
Building a more resilient Orange City



ORANGE
CITY COUNCIL

Climate change can seem big and scary or distant and irrelevant to different people.

Whatever your view, we know that this is what we can expect in Orange.



Temperatures to continue to increase year round



Less rainfall in autumn, winter and spring



Harsher fire weather/longer fire seasons



More hot days and warm spells and fewer frosts



More frequent and more intense downpours

The good news is that the best way to ‘future proof’ your home is simple.

Consider the following points in selecting or designing your home.

- Design your home so that you **capture the sun** in winter and the shade in summer.
- **Compact homes** are far more energy efficient. They're cheaper to build and run. They also use less resources.
- A healthy home is a home that has plenty of **natural light**, good **thermal comfort** and natural **ventilation**.
- A **light exterior colour** palette helps reflect heat, particularly on roofs.
- **Landscape and garden design** play a huge role in an energy efficient home. Consider deciduous trees or vines on the north and a deciduous tree on the south west corner to block that late summer sun.
- **Water efficiency** will become a given in coming years.
- Installing efficient **fixtures and fittings** is critical but don't forget the outdoors. Design a **low-water needs garden** and install the biggest water tank you can to avoid using precious town water on your garden. If possible, re-use your water with greywater systems.
- **Insulate well** to keep heat in in winter and heat out in summer.
- Go **solar**, ideally with a battery, to reduce your reliance on the grid. It will save you money.
- **Windows and doors** are one of the biggest upfront costs but if well selected and well sealed, they will save you money in the long run.
- **Energy efficiency** - design well at the beginning and install efficient heating and cooling services.
- Use the **NatHERS** rating process to optimise the design. Between 7 and 8 stars is great!

Here's a list of helpful questions to ask your designer, builder, architect or real estate agent to make sure you're getting the best home possible.

- How does this design **take advantage of my local climate conditions**? (sunlight to warm in winter, breezes to cool in summer)
- How will this home perform in a **heatwave**?
- How could we **make this home smaller** (smart design) and still meet our needs?
- Will this home be **less expensive to run** than an average home?
- If I build a climate ready home, will I get a better **interest rate**?
- If I make it a **higher star rated home** will it be worth more when I sell it?
- What **water saving** measures can we use?
- Can I **water my garden** with greywater and/or rainwater?
- What are my options to treat and reuse **greywater**?
- Can we ensure our **external surfaces are light coloured**, especially the roof?

We're here to help

For more information, contact
Orange City Council's Sustainability Officer
on 6393 8000, or visit
www.orange.nsw.gov.au/sustainability