordinate actions that allow the region to adapt to the impact of climate change
2. Endorse the structure of the project as outlined in the report.

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Burnet Seconded: Mayor Barwick

Carried

It was resolved that an application would be made for a grant from the recently announced Commonwealth Government's "Local Government Reform Fund"