



**11.1 ACT AND ADAPT REVIEW & CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN APPROACH**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER: KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To seek Council endorsement of the approach and timeline for the review of the *Act and Adapt Strategy* and development of a *Climate Emergency Response Action Plan*.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2.1 The *Act and Adapt Strategy* (the Strategy), adopted by Council on 20 June 2018 (*Attachment 1*), is a 10-year strategy (2017/18 to 2027/28) that includes a review every 4 years (this Review).

2.2 At a *Council* meeting on 18 September 2019, Council passed a resolution in which Council declared that climate change, including sea level rise and mass species extinction, poses serious risks to the people of Port Phillip and Australia, and should be treated as an emergency (the Climate Emergency Response resolution) (*Attachment 2*).

2.3 In November 2021, Council requested that a costed proposal on options to develop a five-year Climate Emergency Action Plan (Action Plan), for Council to effectively act on the *Climate Emergency*, be developed. This work was undertaken and considered by Council through the 2022/23 Council Plan and Budget process and budget was allocated to develop an Action Plan throughout 2022/23.

2.4 This report outlines a proposed approach for the 4-year review of the Strategy and the development of an Action Plan for consideration by Council. Council direction on a preferred approach will assist officers to progress work over the coming months.

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council endorses:

3.1 The review of the *Act and Adapt Strategy* and the development of Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan be included in two separate but related documents: the *Act and Adapt Strategy* and the *Climate Emergency Response*.

3.2 The review of the *Act and Adapt Strategy* retaining the existing 5 key Priority Areas in the current *Act and Adapt Strategy*.

3.3 The *Climate Emergency Response* focussing 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.

3.4 That the review of the *Act and Adapt Strategy* and the development of Council's *Climate Emergency Response*:



- 3.4.1 Includes an evaluation of progress made delivering the *Act and Adapt Strategy* and considers if existing actions and targets in the *Act and Adapt Strategy* should be amended, and if additional actions and targets should be included.
- 3.4.2 Considers updated climate science and technological advancements.
- 3.4.3 Considers changes to the Local Government Act and other State and Federal Government legislation and policies.
- 3.4.4 Considers the work of other governments (including other local governments) and the private sector.
- 3.4.5 Considers partnership and advocacy opportunities.
- 3.4.6 Incorporates targets and actions from relevant Council Strategies and Plans, including 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.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The Strategy has the following 5 key Priority Areas:
  - 4.1.1 **A greener, cooler more liveable City-** Ensuring a greener, cooler city by supporting healthy trees, better building design and smarter use of water.
  - 4.1.2 **A City with lower carbon emissions-** Supporting the community to embrace zero carbon living and ensuring Council's facilities are carbon neutral.
  - 4.1.3 **A City that is adapting and resilient to climate change-** Designing our assets and supporting the community to increase resilience to climate change.
  - 4.1.4 **A water-sensitive City-** Using stormwater to irrigate open spaces, using smart technology to ensure water is not wasted and capturing water in the landscape to reduce flooding.
  - 4.1.5 **A sustained reduction in waste-** Enhancing systems to ensure waste is managed sustainably and diverted from landfills.
- 4.2 The Strategy includes 47 Priority Actions across the 5 Key Priority Areas, 18 Targets and 2 measures. An internal Implementation Plan breaks these Priority Actions into 146 sub-actions.
- 4.3 Initial analysis of progress in delivering the Strategy shows that 42% of sub-actions are complete and 41% of actions are in progress, part way into the life of the Strategy.
- 4.4 On 18 September 2019 Council adopted a climate emergency resolution (Attachment 2). This resolution stated that Council:
  - 4.4.1 Declares that climate change, including sea level rise and mass species extinction, poses serious risks to the people of Port Phillip and Australia, and should be treated as an emergency.
  - 4.4.2 Updates all relevant Council strategies and policies to incorporate and embed this declaration.
  - 4.4.3 Requests that the CEO takes into account the impact of the climate emergency as part of organisational decision-making and planning.



- 4.4.4 Notes the City of Port Phillip's commitment to the following strategies: Move, Connect Live (Integrated Transport) Strategy 2018-28, Don't Waste It (Waste) Strategy 2018-28 and Act and Adapt (Environmental Sustainability) Strategy 2018-28.
- 4.4.5 Notes that the City of Port Phillip, through its Act and Adapt Strategy, has a focus on reducing emissions, reducing contamination of land and water, restoring biodiversity, and adaptation to Climate Change including reduction of heat island effect and other health issues related to a warming climate.
- 4.4.6 Notes the City of Port Phillip's membership of the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project, as well as its commitment to generation of renewable energy through solar on council assets.
- 4.4.7 Requests that regular reporting on organisation-wide response to the climate emergency be included as a permanent item in the CEO report.
- 4.5 In November 2021, as outlined in (Attachment 3), Council: -
- 4.5.1 Noted the Council resolution on 18 September 2019 declaring that climate change, including sea level rise and mass species extinction, poses serious risks to the people of Port Phillip and Australia, and should be treated as an emergency.
- 4.5.2 Requested that the CEO:
- Developed a summary of Council's climate emergency response, including information regarding local climate change impacts, Council and community emissions, actions Council has taken to mitigate and adapt to climate change since September 2019 and a summary of commitments in the Council Plan 2021 and core strategies that are intended to address the climate emergency (completed).
  - Make this summary available on Council's website and present the summary to Council as part of a monthly CEO report at the earliest opportunity (completed).
  - Reviews information on Council's website to ensure that information about Council's climate emergency response is clear and easily accessible to the community (completed).
- 4.5.3 Requested that the CEO 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 (completed).
- 4.5.4 Noted that Council's Act and Adapt, Sustainable Environment Strategy, including a commitment that it be reviewed every four years and updated if needed and that this review is due to commence on 20 June 2022 (commenced).



Requested that the CEO, as part of the review of the Act and Adapt Strategy, consider the following (commenced):

- Council's climate emergency declaration.
- Global and local changes since the adoption of the Strategy, including political, legislative, social, environmental and financial changes.
- Current best available information and scientific research to inform actions and targets.
- Advocacy and partnership opportunities.

4.6 In February 2022, Councillors were presented with costed options for the development of the Action Plan and the review of the Strategy and funding was subsequently included through the 2022/23 Council Plan and Budget process. In July 2022, Councillors were presented with a more detailed approach to the project. The approach outlined in this paper incorporates feedback obtained from these discussions. Council direction on the approach is now sought to enable officers to progress work over the coming months.

**Approach:**

4.7 It is proposed to have two separate documents. The **structure of the two documents**, detailed below, seeks to ensure their content is consistent and accessible to the community and that there is a clear purpose to each document. The proposed structure of the two documents is:

4.8 *Act and Adapt Strategy* (the 4-year review of the existing Strategy)

4.8.1 Noting the high-level nature of the 5 Key Priority Areas in the Strategy and noting that Council is undertaking a 4-year review of the existing Strategy, it is recommended to maintain the 5 Key Priority Areas.

4.8.2 It is proposed the review evaluates progress made towards delivering the Strategy and considers if existing actions and targets should be amended, and if additional actions and targets should be included.

4.8.3 It is proposed that the revised Strategy outlines sustainability and climate change commitments, actions and budget.

4.8.4 Noting the Council's other current strategies and plans do not cover climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation and water management, these areas will be a particular focus of the revised Strategy.

4.8.5 It is proposed that the revised Strategy incorporates 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. It is proposed not to review or develop new content in areas already covered by other Council Strategies and Plans.

4.9 *Climate Emergency Response* (development of a new standalone Action Plan)

4.9.1 It is proposed that the *Climate Emergency Response* 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.



4.9.2 It is proposed that the *Climate Emergency Response* documents Council's response to climate change and covers:

- 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.

4.10 Given the inter-relationships between both the Strategy and the Action Plan, it is proposed that work is undertaken in parallel and will: -

4.10.1 Include an evaluation of progress made delivering the Strategy and consider if existing actions and targets in the Strategy should be amended, and if additional actions and targets should be included.

4.10.2 Consider updated climate science and technological advancements.

4.10.3 Consider changes to the Local Government Act and other State and Federal Government legislation and policies.

4.10.4 Consider the work of other governments (including other local governments) and the private sector.

4.10.5 Consider partnership opportunities and if Council should advocate for State or Commonwealth Government policy changes.

## 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 Direct targeted internal and external consultation is proposed to inform the review of the Strategy and development of the Action Plan.

5.2 Internal stakeholder engagement is underway with Property and Assets, Waste, Open Space, Procurement and Transport teams and will include regular briefings with Councillors.

5.3 Planned external consultations will include:

5.3.1 Targeted engagement with interested community groups.

5.3.2 Engagement through Council's advisory committees.

5.3.3 Broader community engagement on draft documents between April-May 2023 alongside the Council Plan and Budget, with community engagement to include a standalone *Have Your Say* page.

5.3.4 Presence at community pop-ups.

## 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 To ensure the outcome of the Project aligns with Council's legislative obligations particularly in the Local Government Act 2020 and the Victorian Climate Change Act 2017 the scope of the Project includes consideration of Council's legislative obligations.



**7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 7.1 Council has allocated \$125,000 in the 2022/23 financial year to the Project.
- 7.2 Financial implications of any new actions will be considered as part of the 2023/24 Council Plan and Budget process.
- 7.3 Initiatives to be considered for delivery in 2023/24 will be identified early to align with Council’s budget timelines. A concurrent process will therefore be undertaken to identify early initiatives while other Project initiatives are under development.

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 8.1 The *Act and Adapt* Strategy and Climate Emergency Response will set the direction for Council’s actions in managing environmental impacts.

**9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 9.1 The Project will seek to identify for the community Council’s approach to the climate emergency and its sustainability commitments.
- 9.2 A gender impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the project.
- 9.3 Engagement with Council’s standing advisory committees will ensure community impacts are understood and considered as part of the project.

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

- 10.1 The *Act and Adapt* Strategy and the Climate Emergency Response will outline Council’s approach to delivering the Strategic Direction Sustainable Port Phillip - as outlined in the Council Plan and Budget 2021-31 (Year Two).
- 10.2 The Climate Emergency Response will outline how Council is addressing the Climate Emergency.
- 10.3 The revised *Act and Adapt* Strategy 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.

Phase	Key Milestone	Timing
Foundational	Appointment of project manager	August –Sept 2022
	Confirm <i>Act and Adapt Strategy/Climate Emergency Response</i> directions and architecture	August 2022
	Review progress of current <i>Act and Adapt Strategy</i>	August –Sept 2022
	Benchmarking against other Councils	

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

## 17 AUGUST 2022



Phase	Key Milestone	Timing
	PESTLE assessment (changes in Political, Economic, Sociological, Technological, Legal and Environmental contexts)	
	Council feedback on foundational outputs	Oct 2022
<b>Build content</b>	Engagement including with existing community networks (e.g., business networks, advisory committees, government partners)	Nov 2022
	Identify actions and potential changes to existing programs, targets and new opportunities including initial budget initiatives	August- Dec 2022
	Brief Council on outcome of review and propose new targets/measures/actions	Early 2023
<b>Develop draft</b>	Write up the documents and seek Council approval for community consultation on draft	Early/Mid 2023
<b>Consultation</b>	Community consultation on draft (as part of Council Plan and Budget engagement)	April-May 2023
<b>Develop final</b>	Revise content based on feedback	Jun- Aug 2023
	Final documents' approval	Sept 2023




### 11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 The documents will be made available on Council's website. Promotion of documents will be undertaken once the project has been completed.

### 12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTERESTS

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

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. **Current Act and Adapt- Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-28**  [↓](#)
2. **CoPP Motion to Declare a Climate Emergency**  [↓](#)
3. **CoPP Motion to develop a climate emergency response**  [↓](#)