

6.5 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.*

BACKGROUND

Over 150 delegates attended the first Cities Power Partnership Summit *Accelerating Local Action* in Kiama, NSW, in October 2018.

The City of Monash is a member of the Cities Power Partnership, along with 100 other local government bodies across Australia.

The Summit was a certified carbon neutral event under the Australian Government's Carbon Neutral Program.

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.

CONTENT

Presentations from the Summit can be found at: <https://citiespowerpartnership.org.au/speaker-presentations/>

Presenters included:

- Mayor R. Rex Parris, City of Lancaster, California, *How we became the clean energy capital of California;*
- Professor Lesley Hughes, Climate Councillor, *Climate science update – impacts for towns and cities;*
- Dr Sonia Marshall, Sunshine Coast Council, *Renewable energy;*
- Anna McGuire, ACT Government, *Sustainable transport;*
- Chris Wilson, Pangolin Associates, *Participating in the voluntary carbon market;*

- Vicky Petterson, Brisbane City Council, *Case study: Brisbane City Council goes carbon neutral*;
- Professor Karen Hussey, Climate Councillor and Director, Centre for Policy Futures, UQ, *Understanding and managing climate liability for councils*;
- Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Climate Change & Sustainability, ACT Government, *ACT progress on carbon neutral 2050 & 100% renewable energy target*;
- Bernhard Conoplia, Program Director EV Charging Network, NRMA, *What role for electric vehicles?*;
- Victoria Adams, Director – Clean Energy Finance Corporation, *Low carbon project financing options*;
- Kate Nicolazzo, Head of Development, Moreland Energy Foundation, *Delivering on community wide emissions reductions*.

KEY FINDINGS

- The ACT Government is moving to 100% electric vehicles in their fleet. They have offered to partner with Cities Power Partnership member Councils to coordinate a 'bulk buy' of EVs, using their large contract to drive down prices and increase competition. ***There is an opportunity for the City of Monash as a CPP member Council to purchase EVs at a reduced rate through the ACT Government partnership***;
- Brisbane City Council, the largest in Australia, has been certified carbon neutral;
- The city of Lancaster, California, is a city of 170k population and a zero net carbon city. They've achieved this at a cost of \$0 – it's all been paid for by return on capital. They have introduced a local ordinance which does not allow new homes to be built unless they are net zero emissions. They prioritise permit approvals for low or zero carbon houses (they are processed much faster). ***There is an opportunity for the City of Monash to work with Moreland City Council on their project seeking to realise a goal of zero carbon in the planning scheme***;
- The US Joint Chiefs of Staff acknowledge that climate change is the highest order threat to the USA in 2018;
- \$226 billion worth of infrastructure is at risk in Australia due to sea level rise alone within 10 years, including 250,000 homes;
- All housing in California must be net zero emissions by 2024, by state law. ***There is an opportunity for the City of Monash to advocate to the State Government to impose similar planning and development requirements***;
- 50% of the coral in the Great Barrier Reef was lost in the 2016-17 year;
- Australia is the most vulnerable developed country to the impact of climate change;
- Councils are now legally required to take the risk of climate change into consideration. ***This should be raised with the Audit and Risk Committee***;
- The ACT Government is implementing mandatory electric vehicle charging facilities in multi-unit developments, as is the City of Adelaide. ***This is an opportunity for the City of Monash***;
- The City of Adelaide has 42 charging points for electric vehicles in just the central Council area;
- Australia is far behind most of the world in adoption of electric vehicles and vehicle infrastructure.

“If you do nothing, your constituents are at risk.” Mayor R. Rex Parris, Lancaster, California (Republican)

“As sub-national governments, we are the ones that can make the difference.” Shane Rattenbury MLA, ACT Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability

FINANCIAL

There is no financial impact to this proposal.