

2 PETITION - CLIMATE CRISIS

FILE REFERENCE INT1974862

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the petition tabled at the Council Meeting held on 16 September 2019 asking that Council address the climate crisis noting that Council resolved at that meeting to declare a climate emergency and undertake certain actions to ensure climate change adaption and mitigation.

Attachments

1 Petition - Circulated to Councillors only 11 Pages

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cr Schilling tabled a petition at the Council Meeting held on 16 September 2019; the petition asks that Council address the climate crisis by:

1. Declaring a state of climate emergency;
2. Committing to a target of 100% Renewable Energy for Council operations by 2025; and
3. Committing to a target of net zero carbon emissions for the community by 2040.

BACKGROUND

At the September Council Meeting Council adopted Notice of Motion 1048 as follows:

That Council resolves to:

- Note that the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council (May 2019) and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (June 2019) have both declared a climate emergency;
- Declare a climate emergency, in response to the overwhelming climate science which indicates rising global temperatures are putting our local economy, people, species, and ecosystems at risk.
- Give priority to policy and actions that will provide for both mitigation and adaptation in response to accelerating global warming and climate change.
- Ensure climate change adaptation and mitigation are emphasised as a key priority in the 2021-2025 council plan.
- Investigate the financial viability of divestment within council financing, with the aim to move away from financial institutions, which fund the fossil fuel industry.
- Fund a climate change action plan in the 2020-2021 budget cycle, with a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Investigate the cost effectiveness in purchasing “green energy”.
- Acknowledge the work Cardinia Shire Council has already done in the move to a zero carbon operational target, with a planned 36% reduction in community emissions.

This motion satisfactorily addresses the request contained with the petition.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council's Sustainable Environment Policy in particular the theme of Climate change is relevant to this topic.

RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN

Several Council Plan actions are relevant to this matter in particular the actions to:

- Adapt to the impacts of climate change by working in partnership with the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) and both Victorian and Australian Governments, and
- Reduce Council's energy consumption and help the community to do likewise.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Nil.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Notice of Motion adopted by the Council in declaring climate emergency includes reference to the financial impacts of declaring such an emergency.

CONCLUSION

It is appropriate to receive and note the petition tabled at the September Council Meeting