

6.7 RESPONSE TO THE 'MONASH FORUM'

Submitting Councillor: Cr Fergeus

MOTION

That Council:

- i) Notes that a group of Federal MPs are using the name and image of General Sir John Monash to promote coal-fired power generation.*
- ii) Joins with the Saluting Monash Council and the descendants of General Sir John Monash in objecting to the use of the Monash name in this manner.*
- iii) Notes Council's commitment to proactively managing risks from climate change and reducing Council's greenhouse emissions, as detailed in the Council Plan.*

BACKGROUND

In early April 2018 a group of MPs from the Liberal and National Parties announced the formation of the 'Monash Forum'. The stated aims of the 'Monash Forum' include ensuring that 'coal-fired power stations continue to be built', and the group uses the image and legacy of General Sir John Monash to promote this goal. Coal-fired power is a leading cause of climate change.

RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICY

The significance of a changing climate and the urgent need to mitigate the production of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change that cannot be avoided has been established scientifically and is recognised at all levels of government policy.

The *Monash Council Plan 2017- 2021* establishes strategic objectives and associated actions including "*Proactively managing risks from climate change and reducing Council's greenhouse emissions*" under the Strategic Objective *A Liveable & Sustainable City*.

Monash City Council is committed to reducing impacts on the environment through Council operations and activities, which includes reducing GHG emissions, improving energy efficiency and reducing energy costs for Council. This is articulated in the *Monash Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026 (ESS)*.

The *Monash Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026 (ESS)* was adopted by Council in March 2016. Priority Three: Climate Change includes the following key areas:

- 1) Integrate Best Practice climate change thinking Council's corporate and operational functions*
- 2) Establish a strategic approach to reducing Council's corporate GHG emissions*
- 3) Increase community preparedness for the likely impacts of climate change.*

CONCLUSION

The appropriation of General Sir John Monash's name for the purposes promoted by the 'Monash Forum' are inconsistent with Monash Council's commitment to the environment and to responding appropriately to climate science.