

4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABLE DESIGN POLICY FOR COUNCIL BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Responsible Director: Ossie Martinz

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the draft Environmental Sustainable Design [ESD] Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure acknowledging 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 to identify any changes or updates that may need to be made.

INTRODUCTION

The draft Environment Sustainable Design Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure has been developed for Monash Capital Works Projects. Development of this policy is a key action in the Zero Net carbon Action Plan which was approved at the August Council meeting.

BACKGROUND

Setting environmental sustainable targets for building and infrastructure projects has the potential to reduce running costs and Green House Gas [GHG] emissions for Council as well as increase the uptake of recycled and low environmental impact materials and improve performance of buildings for tenants and visitors.

The eight member Councils of the Eastern Alliance for Green House Action [EAGA] were in different stages of implementation of an ESD Policy for Council buildings and many did not include infrastructure such as roads and footpaths under this policy.

Subsequently, EAGA led the development of a standard ESD template and guidance document for the member Council to develop a suitable Environmental Sustainable Design [ESD] policy for Building and Infrastructure. Organica Engineering were appointed to develop the policy template for EAGA councils.

DISCUSSION

The template and guidelines for the ESD policy were completed in early 2020. A draft Policy and Guidelines has then been created for use by Council and feedback and input has been received from a range of stakeholders across the organisation including from the Executive Leadership Team.

The draft Policy and Guidelines based on the template are attached, as well as a final report from EAGA on the process.

The Policy is currently being trialled during the development of the Wellington Children's Hub and Mulgrave Pavilion thanks to the support of City Design and Capital Works.

Based on the feedback received and any changes and modifications that may need to occur from this trial, the ESD policy will be finalised for Council endorsement in 2021.

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.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmentally Sustainable Design in Buildings and Infrastructure takes into consideration how they will be used and looks to optimise the user experience to address user health and wellbeing.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The ESD policy will increase the use of more sustainable materials, reduce energy and water use, GHG emissions and minimise waste during the build. It will also consider how it interacts with the natural environment and makes the most of a rich urban ecology.

The ESD policy development is a key action in the Zero Net carbon Action Plan.

CONSULTATION

A workshop was held as the first stage in developing the Policy with over 30 representatives across Council also including Procurement, Active Monash, Community and Development, Facilities. Consultation has been undertaken internally with the Executive Leadership Team, as well as the City Design and Capital Works teams. Details can be found in Attachment C.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Often people see ESD creates additional upfront costs. However it can reduce running and maintenance costs of buildings and infrastructure with a good return on investment.

CONCLUSION

That Council notes the draft Environmental Sustainable Design Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure. The final Policy will be presented to Council in 2021.

Attachments:

- a) ESD Policy template
- b) ESD Policy Guidelines
- c) EAGA report for Monash on development of ESD Policy