



11.1 ACT AND ADAPT REVIEW & CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council endorsement of the release of the *Draft Climate Emergency Plan (Attachment 1)* and the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-2028 (Attachment 2)* for community consultation.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The *2018 Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy* was adopted by Council on 20 June 2018. It is a 10-year strategy (2017/18 to 2027/28) that includes a four-year review (this review).
- 2.2 On 18 September 2019 Council declared a climate emergency
- 2.3 Council officers have undertaken foundational research and initial engagement including benchmarking against like councils and an assessment of progress made against the 2018 Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy.
- 2.4 On 17 August 2022, Council confirmed that two separate documents would be produced, and Council approved the structure of the two documents seeking to ensure the documents are accessible to the community.
- 2.5 This work has informed the development of two draft documents, which have been prepared for community consultation:
- **Attachment 1:** *Draft Climate Emergency Plan.*
  - **Attachment 2:** *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-2028.*
- 2.6 Council approval is sought to release the two documents for consultation. The findings of this consultation and any proposed changes to the documents will be brought to Council for consideration in late 2023.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses the release of the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-2028* for community consultation.
- 3.2 Endorses the release of the *Draft Climate Emergency Plan* for community engagement.
- 3.1 Authorises the CEO (or delegate) to make editorial changes, corrections and formatting to the documents prior to the release for community engagement.



#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

##### Climate Emergency Plan

- 4.1 On 18 September 2019 Council declared a climate emergency.
- 4.2 In November 2021 a Notice of Motion was passed by Council that, among other things, requested:
- *Council produce a costed proposal on options to develop a five-year Climate Emergency Action Plan, for Council to effectively take action on the Climate Emergency. The purpose of the Action Plan being to incorporate targets, goals and actions from the Council Plan 2021, Council's core strategies, including Act & Adapt, Don't Waste It!, and Move Connect Live, as well as science-based targets for the five year action plan period. The proposal should outline options on information required and possible consultation approaches in addition to any resources required to develop a Plan, so this can be consulted on and considered as part of the 2022/23 Council Plan and budget process*
- 4.3 In February 2022, Councillors were presented with costed options for the development of the *Climate Emergency Plan* and the review of the *Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy*. Funding was subsequently included through the 2022/23 Council Plan and Budget process.
- 4.4 The *Draft Climate Emergency Plan* focuses on Council's response to human induced climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels and landfill that generates greenhouse gas emissions resulting in rising temperatures, sea level rises and floods that will significantly impact the Port Phillip community.
- 4.5 The *Draft Climate Emergency Plan* focuses on five priorities:
- Enhancing community resilience
  - Minimising greenhouse gas emissions
  - Enabling more sustainable transport options
  - Creating resilient and liveable public spaces
  - Planning for buildings and places
- 4.6 The *Draft Climate Emergency Plan* contains the following:
- Why Council declared a climate emergency.
  - Impacts on our community and Council's operations.
  - Government, economic, social, technological, legal and scientific approaches and how these influence Council's response.
  - What Council has achieved.
  - Alignment with the Council Plan and Council's responsibilities.
  - Relevant targets, goals and actions that will detail Council's response to climate change over the next 5 years.
  - Advocacy and partnership opportunities.
- 4.7 As confirmed through the Council resolution of 17 August 2022, the *Draft Climate Emergency Plan* outlines Council's actions in response to the climate emergency taken from the organisation's existing endorsed strategies, and the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023*.



- 4.8 The *Draft Climate Emergency Plan* is included at **Attachment 1**.
- 4.9 The *Draft Climate Emergency Plan* builds on Council's existing commitments under the following documents: *Move, Connect Live (Integrated Transport) Strategy 2018-28*; *Don't Waste It (Waste) Strategy 2018-28*; *South Melbourne Market Sustainability Strategy and Act and Adapt (Environmental Sustainability) Strategy 2018-28*.

#### **Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy**

- 4.10 The *2018 Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy* was adopted by Council on 20 June 2018. It is a 10-year strategy (2017/18 to 2027/28) that includes a four-year review.
- 4.11 This *2018 Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy* contained the five key priority areas:
- A greener, cooler, more liveable City
  - A City with lower carbon emissions
  - A City that is adapting and resilient to climate change
  - A water sensitive City of Port Phillip
  - A sustained reduction in waste
- 4.12 In August 2022 Council endorsed the scope of the *Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* review as follows:
- *Maintain the five Key Priority Areas.*
  - *Collect information through a review process to consider if existing actions and targets should be amended, and if additional actions and targets should be included.*
  - *Outline sustainability and climate change commitments, actions and budget.*
  - *Incorporate targets and actions from relevant Council Strategies and Plans Don't Waste It Strategy, Move Connect Live Strategy, Asset Management Enterprise Plan, Open Space Strategy, Housing Strategy, Municipal Emergency Management Plan, Greening Port Phillip and Foreshore Management Plan.*
  - *Do not review or develop new content in areas already covered by other Council Strategies and Plans.*
- 4.13 An analysis of progress in delivering the *2018 Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy* found that 42% of sub-actions are complete and 41% of actions are in progress, half-way into the life of the Strategy.
- 4.14 A context analysis reviewed what had changed politically, environmentally, socially, technologically, legislatively and economically since the *2018 Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy* was adopted. This informed the development of the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28*.
- 4.15 A number of accelerated initiatives have been incorporated in the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023*. These accelerated are detailed in Table 1 of section six of this report. These accelerated initiatives are subject to future annual Council Plan and Budget approval processes.
- 4.16 The *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023* is included at **Attachment 2**.



## 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Direct targeted internal and external consultation was undertaken to inform the development of the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023* and the *Draft Climate Emergency Plan*.
- 5.2 Following approval of the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* and *Draft Climate Emergency Plan*, community consultation will take place in July 2023. This consultation will include:
  - A Have Your Say Page, community survey, targeted engagement with our Advisory Committees and engaged community, and internal engagement.
  - Seeking specific feedback on the accelerated initiatives outlined in Table 1.
- 5.3 A number of projects in the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-2028* are subject to funding being approved in future Council Plan and Budget processes. This will be made clear in the consultation process.
- 5.4 Additional background materials will be made available through the consultation process.

## 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Council's legislative obligations particularly in the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017*, have been considered in the development of actions for inclusion in the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28*.
- 6.2 There are no identified legal or risk implications through the review of the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* and development of the *Draft Climate Emergency Plan*.
- 6.3 The *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* contains targets for Council in each of the outcome areas. As with any goals, there is a reputational risk if they are not met in the planned timeframe.
- 6.4 The *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* identifies aspiration levels for Community indicators. Council can educate, facilitate, advocate, and support but in most cases, cannot compel the community to engage in positive environmental behaviour.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 Council allocated \$125,000 in 2022/23 to the develop the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* and the *Draft Climate Emergency Plan*.
- 7.2 No additional funding is being requested to implement the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* in the 23-24 financial year.
- 7.3 For the 24-25 financial year onwards the financial implications of any new actions will be considered as part of future Council Plan and Budget processes.
- 7.4 The *2018 Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy* includes estimated costs for delivery of each program area over the 10 years of the strategy. These 10 years estimated costs remain unchanged for the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28*.

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

## 5 JULY 2023



- 7.5 We will seek to partner with other agencies to support delivery of the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* and seek to access grants from State and Federal Government as these become available.
- 7.6 Actions contained within the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* support residents and businesses to reduce emissions, which may save them money.
- 7.7 Actions contained within the *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* support the community to improve climate resilience and the impact of extreme weather events.

**Table 1- budget implications of accelerated initiatives in the *Draft Act and Adapt sustainable environment strategy 2023-2028*.**

Initiative	Details	Budget Implications		Projected benefit
		Council approved (2023/24)	Future approach (24/25 and beyond)	
<b>Accelerated Transition to a Lower Emissions Fleet (Act and Adapt Action 19)</b>	Review fleet asset management plan to identify cost effective options to accelerate emissions reductions which could include electrification, transition from diesel, and extending the life of existing vehicles.	Average cost <b>\$1.93m</b> per annum for the next 10 years  Review approach. Estimated cost <b>\$40k (to be funded from existing 2023/24 fleet budget.)</b>	Continue average cost <b>\$1.93m</b> per annum for the next 10 years.  Additional funding requests informed by detailed business case developed as output of 23/24 review.	Review will inform decision making to accelerate transition to lower emissions fleet.  Increase avoided emissions (subject to outcome of transition plan).  Health and wellbeing benefits for staff and community (noise, vibration and air-quality)
<b>Environmentally Sustainable Council Buildings (Act and Adapt Action 16)</b>	Review building asset management plan and audit Council buildings with specialist advice to identify cost effective options to accelerate emissions reductions and water use in council buildings.	Annual existing budget of <b>\$250k</b> to deliver enhanced environmental outcomes in council buildings  Review of approach and building audit, estimated cost of <b>\$100k. (Funded from the</b>	Continue annual <b>\$250k</b> investment.  Any additional expenditure unable to be accommodated within existing budgets will be considered as part of future budget process (2024/25) and will be funded from the asset renewal reserve.	Review will help optimise existing building renewal and upgrade budgets.  42% of Council's annual GHG emissions are from our buildings. For example, removal of gas would prevent 283 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e per year of emissions.



MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL  
5 JULY 2023



		existing 2023/24 building renewal and maintenance upgrade budgets.)		Energy use and emissions reduction initiatives depend on audit findings.  Energy use reductions will reduce energy bills.
<b>Energy Efficient Street Lighting</b> <b>(Act and Adapt Action 20)</b>	<p>Develop business case to identify and prioritise street lighting upgrades.</p> <p>Reduce greenhouse emissions by replacing old streetlights with more efficient LEDs.</p> <p>Program to be delivered over four to five years will reduce emissions reductions, improve lighting, and safety and could have a positive payback period of 6-8 years</p>	<p>No additional 2023/24 budget allocation.</p> <p>Develop a business case for consideration as part of the 2024/25 budget.</p> <p>This will follow and be informed by the implementation of the current street lighting upgrade program.</p>	<p>2024/25 and beyond budget will be based on outcome of the business case considering replacement of lights (incl. High Pressure Sodium HP S) with smart LED streetlights.</p> <p>The upfront capital cost would be prioritised within the existing capital program or funded from the asset renewal reserve which could be replenished by the savings over the payback period.</p>	<p>If street lighting was switched to LED a 54% electricity savings from streetlighting (equalling 19 GWh over 25 yrs, 6-8 year feedback)</p> <p>This is equivalent to 6000 tCO2e saved over 25 years</p>
<b>Expanded Sustainability Programs</b> <b>(Act and Adapt Action 22 &amp; 23)</b>	<p>Expanded delivery of sustainability programs for community benefit including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Leadership</li> <li>Emissions reduction programs</li> <li>Enviro Leaders Alumni Network</li> <li>Early Years Education</li> <li>Connection to Country and</li> </ul>	<p>No additional 2023/24 budget allocation requested. <b>\$93k</b> for energy efficiency and renewable energy community programs allocated in 2023/24 budget.</p> <p>Funding agreement in place with EcoCentre for approx. <b>\$329K (ex GST) (Funding</b></p>	<p>Subject to Council consideration in 2024/25 budget process.</p>	<p>Build community sustainability and climate change capacity for action.</p> <p>Community access to tools and information to make informed decisions and take action.</p>

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

## 5 JULY 2023



	Indigenous heritage	agreement expires end June 2024)		
<p><b>Library Sustainability Hub</b> (Act and Adapt Action 29)</p>	<p>Build and maintain a library sustainability hub which provides community with books, interactive displays, lending of sustainability and gardening tools and devices and a seed library.</p> <p>This program would complement EcoCentre work by reaching a different audience by promoting environmental sustainability in our libraries.</p>	<p><b>\$40k</b> to establish the hub include spaces and resources (funded via the Library Facilities Renewal Program and Library book program) and involve working with Eco Centre and other sustainability groups to minimise programming costs.</p>	<p>Subject to Council consideration in 2024/25 budget process- An additional <b>\$10k</b> per annum from 2024/25 onwards to fund presenters, resources, events.</p>	<p>Build community sustainability knowledge</p> <p>Community access to tools and information to take informed action and undertake community gardening</p> <p>Share and make visible Council's climate action</p>
<p><b>Community Resilience Program</b> (Act and Adapt Action 35)</p>	<p>Build on current work with other councils to develop and collate data to understand climate impacts on CoPP community.</p> <p>Work with the community to build and implement plans and actions to respond to flooding, heatwaves and other climate impacts.</p>	<p>No additional 2023/24 budget allocation requested.</p> <p>Risk audit and foundational resilience work.</p>	<p>Use outcomes of audit and foundational work to inform 2024/25 budget bid for community resilience plan development and implementation</p>	<p>Increased understanding of individual and community climate risks.</p> <p>Identify and commit to actions to create more resilient communities.</p>
<p><b>Enhanced renewable energy uptake and Neighbourhood Batteries</b> (Act and Adapt</p>	<p>Understand community needs and barriers to renewable energy uptake.</p> <p>Deliver a program to support community renewable energy uptake, options include offsite</p>	<p>No additional 2023/24 budget allocation requested</p> <p>Current activities include:</p> <p>Support and advice to building owners</p>	<p>Year 1 and Year 2 (2024/25-2025/26)- <b>\$135K</b> per annum, <b>13K</b> per annum for remaining years three and four (2026/27-2027-28), <b>subject to 2024/25 and subsequent budget process.</b></p>	<p>Ability for Council to support measurable reductions in community emissions.</p> <p>Economic benefit for businesses through renewables buying group.</p>



<p><b>Actions 23, 25 &amp; 28)</b></p>	<p>renewable energy bulk buying program and enhanced neighbourhood battery roll out.</p>	<p>corporations to install solar Advice to support high-rise efficiency and generation options 'Fast-Track Neighbourhood Batteries' project to identify 3-5 feasible and acceptable sites</p>	<p>Year one undertake gap analysis to identify how to support community to increase uptake of solar and renewables, and move from fossil fuels. Subsequent years implement recommendations of gap analysis. This may include facilitation of an offsite renewable energy bulk buy program targeting renters and apartment blocks</p>	
<p><b>Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Support (Act and Adapt Action 30)</b></p>	<p>Additional resources to fast-track the support provided by Council to roll out public EV charging infrastructure Note: There is no capital budget required as Council will not own or operate electric vehicle charges.</p>	<p>Existing operational budget of <b>\$50k</b> per annum for 2 years (2023/24-24/25) <b>\$150k</b> for (2025/26)</p>	<p><b>\$180K</b> per annum, subject to 2024/25 budget process for staff, legal fees and consultants. <b>(The \$180k incorporates existing operational budget of \$50k (2023/24 and the \$150k in 2025/26.)</b></p>	<p>EV Program to be delivered over 2023/24 and 2024/25. Transport emissions are around 15% of our community emissions, expected to grow to 40% by 2040.</p>

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 8.1 The *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* reinforces Council's commitment to embedding environmental sustainability into its own operations.
- 8.2 The *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* outlines community indicators and aspirations in the 5 key priority areas along with actions outlining how Council will facilitate, support, and educate the community to achieve these goals.

**9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 9.1 The *Draft Climate Emergency Plan* details Council's commitment to reducing the impact of the Climate Emergency for the community including advocacy actions.





9.2 The *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* contains detailed actions that support the community to become climate resilient, reduce emissions and water use.

**10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

- 10.1 The *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* and the *Draft Climate Emergency Plan* will outline Council’s approach to delivering the Strategic Direction Sustainable Port Phillip - as outlined in the *Council Plan 2021-2031 (Year Three) and Budget 2023-24*.
- 10.2 The *Draft Climate Emergency Plan* outlines how Council is addressing the Climate Emergency.
- 10.3 The *Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28* will replace the current strategy.
- 10.4 This Project aligns with the following strategies and plans: *Don’t Waste It Strategy, Move Connect Live Strategy, Asset Management Enterprise Plan, Public Space Strategy, Housing Strategy, Municipal Emergency Management Plan, Greening Port Phillip and Foreshore Management Plan*.

**11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

11.1 TIMELINE

11.1.1 The timeline for the delivery of this project is outlined in the table below.

Key Milestone	Timing
Community consultation on draft documents	July-August 2023
Collate and analyse community feedback	August 2023
Revise draft documents based on community feedback	September - October 2023
Return to Council to seek formal adoption of the Final documents’ approval	Late 2023

**12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. [Draft Climate Emergency Plan July 2023](#)
- 2. [Draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy](#)