



## **Lions Club of Torquay Inc.**

### **Extreme Weather Policy**

#### Context and background

The Lions Club of Torquay ('the Club') recognises that very hot weather, other extreme weather conditions (such as lightning, flash flooding, strong winds) and certain emergency situations (such as bushfires) can impact the health, safety and well-being of Lions, those volunteering with us and members of the community who interact with us. Our activities are often outdoors.

This policy is intended to promote health, safety and wellbeing; and guide decision making by both individuals taking part in Club activities and Lions responsible for activities.

The policy applies to all activities of the Club.

In developing the policy, we recognise that:

- The Club includes some members who are older, or who have medical conditions that may impact their resilience and safe level of activity. The Club is generally not aware of specific health information.
- Lions are volunteer adults, generally with significant life experience, who take responsibility for their own wellbeing. As volunteers, we can choose to take part in or withdraw from activities.
- Those responsible for activities can plan/act to minimise the impact of weather on participants' health, safety and wellbeing.
- We live and volunteer where there is sometimes hot and extreme (including wet/cold) weather, and where emergency situations may be declared or occur (including storm, extreme heat or flooding).
- Where the Club commits to an activity, we should not withdraw our involvement prematurely, or at all if reasonable steps can be taken to conduct the activity without unreasonable risk to health, safety, and wellbeing.
- Forecasts can change; and 'uncomfortable' conditions are not always unsafe.

#### Policy

1. The health and safety of Lions and of those who work with us (both volunteers and members of the community) are paramount. Individual participants should consider the weather and the activity in light of their personal and health situation, and make enquiries if necessary as to relevant matters. Where an individual considers they are unable safely to undertake (or continue to undertake) an activity including because of expected or actual weather, they should discuss their participation with the Club organiser and withdraw from the activity if reasonable safety and health cannot be assured.
2. Organisers of activities will consider the following (where relevant) when committing the club to an activity and in its planning and execution:
  - a. The potential weather and – closer to the activity – the actual weather forecast.
  - b. The physical requirements of what will be done (such as heavy physical work; standing in front of a hot BBQ; standing out in the open) and whether this can be modified considering

expected extreme weather (e.g. implementing shorter shifts, rostering changes, reducing the expected physical output).

- c. The facilities available (from a weather perspective) – such as shelter or wind protection. (For example, a Bunnings BBQ takes place under the Bunnings-provided shelter, close to the main building entrance which offers some protection and where some cool air (on a day of high temperature) is felt from the air-conditioned building. But marshalling roles for a large event probably offers no reliable protection.) Also - whether erecting a temporary shelter would alleviate the weather impact.
  - d. The period over which the activity will take place, and the time of day. (Working 4 hours during ‘the heat of the day’ may be different to 2 hours earlier or later in the day.)
  - e. Whether instructions to participants can assist in managing the risk (including bringing/wearing appropriate clothing or sun protection, and water).
  - f. The characteristics of those likely to be, or actually, taking part.
  - g. The importance of the activity (but not any impact for the Club’s fundraising) and whether it can be postponed without significant impact (such as a working bee in the garden of an individual requiring our assistance).
  - h. Guidance from relevant authorities, including the safety of travel (especially where travel is required through areas where there is extreme or catastrophic risk of bushfire, flooding etc).
  - i. The ability to commence an activity and review the Club’s or an individual’s participation as the activity progresses.
3. The Club organiser will liaise, if appropriate, with relevant external parties about their expectations, heat/extreme weather policy and provisions, and what they can provide to assist in managing the risk. However, the decision to proceed or not, and any restrictions on Club participation, is a matter primarily for the Club.
  4. The Club organiser will discuss any concerns relating to weather with the Club Safety Officer, and/or the President or Vice President.
  5. Special care is required where Lions or other volunteers are required to work in temperatures above 34 degrees (usually outdoors) for significant periods.
  6. Where weather or emergency conditions are such that health and safety may be adversely impacted, the Lion in control of the activity will monitor the conditions throughout the activity, monitor the health and wellbeing of those taking part, and take such action as may be appropriate to promote health, safety and wellbeing including:
    - a. Modifying the activity or how it is conducted.
    - b. Allocation of roles.
    - c. Provision of breaks.
    - d. Provision of drinks (in hot weather).
    - e. Wearing/using of sun protection, or protection against cold and wind.
    - f. Calling off the activity (entirely, or when conditions require it) if to continue would provide an unreasonable risk to health and safety of participants. (For example, a fundraising BBQ may be ‘safe’ for a substantial period, but become unsafe once working temperatures rise above 34 degrees).

Adopted by Resolution of the Club on 9 May 2024.

K Farrow. Secretary.