

OFFICERS REPORT**RESPONSE TO THE – ‘CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT’**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Josh Fergeus

MOTION

That Council:

- 1. Notes Cr Fergeus' report on his attendance at the Cities Power Partnership 2018;*
- 2. Notes the Australian Capital Territory Government's offer to assist Cities Power Partnership members by coordinating an electric vehicle 'bulk buy' purchasing agreement;*
- 3. Notes the existence of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation's Local Government Finance Program;*
- 4. Notes that Brisbane City Council, the largest Council in Australia, has gone carbon neutral;*
- 5. Notes that Councils must take the risk of climate change into consideration and that a failure to act may create a legal liability.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Noting the outcomes and findings of the Special report on the attendance to the CPP Summit 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 by the relevant department 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 Councillor knowledge which can help in the understanding and contribution to for future initiatives presented in Council reports or business cases.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The Cities Power Partnership is Australia's largest local government climate network, made up over 100 councils from across the country, representing almost 11 million Australians.

Local councils who join the partnership make five action pledges in either renewable energy, efficiency, transport or working in partnership to tackle climate change. These pledges

closely align with Council Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-26 (ESS) and Council Plan 2017-2021

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

Action 1.2 Development is designed along Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles.

Action 1.3. Urban environments are designed and planned to promote and encourage integrated and active transport.

Action 3.1 Best practice climate change thinking is integrated into Council's corporate and operational functions.

Action 3.2 A strategic approach to reducing Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions is established.

Councillor attendance to this conference assists in gaining an understanding of the types of action that Monash can take to assist in the impacts of climate change.

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

A Liveable & Sustainable City - Proactively managing risks from climate change and reducing Council's greenhouse emissions

To meet this strategic objective, we need to be aware of issues which impact on climate change 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, Strategic Asset Management, City Planning and the interests of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Further to this, Council has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to take part in a Power Partnership Agreement with the aim to purchase more renewable energy, is developing a Sustainable Buildings Policy, 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

The Emission Reduction Feasibility study will be reported to council for consideration.