

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
18 SEPTEMBER 2019



## 15. NOTICES OF MOTION

### 15.1 Motion to Declare a Climate Emergency

I, Councillor Tim Baxter, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 18 September 2019:

That Council:

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.
2. Updates all relevant Council strategies and policies to incorporate and embed this declaration.
3. Requests that the CEO takes into account the impact of the climate emergency as part of organisational decision-making and planning.
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.
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.
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.
7. Requests that regular reporting on organisation-wide response to the climate emergency be included as a permanent item in the CEO report.

### Supporting Information

The climate emergency has resulted from humans putting additional greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. These have heated our planet and at current levels are already a true disaster on a global scale. Unless removed, these gases will result in a level of global warming that will be catastrophic for humanity and much of the world's remaining ecosystems.

An ethical and moral response to this emergency would be based around the goal of maximum protection of human and non-human life. Maximum protection would mean reversing global warming and creating a global cooling as soon as possible.

To create a global cooling we need to:

1. reduce our emissions to as close to zero as possible in all sectors of our economy, including energy, agriculture, landuse, and industrial process; and
2. draw down past emissions.

If we don't succeed in creating a global cooling impacts will be disastrous. According to Philip Sutton from RSTI, even if we stabilise temperatures at the Paris Agreement's best case cap of +1.5°C, this will:

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- fail to prevent the Pacific and Indian Ocean atoll nations from being permanently flooded; fail to prevent permanent flooding of low-lying, heavily populated areas (Bangladesh, Vietnam, China, Egypt, etc. where over 100 million people live);
- fail to prevent the destruction of coral reefs around the world including the Great Barrier Reef;
- fail to prevent the mobilisation of the huge carbon stores in the Arctic, that will cause releases of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane that could exceed the emissions from all fossil fuels so far;
- fail to provide food security; and
- fail to provide a foundation for military security and positive peace.

Ref: <https://www.caceonline.org/what-is-the-climate-emergency.html>

Attachment