

**OFFICERS REPORT****Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Climate Change 2021 Report**

Submitting Councillor: Dr Josh Fergeus

**MOTION**

*That Council:*

1. *Notes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recent report 'Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis'<sup>1</sup>;*
2. *Notes in particular the following findings of the report:*
  - i) *It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land, and that widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred;*
  - ii) *Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.1°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, a 0.1°C rise since Council received the interim report in 2018;*
  - iii) *Global warming is likely to reach 2°C by as early as 2041, with 1.5°C of warming now more likely than not under even very low GHG emissions scenarios.*
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.*

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Noting the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change report – Climate 2021 does not directly impact on the current approach to Greenhouse gas emission reduction at council.

**IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES**

In February 2020, Council committed to be carbon neutral by 2025. From July 2021, the new electricity contract through the Victorian Energy collaboration has mean that council has already reduce our net GHG emissions by 60%. Resources have been allocated within the Sustainable Monash team to deliver outcomes arising from the Zero Net Carbon Action plan to reduce GHG emissions and resulting impact in council operations and in the community.

**COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES**

The Council Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-26 (ESS) highlights a strong commitment for council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce our impact on the environment. Actions proposed which most closely align in the ESS include:

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_SPM.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf)

*Action 3.1.1. To develop and implement a Climate Change Action Plan which recognises a whole of council approach to mitigation, adaptation, risk management, innovation and alternative energy sources*

*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.*

Climate change risk and taking action to address is also acknowledged in the 2017-21 Council Plan in its first objective: *A Liveable & Sustainable City - Proactively managing risks from climate change and reducing Council's greenhouse emissions.*

Finally, our Healthy and Resilient Monash Integrated Plan 2017-2021 has a number of 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'. The new Health and Wellbeing plan (currently in draft) as a strong focus in living sustainably.

#### **RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES**

The Zero Net Carbon Action Plan which was endorsed by council in August 2020, provides a clear direction and approach to reducing GHG emissions and supporting the community in a low carbon future, mitigating the generation of GHG emissions.

Monash Council is also working closely with the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) councils to collate information to improve our approach to adapting to a changing climate. Most recently we assessed two emergency facilities on their resilience to extreme climate. We have also participated in the How Well Are We Adapting program to collate data on climate risk.

There is also a commitment to develop a Climate Adaptation Strategy for Monash Council in the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan.