

6.2 CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP – STATEMENT FROM AUSTRALIAN MAYORS

Submitting Councillor: Cr Fergeus

MOTION

That Council supports and authorises the Mayor to sign the joint statement released by Cities Power Partnership in support of national action to make tackling climate change a top priority.

BACKGROUND

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). The Cities Power Partnership is a free national program that exists to celebrate and accelerate the emission reduction/clean energy future. It's a coalition of mayors, councils and communities who are committed to a sustainable, non-polluting energy future.

DISCUSSION

The Cities Power Partnership's has facilitated many programs to raise awareness in the community and government of the impacts of climate change. An opportunity exists for the City of Monash to show its support for a current campaign where mayors from across Australia have released a joint statement calling on more action to tackle climate change. To date 15 mayors from the Cities Power Partnership, Australia's largest local government climate alliance, have signed the statement to request more Federal support for local work on climate change, commitment to a national 100% renewable energy target and rapid phase out of fossil fuel subsidies, there is still time for Monash to sign.

The City of Monash has recently committed to ambitious renewable energy targets through Local Government Power Purchasing Agreement (LGPPA) and South East Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (SEMREP) in addition to other emissions reduction actions stemming from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and divestment from fossil fuel investment.

In addition, in November 2018, Council considered a report "PRIORITISING COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE" and resolved to;

- 1. Notes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recent Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C;*
- 2. Notes in particular the following findings of the report, issued with a high degree of confidence by the IPCC: edited (removed)*
- 3. 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. The Special Report in particular predicts that a 2°C rise in average global temperature would most likely:*
- 4. See the Arctic entirely ice free one year in 10, compared with one year in 100 at 1.5°C*

5. Lead to the death of 98% of corals, almost certainly leading to the death of the Great Barrier Reef
6. Reduce the yields of global fisheries by 3 million tonne, twice that of a decrease at 1.5°C.
7. See the loss of species of between 200% and 300% worse at 2°C as opposed to 1.5°C

Signing the mayors' joint statement will further demonstrate the City of Monash's commitment to strong action on climate change and for a sustainable environment.

FULL STATEMENT FROM AUSTRALIAN MAYORS:

"As members of the Cities Power Partnership local government climate alliance, we demand national action and call upon the Federal Government to join us in making tackling climate change the top priority.

At the local level we're working with our communities and with each other to develop a strong climate response, and to support Australia's shift to clean energy.

All tiers of government have a role to play in driving down Australia's greenhouse gas pollution, and we need swift action at the Federal level to address our escalating national emissions

We demand three major actions from our Federal leaders:

- *Strong national climate policy aligned to the science and a national commitment to rapidly transitioning to 100% clean energy*
- *Support the rapid phase out of fossil fuel subsidies which contribute to climate change*
- *Provide long-term finance to support implementation of clean energy and sustainable transport, such as rooftop solar, battery storage, electric vehicle charging stations, public and active transport infrastructure in council and community areas"*