

OFFICER REPORT**6.2 NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUE: CLIMATE COSTS AND RISKS TO COUNCILS**

Submitting Councillor: Dr Josh Fergeus

MOTION

That Council:

- 1. Notes the Cities Power Partnership and Climate Council joint report, Neighbourhood Issue: Climate Costs and Risks to Councils;*
- 2. Requests that Officers consider the recommendations of the report and provide advice to Council on progress towards, or potential for, their implementation.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Noting the *Cities Power Partnership and Climate Council joint report, Neighbourhood Issue: Climate Costs and Risks to Councils* does not directly create budget implications but helps to highlight the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emission for council and minimise impacts to a changing climate on our community. Providing a report to Council on progress towards the recommendations contained in the *joint report* will not require any additional budget from Council.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

There is no direct impact on internal resources resulting from this NOM.

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:

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 acknowledged in the first objective – (Sustainability City) of the new Council Plan, in response to the strong community feedback which highlighted that this was important to them.

Our Healthy and Resilient Monash Integrated Plan 2021-2025 acknowledges that human health is closely linked to the natural and built environments in the communities where we live, and has key actions to build resilience to a changing climate.

Monash Council is a member of Cities Power Partnership.

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. Integral to meeting our commitments is our partnerships with other councils through organisations such as the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) and the Victorian greenhouse Alliances.

We have considered the recommendations contained in the *Cities Power Partnership and Climate Council joint report* and there has been significant relevant work already undertaken by officers in progressing such recommendations through actions to meet our commitments in the Zero carbon Action Plan and other initiatives from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Council is a signatory to the Cities Power Partnership and reports annually on our progress. Our Zero Net Carbon Action Plan is a finalist on the City Power Partnership Awards due to be announced this month.