



# Climate Change Risk Assessment

## Introduction

As climate change increasingly affects businesses, Hooked-on Group recognises the importance of assessing and mitigating potential risks to ensure long-term sustainability.

This risk assessment identifies key climate-related risks, their potential impacts, and mitigation strategies tailored to our three restaurants: Blackfriars, Hinnies, and Dobson & Parnell.

## Key Risks and Mitigation Strategies

### 1. Physical Risks

#### a. Extreme Weather Events

**Risks:** Increased frequency of storms, flooding, or heatwaves could damage property, disrupt operations, and increase maintenance costs.

**Impact:** Temporary closures, higher insurance premiums, and supply chain disruptions.

**Mitigation:**

- Regular property maintenance and floodproofing where applicable.
- Comprehensive insurance coverage for climate-related damages.
- Emergency response plans, including clear communication with staff and suppliers.

#### b. Rising Temperatures

**Risks:** Heatwaves could impact refrigeration systems, increase energy costs, and reduce customer comfort.

**Impact:** Increased operational costs and reduced footfall during extreme weather.

**Mitigation:**

- Invest in energy-efficient cooling systems.
- Install shading and ventilation solutions to improve indoor comfort.

### 2. Supply Chain Risks

#### a. Disrupted Food Supplies

Risks: Adverse weather affecting crops, livestock, and fisheries, leading to price volatility and supply shortages.

Impact: Increased costs, reduced menu options, and potential reputational damage.

Mitigation:

- Build relationships with diverse suppliers to reduce reliance on any single source.
- Prioritise locally sourced, seasonal ingredients to minimise supply chain vulnerabilities.

### 3. Operational Risks

#### a. Rising Energy Costs

Risks: Increased demand for cooling or heating as temperatures rise, alongside potential policy changes like carbon taxes.

Impact: Higher operational costs.

Mitigation:

- Transition to energy-efficient equipment (e.g., induction cooking).
- Work with Newcastle City Council on planned infrastructure upgrades such as improved insulation and double glazing.

Explore renewable energy options like solar panels.

#### b. Waste Management Challenges

Risks: Stricter regulations on waste disposal and rising costs associated with waste management.

Impact: Increased operational complexity and expenses.

Mitigation:

- Continue to enhance waste separation and composting initiatives.
- Partner with organizations like FareShare to redistribute surplus food.

### 4. Reputational Risks

#### a. Customer Expectations

Risks: Growing consumer demand for sustainable practices and transparency in carbon footprint reporting.

Impact: Risk of losing customers to competitors perceived as more eco-friendly.

## Mitigation:

- Publicise sustainability efforts, such as composting, local sourcing, and carbon reduction initiatives.
- Engage customers with educational events like the FareShare North East Banquet.

Pursue sustainability certifications such as Green Tourism.

## 5. Regulatory Risks

### a. Changing Legislation

Risks: Stricter regulations on emissions, energy efficiency, and waste management.

Impact: Compliance costs and potential penalties for non-compliance.

## Mitigation:

- Stay informed about policy changes and align operations proactively.
- Work with landlords and stakeholders to ensure compliance with building and energy regulations.

## Opportunities

Climate change also presents opportunities for Hooked-on Group to enhance its reputation and resilience:

- **Green Marketing:** Highlighting sustainable practices to attract eco-conscious diners.
- **Energy Savings:** Investing in efficient systems to lower long-term costs.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborating with local and national organisations to lead sustainability efforts in the hospitality sector.

## Monitoring and Review

- We will:
- Review this risk assessment annually.
- Track emissions and energy usage through tools like Zellar and Energy Manager Live.
- Stay updated on climate trends, regulations, and technological advancements to adapt strategies accordingly.

## Conclusion

This climate change risk assessment reflects Hooked-on Group's commitment to identifying and addressing potential impacts while embracing opportunities to enhance sustainability and resilience across all operations. By mitigating risks and leveraging opportunities, we aim to ensure the long-term success of our restaurants and contribute to a more sustainable hospitality industry.