



Extreme Heat Policy

| Policy Type: | Policy | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Approved By: | Council | Decision No: | 2011/2341, 2015/0238, 2017/1668, 0097/2019, 878/2021 |
| Approval Date: | 23 August 2010 | Last Reapproval Date: | 22 March 2021 |
| Review Date: | March 2023 | Internal Reference No.: | |
| Department: | Community Services | Division: | Community Health and Wellbeing |
| Function: | 17 - Social Cultural and Community Services | Responsible Officer: | Manager, Community Health and Wellbeing |

A – PREAMBLE

1. The City of Salisbury is committed to the promotion of community awareness and education regarding the impacts associated with extreme heat conditions and the measures that can be adopted to mitigate those impacts.
2. Across South Australia the frequency of very hot days will continue to increase, and heatwaves are projected to get longer, hotter and more frequent. Climate Change in Australia (2015 – CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology) predicts that heatwaves in South Australia will be hotter, longer and more frequent by 2050.
3. The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) provides leadership and oversight of emergency management planning in South Australia, and is responsible for maintain the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP)
4. The SEMP identifies the key hazards for South Australia and assigns a hazard leader and control agency for each hazard. The State Emergency Service (SES) is the assigned hazard leader and control agency for Extreme Weather – Heat.
5. The SEMP also identifies the states eleven emergency management zones with specific characteristics. The City of Salisbury is part of the Northern Adelaide Zone, and in partnership with The City of Playford, The City of Tea Tree Gully, The City of Port Adelaide Enfield and emergency services developed the Northern Adelaide Zone Emergency Management Plan (ZEMP). The Northern Adelaide ZEMP includes details about the key hazards for the Zone: extreme heat, extreme storm, flood, earthquake and bushfire and the main risks associated with each. This plan ensures a coordinated approach to increasing community preparedness, awareness and response to the hazards applicable for the zone.
6. The City of Salisbury is aware of the impact of extreme heat on health and wellbeing; activities, services and events; infrastructure; primary production and environment and is committed to identifying, mitigating and monitoring the risks associated with extreme heat and heatwaves

7. The City of Salisbury recognises its role in working with and reporting to the Local Government Functional Support Group and the role of South Australia State Emergency Services as the hazard leader and control agency.
8. The City commits to communicate heatwave warnings to raise community awareness; to assist businesses to prepare and respond; and for workforce planning. While hot days in summer are generally expected within South Australia, it is important that people are aware of the debilitating impact extreme hot weather can have on their general well-being.
9. The City acknowledges seniors, young people, homeless, culturally and linguistically diverse, socially isolated, people with a pre-existing health condition and pets and other animals as particularly vulnerable.
10. The City will address extreme heat in its urban planning, waste management, infrastructure and asset management, animal management, natural environment, business continuity, health and safety and financial plans,
11. The *Local Government Act 1999*, *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*, *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* and the *Emergency Management Act 2004* provide for Local Government to play a role in Extreme Weather Planning by promoting community awareness and education regarding the dangers and measures that can be adopted to mitigate the effects.

B - SCOPE

1. This Policy applies to all Staff, Volunteers and Elected Members of the City of Salisbury.

C – POLICY PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

1. This Policy:
 - a. defines the City of Salisbury’s commitment to supporting the community in relation to managing the impact of extreme heat conditions.
 - b. Sets out the role of Council in the provision of information and services to the Salisbury community during extreme heat conditions.

D - DEFINITIONS

1. **Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Heatwave classifications** - A heatwave is three or more consecutive days of high maximum and high minimum temperatures that are unusual for that location. Heatwaves are calculated using the forecast maximum and minimum temperatures over the next three days, comparing this to actual temperatures over the previous thirty days, and then comparing these same three days to the 'normal' temperatures expected for that location. This provides a value called the excess heat factor (EHF). This calculation considers people's ability to adapt to the heat. Any day when the EHF is positive is a heatwave and classified as either a low intensity heatwave, severe heatwave or extreme heatwave.
2. **South Australia State Emergency Service (SES) Warnings and Impacts** – Heatwave warnings are issued by the South Australia State Emergency Service (SES) as the hazard leader and control agency for extreme weather. The SES has developed a system of heatwave warnings based on the improved heatwave intensity forecasting system developed by the BoM and follows national warning protocols. An advice warning is issued for low intensity heatwaves, a watch and act warning for severe heatwaves and an emergency

warning for extreme heatwaves.

E - POLICY STATEMENT

1. Council will provide support or assistance as requested by the SA State Emergency Service or State Government in response to extreme heat events and in accordance with the Extreme Heat Plan.
2. To ensure the best use of Council resources, emphasis will be placed on complementing and supporting existing services provided by State/Commonwealth Government Agencies and specialist organisations funded to support vulnerable members of the community, rather than the provision of 'duplicate' services.
3. Council will provide community awareness and emergency management information in local settings of vulnerable populations via existing programs and services. This will include the distribution of materials prepared by the SA State Emergency Service, State Government and specialist organisations in relation to extreme heat events as well as publication of information on the City of Salisbury website, within the Salisbury Aware Magazine and through other Council media channels as appropriate.
4. Council will systematically take proper account of risk assessments in policy considerations that inform land-use planning to reduce disaster risk, including the effects of extreme heat.
5. Council will work to identify and reduce the number of urban heat islands through effective mapping, streetscape renewal programs and Irrigated Open Public Spaces, to help to mitigate the effects of extreme heat on the community.
6. City of Salisbury will ensure the health and safety of its workforce, by implementing policies and procedures that minimise their exposure to extreme heat, to enable continuity of services to our community.

F - LEGISLATION

1. *Local Government Act 1999*
2. *Work health and Safety Act 2012*
3. *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*
4. *Emergency Management Act 2004*

G - REFERENCES

1. State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP)
2. Northern Adelaide Zone Emergency Management Plan (ZEMP)
3. Heatwave Guide for Local Government in South Australia

Document Control

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Document ID | Extreme Heat Policy |
| Prepared by | Vesna Haracic |
| Release | 7.00 |
| Document Status | Endorsed |
| Date Printed | 29/03/2021 |