

OFFICERS REPORT**6.2a CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP – SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RENEWABLES ROAD TRIP REPORT**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Fergeus

MOTION

That Council notes the report on the Cities Power Partnership's South Australian Renewables Road Trip attended by Cr Josh Fergeus.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council is asked to note the learnings gained from Cr Fergeus's attendance to the South Australian Renewables Road Trip. There are no direct budget implications requested after attendance to this event, however knowledge gained from this attendance will assist Council in its involvement in the upcoming Power Partnership Agreement business case and tender process to which Council has been party to. Opportunities exist to migrate Monash's power purchasing arrangements to 100% renewable energy which may provide reduced power costs to Council. It is likely that consideration to join the tender for a PPA will be presented to Council in the near future.

Cr Fergeus's learnings from this event further support the case for renewable energy which can realise financial, social and environmental benefits, especially for early adopters of this technology.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

Opportunities arising from this trip are not expected to add additional work to internal resources as such initiatives already form part of programs going forward and are identified in the ESS.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

City of Monash is a member of the national program, Cities Power Partnership (CPP). The CPP program provides a platform for Council to promote and share its commitments and achievements in the delivery of the actions under the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026 (ESS).

Learnings from the Road Trip as detailed align with the following actions in the ESS:

Action 3.1.2 – Build staff understanding of climate change and the potential impacts and opportunities

b. Ensure Council keeps abreast of and communicates to staff current climate change science, research, technology and monitoring and delivery of best practice.

Action 6.2.1 – Establish successful sustainability partnerships.

b) Strengthen partnerships that lead to –sustainability networking, capacity building, innovation, research and monitoring outcomes and opportunities.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

Site visits undertaken on this trip include Snowtown Wind farm, Bundara Solar Farm, Lincoln Gap Wind Farm and Battery, Hornsdale Wind Farm and the Tesla Big Battery. Knowledge gained from such visits will assist the Councillor in his capacity as Chair of EAGA and Co-Chair of the EAC.

The key messages taken from the trip, being, and continued support for the PPA and other renewable energy initiatives, are supported by projects currently underway at Council. As such, currently Council has signed up to 20% renewable energy procurement project as part of the Local Government Power Partnership Agreement in partnership with 38 other Victorian councils as well as the South Eastern Renewable Energy Project (SEMREP) procurement process which will partner with businesses and have local benefits. Learnings gained from this event will further benefit council and continue to support this process.