

OFFICERS REPORT**A CLIMATE POSITIVE STIMULUS FOR VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

Submitting Councillor: Josh Fergeus

MOTION

1. *Notes that Council and other local governments are on the frontline of two monumental challenges – the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change;*
2. *Notes that the risks climate change poses to local government have not gone away and that climate change impacts nearly every aspect of Council's core business across multiple service areas;*
3. *Writes to the Federal Treasurer and the Victorian Treasurer in support of the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances 'Climate Positive Stimulus' package.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are not costs for council to support this advocacy. If considered by State and Federal Government it may mean more funding is available for project implementation which will reduce GHG emissions in Monash and could result in financial savings through energy efficiency projects.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

This advocacy could have a positive impact on the delivery of programs to reduce GHG emissions.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

City of Monash is one of eight members of the Eastern Alliance of Greenhouse Action to assist in the effectively delivery of our energy efficiency and climate change programs through collaboration. Seventy out of 79 councils are also members of a local Greenhouse alliance in their region. The Greenhouse Alliances collaborate across Victorian to leverage success for all member councils and share programs. They also provide a critical advocacy role on behalf of their members and are well respected by state and federal government.

As the COVID 9 lockdown ends and State and Federal Government are providing financial stimulus to help with the recovery, the Alliances are now looking to encourage government to invest in new projects to not only stimulate the economy but also consider projects which will also reduce GHG emissions and provide long term environmental benefits

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

This advocacy has the potential to support and fast track Council's commitment and initiatives to become Carbon Neutral by 2025, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the community. It also supports the actions under climate change priority of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS