

4.1 **ADOPTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABLE DESIGN POLICY FOR COUNCIL BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Responsible Director: Deb Cailes

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1) Endorses the Environmental Sustainable Design for Buildings and Infrastructure Policy (ESD Policy).

2) Notes the 'Policy Guidelines for Environmental Sustainable Design in Capital works - Buildings and Infrastructure' as the support document for the delivery of the ESD policy; and

3) Notes that once endorsed, the ESD Policy will be applied to all relevant future Council lead Capital Works projects

INTRODUCTION

This report seeks Council endorsement of the Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure

BACKGROUND

In 2019-2020 the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) council members collaborated to develop a template ESD Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure. Organica Engineering were appointed to develop the policy template for EAGA councils.

.This template was adapted for Monash Council and presented as a draft at the December 2020 Council meeting. Furthermore, Council acknowledged that a final version of the policy will be presented to a Council meeting in 2021 for adoption following a trial of the policy during the development of the Wellington Children's Hub and Mulgrave Pavilion projects to identify any changes or updates that may need to be made.

This trial is now complete, and the final policy is attached for endorsement.

DISCUSSION

In summary, the trial application of the ESD Policy to the Wellington Children's Hub and Mulgrave Pavilion projects verified its suitability.

Minor adjustments were made to the draft ESD Policy as a result of the trial as listed below:

- 1) Addition of building thermal efficiency considerations and inspection of insulation at lock up stage (page 6)
- 2) Improved building metering and monitoring. (page 7)
- 3) Use Green Star or BESS to inform design for smaller new and retrofit capital works projects (page 9)
- 4) Preference for electric over gas appliances where suitable

- 5) Elevated the role of a design manager with respect to process roles and responsibilities

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The development of the ESD policy is a key action from the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan which Council endorsed in August 2020 and is aligned with priority one of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. It will also assist in the delivery of the Sustainability elements of the Procurement Policy and support the Waste Management Strategy 2017 by increasing the use of recycled content and sustainable low waste products.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmentally Sustainable Design in Buildings and Infrastructure takes into consideration how these buildings & facilities will be used to optimise the user experience with improved health and wellbeing outcomes.

GENDER EQUITY ASSESSMENT

A gender impact assessment is not required as this policy will be one of a suite that will work together to guide building and infrastructure projects, such as DDA compliance.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Application of the ESD policy intends to increase the use of sustainable materials, reduce energy and water use, enhance ecological interactions and minimise waste during the build. These in turn reduce GHG emissions and positively contributes to climate change action.

CONSULTATION

Specialist external consultants developed the draft policy. The policy was then further refined based on feedback at workshops across all EAGA councils.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Given the importance of sustainability in the construction industry it is now common practice for commercial contractors to build ESD requirements into their tender submissions. Effective implementation of Environmental Sustainable Design can reduce running and maintenance costs of our buildings and infrastructure, providing return on investment across their full life cycle.

CONCLUSION

That Council endorses the Environmental Sustainable Design Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

- A) ESD Policy for Buildings and Infrastructure
- B) ESD Policy Guidelines