

**OFFICERS REPORT****CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Josh Fergeus and Cr Lynnette Saloumi

**MOTION**

*That Council:*

*Agrees that we are facing a climate emergency and that urgent action is required by all levels of government.*

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The budget allocation to deliver on Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2016 (ESS) has been allocated to implement key actions listed above including the completion of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Study.

Further study is underway (funded under the current ESS budget) to calculate the cost of council to become carbon neutral at 2025, 2030, and 2040 and the report will be presented at the February 2020 Council meeting.

A whole of council evaluation of spend is required to integrate mitigation and adaptation actions in all our capital works, maintenance and services to suitably address the impact of a Climate emergency. A declaration of a Climate Emergency may not alter our current approach to Greenhouse gas emission reduction..

**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 would require a significant investment in more resources to respond adequately to a climate emergency.

**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 3.2 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.*

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'.

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

Council's strategic direction does not go so far as to declare a climate emergency and require significant resourcing. In February 2020 Council will know the level of resourcing required to be carbon neutral.