

Kingborough

A journey to mainstreaming climate change adaptation

Climate change and Kingborough Council

Early research into climate change and its potential impacts found that Kingborough, with its extensive coastline, extensive natural areas and small communities was particularly vulnerable currently and into the future.

Kingborough's foreshore and coastal settlements are at considerable risk to issues associated with sea level rise. Furthermore, with approximately 90% of Kingborough residents living in a bushfire prone area, the exacerbation of bushfire risk presents Council with considerable challenges now and into the future. The cascading impacts from these risks sees a range of issues including exposure to legal risk, asset depreciation, and increased asset expenditure.



Managing challenges in adaptation mainstreaming

Working with Councillors

- The utilisation of the extensive scientific expertise in climate change in Tasmania especially through UTAS, Antarctic Division and IMAS to present at councillor workshops proved invaluable in giving them a clear understanding of the science and risk.
- The drafting and adoption of a Climate Change Adaptation Policy and the inclusion of references to climate change in Council's Strategic Plan led to a consolidation of political commitment to ongoing action and resourcing.

Working with senior decision makers

- The initial audit of Kingborough's climate change governance indicators acted as a catalyst for some areas of council including planning, asset management and emergency management.
- Other areas have been more difficult to gain meaningful buy-in but the utilisation of a variety of case studies; particularly focused on vulnerable coastal locations and communities and council involvement with research organisations such as NCCARF has allowed steady progress to be made.

Financing and resourcing

- Council has consistently approved a realistic budget for the pursuit of climate related investigations and actions and especially regarding coastal vulnerability investigations and planning.
- The existence of the Climate Change Adaptation Policy and extensive inclusion of climate change action in council's Strategic Plan is a significant factor in this.
- The Manager Environmental Services has approval and a PD that allows extensive involvement the climate related activities.

Engaging the community

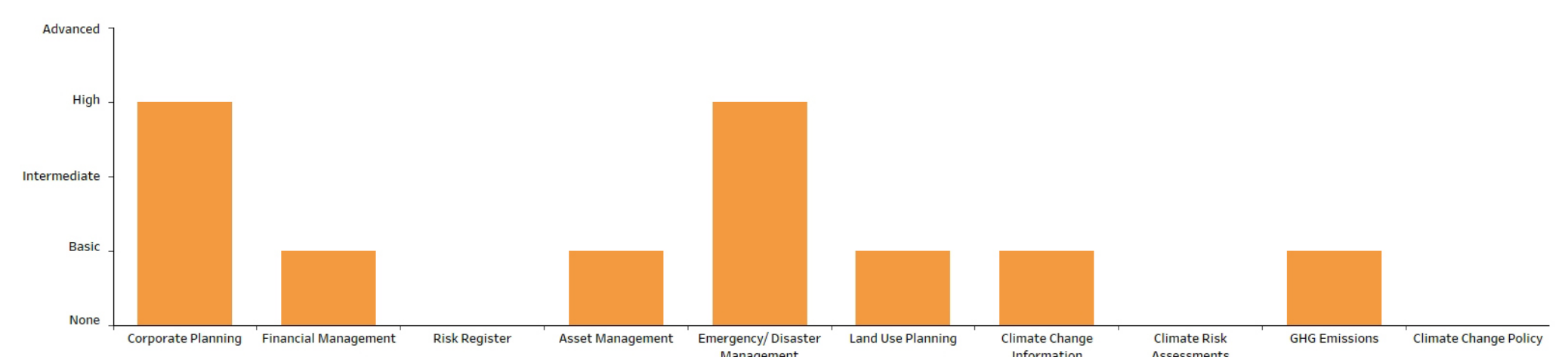
- This is proving to be the greatest challenge. How to communicate the climate and community resilience message to the broader demographic is proving to be the greatest challenge.
- The community based coastal case studies have proven invaluable in making the issues and potential adaptation options tangible.
- The establishment of the Climate Change Innovation Lab Tasmania is anticipated to significantly improved climate related communications.

Gradual improvements from 2014-2016

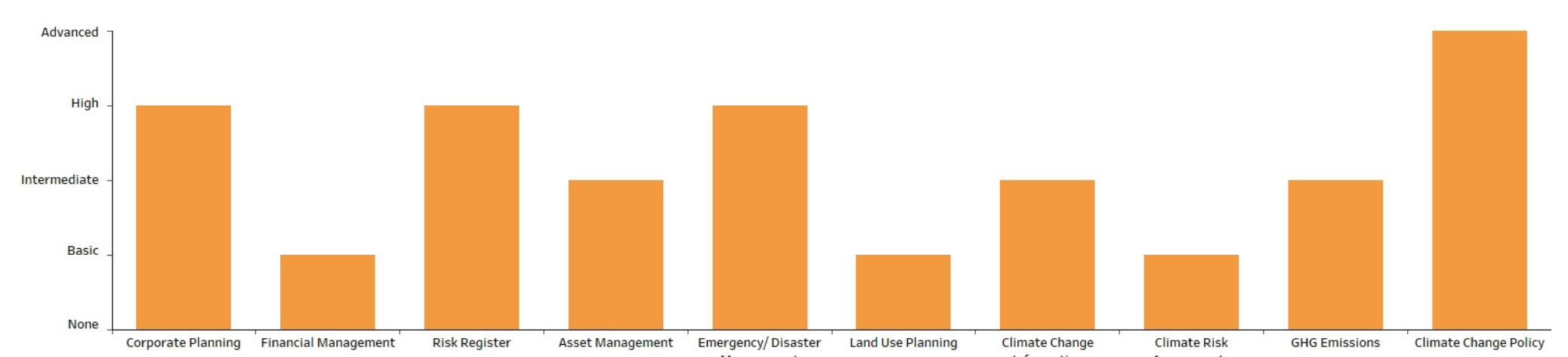
Due to the small size of local government areas in Tasmania, a corporate and community residence focus was essential in the consideration of climate change for these councils. Research found that climate change offered significant opportunities to Tasmania generally, and Kingborough especially, if options for climate resilient development and meaningful adaptation were progressively investigated and implemented.

Particular challenges exist in land use planning due to the implementation of the Tasmania Planning Scheme as well as finance and risk management due to entrenched systems and little leadership or incentive from other levels of government. The soon to be completed Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Kingborough is expected to include governance targets for climate change adaptation. The graphs below show Kingborough Council's progress in climate change adaptation governance from 2014 to 2016.

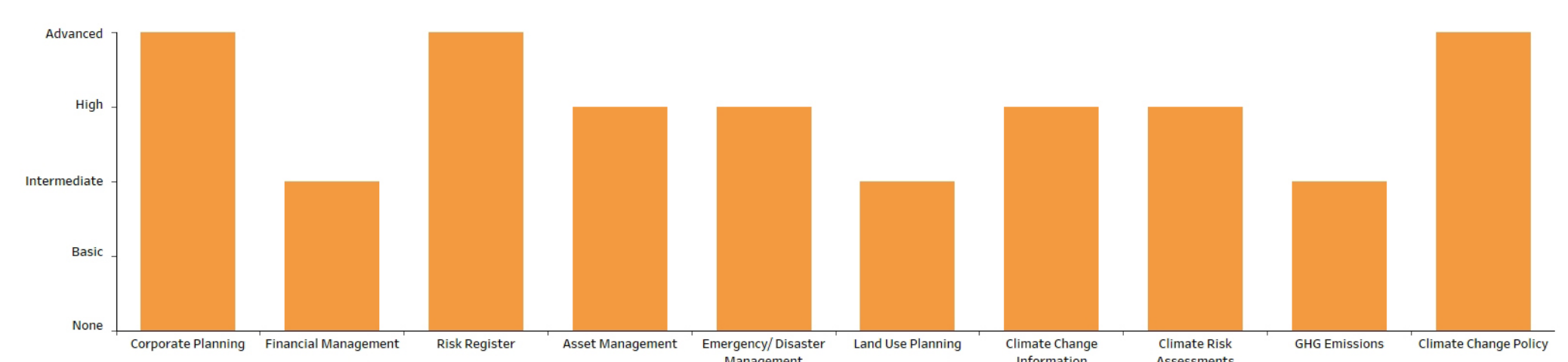
Kingborough Council's scores for adaptation governance for 2014



Kingborough Council's scores for adaptation governance for 2015

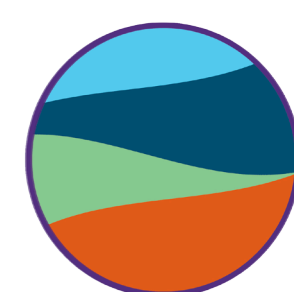


Kingborough Council's scores for adaptation governance for 2016



Please note that Kingborough Council's scores for climate change adaptation governance were part of Climate Planning's pilot study of their Informed.City™ tool and therefore cannot be compared against governance assessments conducted after 2016.

Where next for the Council ...



CLIMATE CHANGE
INNOVATION LAB
TASMANIA

The Climate Change Innovation Lab Tasmania (The Lab) is a Not-for-Profit Public Company. It explores real-world challenges that climate change poses to local economies, the environment, communities and governance systems and facilitates the ground-truthing of academic and economic research outcomes.

Informed.City™



Council has just received a status report for climate change governance. This will be used to target areas with less progress and lead to investigations into research, training and collaboration options for staff. A Climate Change Strategy for Kingborough will be finalised in 2018 with actions and targets relating to governance, mitigation and adaptation.



A draft Greenhouse Gas and Energy report has just been received with revised targets and comparisons with the previous report 10 years prior. The case study sites at Kingston Beach, Snug and Adventure Bay will have their risk profiles and adaptation options progressively advanced.