

### 6.3 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Climate Change 2022 Report

Submitting Councillor: Dr Josh Fergeus

#### **MOTION**

*That Council:*

1. *Notes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recent report "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability"<sup>1</sup>;*
2. *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.*

#### **BACKGROUND**

The first UNFCCC document to mention a limit to global warming of 1.5°C was the Cancun Agreement, adopted at the sixteenth COP (COP16) in 2010. The Cancun Agreement established a process to periodically review the 'adequacy of the long-term global goal (LTGG) in the light of the ultimate objective of the Convention and the overall progress made towards achieving the LTGG, including a consideration of the implementation of the commitments under the Convention'. The definition of LTGG in the Cancun Agreement was 'to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels'. The agreement also recognised the need to consider 'strengthening the long term global goal on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge...to a global average temperature rise of 1.5°C'.

Countries' pledges to reduce their emissions are currently not in line with limiting global warming to 1.5°C. To stabilize global temperature at any level, 'net' emissions would need to be reduced to zero. This means the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> entering the atmosphere must equal the amount that is removed. Achieving a balance between 'sources' and 'sinks' is often referred to as 'net zero' emissions or 'carbon neutrality'.

#### **RATIONALE**

It is important for Council to note the IPCC report and associated implications, as these are likely to bring significant hardship to many of our residents. This information also has significant implications for strategic planning and asset management now and into the future.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL PLANS AND STRATEGIES**

This notice of motion aligns with the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, our Zero Net Carbon Action Plan, the Healthy and Wellbeing Plan, and the Council Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>