

OFFICERS' ADVICE**COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Stuart James

MOTION

That Council:

1. *Resolves to strengthen and further prioritise its response to dealing with environmental and climate concerns.*
2. *Directs the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to provide a report and recommendations to Council by no later than February 2020 outlining how Council can become carbon neutral and achieve zero-net emission by 2025, 2030, 2040 and any other target the CEO wishes to include as an option (the Report). For each target date, the report should make it clear what the environmental benefits will be for adopting that target and the financial costs to Council to reach each target as compared to the status quo.*
3. *Further, the Report should also provide commentary, advice and recommendations on the following:*
 - *What are the examples of leading response to climate change by other local councils and government entities which might be relevant to Monash;*
 - *Actions which Council could take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within Council's operation;*
 - *Measures Council can take to enhance local community resilience to the effects and impacts of global warming and to assist the community with their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions*
 - *Ways in which Council can prioritise the use of recycled materials in its operations:*
 - *Outline a number of budget initiatives to achieve the desired outcomes and refer those to the 2020/2021 Budget, for funding*
 - *Outline potential additions to the Council Plan and LTFP to help prioritise and achieve the desired outcomes.*
4. *Prioritises the delivery of a whole of Council strategy for tackling climate change, as referred to in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026, with an aim to have it presented to Council by September 2020.*
5. *Directs officers to allocate the required funds from the 2019/2020 budget.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The budget allocation to deliver on Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2016 (ESS) has been allocated to implement key actions including the completion of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Study and Climate Change Action Plan. However, further analysis to calculate actions required to become carbon neutral inclusive of environmental benefits and costs by the 3 target dates, as indicated in this NOM, will require engagement of an external consultant. A budget of approximately \$50,000 will be required and is currently not within Council's adopted budget. If further funds are required to implement actions arising from this plan, they will be referred to budget for consideration.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

Committing to a path of carbon neutrality will need to become a key Council Strategic Objective. Resources have been allocated within the Sustainable Monash team to deliver outcomes arising from the ESS including engagement of external consultants. Sustainable Monash will require support, input and commitment from all divisions in delivering this ambitious target.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This motion closely aligns with Council Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-26 and Council Plan 2017-2021. In particular it aligns with the following actions in the ESS:

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 3.2 A strategic approach to reducing Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions is established.

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.

Also Our Healthy and Resilient Monash Integrated Plan 2017-2021 has 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 Council Plan 2017-2021 also addresses sustainability in its first objective:

A Liveable & Sustainable City - Proactively managing risks from climate change and reducing Council's greenhouse emissions

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

Officers consider that the outcomes of the motion are in line with current work by the Sustainable Monash team and the interests of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Further to this, Council has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to take part in a Power Partnership Agreement with the aim to purchase up to 100% renewable energy, is developing a Sustainable Buildings and Infrastructure Policy, is committed to food waste recycling by 2020, is completing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction study to assist Council to set targets and identify actions to improve our energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate to improve the quality of life in Monash.