

D20-30703

3 February 2020

Director Linkage Program
Australian Research Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ARC LINKAGE PROJECT FOR NET ZERO PRECINCT TRANSITIONS

We are pleased to confirm our support, involvement, and commitment as a member of the advisory group for the **ARC Linkage Project for Net Zero Precinct Transitions**.

The City of Monash is located 20 kilometres south east from the central business district of Melbourne. Monash is a vibrant and diverse community that enjoys enviable open spaces, natural resources, community facilities and a strong business community. Local government has a unique, close connection to its immediate community and to the local environment.

Monash is also one of the most culturally diverse cities in Australia with 48% of residents born overseas, well above the Greater Melbourne average. Monash is also home to the Monash National Employment and Innovation Cluster, the largest employment destination outside of the CBD. The Cluster is hosts to world class health care, research, technology and innovation Industries.

As a local government, Council is well placed to promote environmental sustainability – through policy, community engagement and working in close partnership with local businesses, institutions and our community. As the local planning authority, manager of parks and open space, and operator of community infrastructure, Council is also responsible for many activities which impact upon the environment.

Our advisory role in the *Net Zero Precinct Transitions Linkage Project* aligns well with our 10-year Environmental Sustainability Strategy, which commits the Council to many actions including continued reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions.

By taking up a membership position in the advisory group, we are prepared to help shape the strategic direction of the Linkage project. This we will do by participating in up to two advisory group meetings a year over the lifetime of the project, which is expected to run for four years from 2020 to 2024.

Council is committed to building resilience in our community, particular where they are impacted by a changing climate, and this project provides an excellent avenue to further support our community and work towards becoming a Zero Net Emissions Municipality.

We have developed an excellent working relationship with Monash University and have had the opportunity to collaborate with them on a number of projects to inform and benefit our community, including:

- Hosting from Undergraduate and Post Graduate Interns over the last 3 years in the Sustainability Team to work on strategic projects and the development of messaging options and images to communicate climate change and sustainability, in partnership with the Climate Change Communications Research Hub with David Holmes.
- Jointly hosting War on E-waste event with Craig Reucassell, to promote the new electronic waste landfill ban brought in by State Government.
- Precious Plastics Partnership – worked with students and 10 primary schools to create recycled plastic signage from bottles collected by students. Precious plastic team developed a video to share with the schools to understand the plastic recycling process. Precious Plastics attended the Monash Transfer station War on Waste tour.
- Hard waste collection trial for Monash students (grant project) 2017-18
- Biker & Co – Run bike repair workshops and promote sustainable transport at Clayton Festival 2019
- Collaboration to reduce recycling and litter issues in Clayton student off campus accommodation, including participation in Behaviour Works project to reduce contamination of the kerbside stream.

Being an advisory member in the Net Zero Precinct Transitions Linkage Project represents an opportunity for Council to integrate the research findings into our planning for our Activity Centres and Community Hubs. It will have particular relevance to the [Monash National Employment and Innovation Cluster](#), allowing us to meet the needs of our growing population. Additionally, we are also committed to providing our in-kind contributions in:

- Facilitating events with Monash University with and for industry partners as opportunities arise;
- Facilitating placement of 1-2 research students per year;
- Co-publishing a report on the impacts of the Linkage project to industry;

In-kind contributions (shown in Australian dollars) will be approximately \$40,000 per annum

We are delighted to be a part of the advisory group and look forward to fruitful collaboration with Monash University in the ARC Linkage Project for Net Zero Precinct Transitions. I certify that City of Monash will meet the requirements outlined in a standard ARC grant agreement, including the requirement to enter into arrangements regarding Intellectual Property which do not unreasonably prevent or delay academic outputs.

Yours sincerely,

ANDI DIAMOND
Chief Executive Officer