

OFFICERS REPORT**IPCC SPECIAL REPORT – GLOBAL WARMING OF 1.5 °C**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Josh Fergeus, Cr Brian Little, Cr Lynette Saloumi

MOTION

That Council:

1. *Notes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recent Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C¹;*
2. *Notes in particular the following findings of the report, issued with a high degree of confidence by the IPCC:*
 - i) *To date, Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels;*
 - ii) *Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C by as early as 2030;*
 - iii) *Warming from anthropogenic emissions from the pre-industrial period to the present will persist for centuries to millennia and will continue to cause further long- term changes in the climate system, such as sea level rise, with associated impacts;*
 - iv) *Climate induced impacts on health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase significantly further (in many cases double) with a 2°C rise;*
 - v) *Most adaptation needs will be lower for global warming of 1.5°C compared to 2°C;*
 - vi) *Limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings);*
 - vii) *Stated mitigation ambitions as submitted under the Paris Agreement would not limit global warming to 1.5°C, even if supplemented by very challenging increases in the scale and ambition of emissions reductions after 2030;*
 - viii) *Avoiding overshoot and reliance on future largescale deployment of carbon dioxide removal (CDR) can only be achieved if global CO₂ emissions start to decline well before 2030;*
 - ix) *Strengthening the capacities for climate action of national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities can support the implementation of ambitious actions implied by limiting global warming to 1.5°C;*
3. *Acknowledges the unprecedented levels of urgency declared by the IPCC, and other scientific bodies, with regard to the need to drastically reduce emissions and limit global warming to 1.5°C. The Special Report in particular predicts that a 2°C rise in average global temperature would most likely:*
 - iii) *Reduce the yields of global fisheries by 3 million tonne, twice that of a decrease at 1.5°C.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Noting the outcomes and findings of the Special report the IPCC provides no direct financial burden to Council.

The budget allocation to delivery on Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy has been allocated to implement key actions and run programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in council and for the community. If further funds are required in the future, a business case will be prepared for council's approval to address.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

Noting of the outcomes for this report would have minimal impact on internal resources. The review of the report might assist to build Councillors' knowledge regarding climate change and possible impacts, as it can help in their understanding and contribution to the activities completed by staff to delivery on the Climate Change priority commitment in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s report to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on the impact of global warming to 1.5°C, aligns closely with the Climate Change Priority and the purpose of the key actions under the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026 (ESS).

While council has a strong commitment to reducing our Greenhouse gas emissions and improve our energy efficiency on a corporate level we also have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for Monash community and provide support to reduce the side effects of climate change such as heat stress.

In particular it aligns with the following action in the ESS:

Action 3.3 Increase communities' preparedness for the likely impacts of climate change.

b) Continue to support community and business education programs to increase understanding of the local impacts of climate change and how to be climate ready.

Our Healthy and Resilient Monash Integrated Plan 2017-2021 has actions to support the community to address impacts of climate change and acknowledges that....

Our health is closely linked to the natural and built environments in the communities where we live.

When the Victorian Government updated their Climate Change Act (2017), they provided an expectation that decision makers in Councils had a role to place in assisting Victorians to adapt to Climate change and that it be articulated in the local government Health and Wellbeing plans.

Council Plan 2017-2021 also addresses sustainability in its first objective:

A Liveable & Sustainable City

We value our natural environment and want to preserve and enhance the leafy and green character of our city. Monash's desirability as a place to live, learn, work and play needs to be protected.

To meet this objective, we need to be aware of issues which impact on our ability to protect quality of life such as global warming so that we can consider strategies to address.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

The outcomes of the report are in line with current work by the Sustainable Monash team, Community Development and the interests of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

In particular, heat waves will significantly impact many parts of Monash as we have a low canopy cover and high level of hard surfaces, resulting in people dealing with heat stress. Council staff will be developing an implementation plan to address this for the recently endorsed Open Space Strategy and Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy.

Further to this, an Emission Reduction Feasibility study is currently being completed to assist Council to set actions to improve our energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate and improve the quality of life in Monash.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Council should continue to understand climate change impacts and continue to deliver strategies to reduce and adapt to these impacts.