

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP REPORT

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 29 SEPTEMBER 2009

5.	VICTORIAN CLIMATE CHANGE GREEN PAPER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	SUE WILKINSON, GENERAL MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING
PREPARED BY:	MARTIN HARTIGAN, COORDINATOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT
FILE NO.:	TRIM FILE NO. 30/01/98
ATTACHMENTS:	CITY OF PORT PHILLIP SUBMISSION TO THE VICTORIAN CLIMATE CHANGE GREEN PAPER

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The State Government has invited submissions to the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper by 30 September 2009.
- 1.2 The Green Paper accepts the Commonwealth government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) as the primary mechanism for reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. It proposes that Victoria's new role is to develop and implement policy complementary to the CPRS.
- 1.3 To this end, the subsequent policy and action proposed for state and local governments is in the design and delivery of programs for adjustment (to a low carbon economy) and adaptation (to climate risks and impacts). It is also to ensure local markets and regulatory frameworks to support the CPRS.
- 1.4 The Draft City of Port Phillip submission provides ten key recommendations about the policy response required to be addressed in the subsequent Victorian Climate Change White Paper.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 2.1 Endorses the submission to the Premier of Victoria pertaining to the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper as detailed in Attachment 1.

3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 Council has provided a leadership position on climate change previously by providing submissions to:-
 - The Victorian Climate Change Summit Discussion Paper, the precursor to the current Green Paper (in September 2008);

- The Federal Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme or CPRS (February-March 2009);
- The Federal Exposure Draft Legislation of the CPRS (April 2009);
- The Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy regarding the CPRS (April 2009).

3.2 In addition, council adopted a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Advocacy Strategy. Whilst this proposed submission to the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper resides strictly outside of this advocacy strategy, it has a corresponding intent.

3.3 The council's submission on the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper continues to advance its advocacy and leadership position on climate change policy and strategy.

3 CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

3.1 Internal

3.2.1 The submission and background information was provided to all relevant Business Units for input and modification to council's recommended position. Units consulted included Traffic, Transport & Parking, Asset Services, Parks and Open Space, Building Services, Infrastructure Services, City Development, Community Health and Development.

3.2 External

3.2.2 The Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association have been provided with a copy of council's submission.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN

4.1.1 This report aligns with the key direction in the adopted Council Plan: 'Taking Action on Climate Change' and more specifically through Strategy 2.4 'Working Together'.

4.1.2 By preparing this submission in response to the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper, council is advocating further for sustainable solutions. In addition, council is advocating for reducing the rate of and preparing for climate change.

4.2 POLICY IMPLICATIONS PLAN

4.2.1 Council's umbrella environment strategy, Toward Zero, illustrates the commitment to actively reducing local carbon emissions and preventing the worst impacts of climate change. Council's framework for environmental action also focuses on enabling and assisting significant and timely reductions in community carbon emissions. In

addition, the Council Plan has as a key strategy to prepare the community and our assets for a different climatic future.

- 4.2.2 The Victorian Climate Change Green Paper accepts the Commonwealth Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) as the primary mechanism for reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. It proposes that Victoria's new role is to develop and implement policy complementary to the CPRS.
- 4.2.3 To this end, the subsequent policy and action proposed for state and local governments is in the design and delivery of adjustment (to a low carbon economy) and adaptation (to climate risks and impacts) programs, and ensuring local markets and regulatory frameworks to support the CPRS.
- 4.2.4 The State Policy Response will affect the ability of the City of Port Phillip, and local government generally, to prepare the community and our assets for climate change.
- 4.2.5 City of Port Philip's clear submission to State Government supports the Council Plan and our current climate change policy. It will assist the State Government to identify the specific areas of need in policy and strategy direction to help our community to adapt to climate change.

4.3 FINANCE / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.3.1 There are no direct financial implications of council adopting the preferred option.
- 4.3.2 However, the proposed federal Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, that the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper is responding to, has the potential to increase the level and cost of implementing climate adaptation and resilience strategies at the local level. This will manifest itself in a variety of scenarios, such as: increased emergency management procedures; increased costs for waste, increased need for revised drainage solutions, and increased beach renourishment actions.
- 4.3.3 Local governments may wear a significant cost burden from implementing local climate adaptation without commensurate incentives or funds from revenues raised through mechanisms such as the Emissions Trading Scheme.

5. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

5.1 TIMELINE

- 5.1.2 Council's response to the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper is due to be submitted to the Premier of Victoria on 30 September 2009.

6. COMMUNICATION

- 6.1.1 Council's submission will be posted on the council website.
- 6.1.2 Council has identified a number of policy and strategy areas in the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper that require stronger consideration by the State Government.
- 6.1.3 Council is providing a strong submission to the Premier about the identified gaps in the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper.
- 6.1.4 Council is continuing to advocate on behalf of the community about State and Federal climate change policy and strategy.

7. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 7.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.