



11.1 **SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY - FINAL FOR ENDORSEMENT**

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1. PURPOSE

1.1 This report presents *'Act and Adapt'*: Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-2028 for endorsement.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Act and Adapt, (the Strategy) expresses Council's commitment to creating an environmentally sustainable City.

2.2 The Strategy establishes a pathway for Council and the community to reduce our impact on the environment and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

2.3 The Strategy contains actions for delivery in the next 10 years, which are reflected in the Council Plan and Budget update. These actions detail how we intend to progress toward our goals and partner with the community to achieve better environmental outcomes.

2.4 The Strategy contributes to Strategic Direction 3 the Council Plan, 'We have smart solutions for a sustainable future' and will help to achieve the following outcomes:

- A greener, cooler and more liveable City
- A City with lower carbon emissions
- A City that is adapting and resilient to climate change
- A water sensitive City; and
- A sustained reduction in waste.

2.5 At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 18 April 2018, Council resolved to endorse the Draft Strategy for release to the public for consultation for a period of four weeks.

2.6 Community engagement on the Draft Strategy was conducted from 21 April – 18 May 2018. Feedback from the community has been used to finalise the Strategy.

2.7 This Report presents the Strategy to Council for endorsement.



3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses Act and Adapt: Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-2028 (Attachment 1); and
- 3.2 Thanks the community for participating in the community engagement activities and providing feedback on the draft Strategy.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Act and Adapt: Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-28 (the Strategy) outlines how we will achieve Strategic Direction 3 of our Council Plan, 'We have smart solutions for a sustainable future'.
- 4.2 The Council Plan 2017-27 identifies a priority to 'Develop a sustainability strategy for beyond 2020'.
- 4.3 At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 18 April 2018, Council resolved to endorse the Draft of A Sustainable Future - the Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-2028 for release to the public for consultation for a period of four weeks.
- 4.4 Community engagement on the Draft Strategy was conducted from 21 April – 18 May 2018. Feedback from the community has been used to inform updates to the Strategy.
- 4.5 In response to community consultation the following changes were made to the Strategy:
 - A biodiversity study and action plan was included as an action for delivery in 2019-20.
 - A baseline and goal for Council's gross greenhouse gas emissions has been included and will be reported on annually.
 - The schedule of funding provided for redevelopment of the EcoCentre now includes \$200,000 for 2018-19.
 - An additional action - *Review Council services to identify opportunities to reduce carbon emissions and incorporate changes where feasible* – has been included as action 8. There is no cost to the delivery of this action.
 - The presentation of the stormwater pollution reduction goals have been modified to be reader friendly.
- 4.6 The Strategy, included in Attachment 1, is now presented to Council for endorsement.
- 4.7 This Strategy expresses Council's commitment to creating an environmentally sustainable city and establishes a pathway for Council and the community to reduce our impact on the environment and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- 4.8 The Strategy is focused on the following outcomes:



- A greener, cooler and more liveable City
- A City with lower carbon emissions
- A City that is adapting and resilient to climate change
- A water sensitive City
- A sustained reduction in waste

4.9 The following Guiding Principles were used to develop the actions in the Strategy:

- We invest wisely to benefit our community now and tomorrow
- We make an impact for our community
- We prioritise fairness and equity
- We harness partnerships and collaboration
- We adapt to change by testing, learning and monitoring

4.10 The Strategy addresses the key challenges of climate change, urbanisation, population growth, legislation and policy influence, changing economic conditions, and rapid evolution of technology.

4.11 As a growing municipality, our commitment to caring for our City and maintaining and enhancing our local environment is more important than ever. We can only do this by:

- **Doing the right things** - Understanding our current and future challenges, and evaluating our impacts to focus our investment and efforts in programs and projects that have tangible benefits for our community.
- **Doing things right** - Inspiring our community through demonstrating environmental leadership in our own operations. Ensuring our assets and services are managed effectively and efficiently to facilitate our community to reduce their environmental impact.
- **Doing things with partners** - Leveraging our strong and productive relationships with state and local government, not-for-profit organisations, research organisations and community groups to maximise our collective impact.
- **Doing things differently** - Embracing the rapid evolution of technology and investing in our technology systems to make it easier and cheaper for Council and the community to improve environmental outcomes.

4.12 The Strategy expresses Council's commitment to creating an environmentally sustainable City and establishes a pathway for Council and the community to reduce our impact on the environment and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 The following engagement activities were used to inform the Draft Strategy.

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- 5.1.1 From 30 January 2017 to 26 February 2017 Council conducted Community Engagement surveys and workshops to inform development of the Council Plan, including workshops dedicated to water and waste.
 - 5.1.2 The Draft Council Plan was made available to the community who were provided with the opportunity to make submissions. Council received twenty-nine submissions in relation to sustainability.
 - 5.1.3 Community consultation was completed to inform the development of the Sustainable City Community Action Plan, including focus groups and surveys. Information from this consultation has been used to inform the draft Strategy.
 - 5.1.4 Council also consulted with neighbouring local governments, the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, Melbourne Water, the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.
- 5.2 Community consultation on the Draft Strategy was conducted from 21 April – 18 May 2018.
- 5.2.1 The community was given an opportunity to respond via Have Your Say, directly to Officers via email and at three community consultation sessions held on 3, 8 and 10 May.
 - 5.2.2 Officers also met with the Youth Advisory Committee and the Older Persons Consultative Committee to gather feedback.
 - 5.2.3 Council received a total of 30 responses from the community, 24 of which were via Have Your Say and six were via email.
- 5.3 Key themes arising from the community responses to the Draft Strategy included:
- 5.3.1 A greener, cooler, more liveable City
 - The Strategy should include a biodiversity study and action plan detailing actions Council and the community can undertake to enhance and protect biodiversity.
 - A City with lower carbon emissions
 - The Strategy should include more ambitious goals for reduction of energy use for Council's operations, supported by increased installation of renewables on buildings.
 - The schedule of funding provided for redevelopment of the EcoCentre should be reviewed.
 - The Strategy should include a community greenhouse gas emissions goal that is independent of the State commitment.
 - 5.3.2 A City that is adapting and resilient to climate change



- The Strategy should include some additional indicators to measure progress.
- The Strategy does not go far enough to address the issues of sea level rise and erosion.

5.3.3 A water sensitive City

- An updated, comprehensive water balance analysis for the city is required.
- A new water and flood management plan is required.
- Neighbourhood / catchment targets for flood mitigation and to reduce coastal vulnerability are required.
- Enforcement on private land of integrated water management initiatives.
- The Strategy should include the 2066 targets related to stormwater pollutants that Council committed to in 2010.

5.3.4 A sustained reduction in waste

- The Strategy needs more focus on diverting green waste from landfill.
- The measure for success should be a constant or reducing total volume of material needing to be processed, not just recycling.
- Council should give its support to a waste to energy proposal which should be funded by the identified major polluters as well as South East Water.

5.4 A detailed summary of how the final strategy responded to community feedback is included as Attachment 2.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Strategy contains goals for Council in each of the outcome areas. Achieving some of the goals is dependent upon successful partnerships with community groups and other organisations.
- 6.2 The Strategy identifies community goals. Council can educate, facilitate, advocate and support the community to act through some regulation, but in most cases, cannot compel the community to engage in positive environmental behaviour.
- 6.3 Ongoing monitoring of our progress, and the impact of our actions will be conducted for the life of the Strategy. The Strategy and actions will be reviewed and, if needed, updated every 4 years.



7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 Each action within the Strategy has an associated cost estimate. These have been allocated short, medium and long-term timeframes.
- 7.2 The total cost of actions within the Strategy is \$47,443,000.
- 7.3 All funding will be assessed and prioritised on an annual basis and as a result, is subject to change.
- 7.4 We will seek to partner with other agencies to support delivery of the Strategy, and to access grants from State and Federal Government should these become available.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 The Strategy sets new environmental goals for Council, and outlines actions to achieve these goals.
- 8.2 The Strategy also outlines goals for the community, and actions outlining how Council will facilitate, support and educate the community to achieve these goals. The Sustainable City Community Action Plan and projects within it are key to enable delivery of these actions.
- 8.3 A large percentage of community greenhouse gas emissions are related to transport (both private and freight). This Strategy will report and monitor greenhouse gas emissions relating to our own fleet, however the majority of Actions related to community transport will be detailed in the Move, Connect, Live 2018-28 (Integrated Transport) Strategy, currently in development.
- 8.4 Council endorsed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. This Strategy directly supports Goal 7 'Clean & Affordable Energy', Goal 11 'Sustainable Cities and communities', Goal 12 'Responsible Consumption and Production and Goal 13 'Climate Action'.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The Strategy contains actions designed to enable the community to reduce energy use, water use, waste and increase their resilience to climate change.
- 9.2 Some actions within the Strategy will be tailored to support the most vulnerable members of our community, particularly those that impact health and wellbeing.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 This strategy outlines how we will achieve Strategic Direction 3 of our Council Plan, 'We have smart solutions for a sustainable future' and is focused on the accompanying outcomes:
 - A greener, cooler and more liveable City
 - A City with lower carbon emissions



- A City that is adapting and resilient to climate change
- A water sensitive City
- A sustained reduction in waste

10.2 The Strategy also delivers key links to other Directions and Outcomes within the Council Plan including:

- A safe and active community with strong social connections
- Our streets and places are designed for people
- Liveability in a high-density City
- Well-designed buildings that contribute to safe, lively, high amenity places
- Enhancing the environmental and recreational qualities of the foreshore
- A financially sustainable, high performing, well-governed organisation that puts the community first

10.3 The Strategy is directly related to Council's transformations of Water Management and Waste Management and supports the transformations of Transport and Parking and Fishermans Bend.

10.4 This Strategy is intended to supersede Council's current *Toward Zero Sustainable Environment Strategy (2007-2020)*.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

11.1.1 The Strategy will be delivered over a 10-year period, from July 2018 to June 2028. Actions have been scheduled with short (1-2 year), medium (3-6 year) and long term (7-10 year) time frames.

11.1.2 Annual Reports on the Strategy will be presented to Councillors and the wider community.

11.1.3 The Strategy and actions will be reviewed and, if needed, updated every 4 years.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 The Strategy will be published on Council's website, our sustainability website and promoted through our social media channels. The Have Your Say webpage will be updated to communicate the endorsement of the Strategy.

11.2.2 A 60 second, character based video will be produced promoting the strategy.

11.2.3 Community engagement will be undertaken on individual Actions within the Strategy.



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12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

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

TRIM FILE NO: 30/21/21

ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT Act and Adapt: Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-2028
2. Sustainable Environment Strategy response to community feedback V1.0