

## **Attachment 2**

### **Response to additional specific requests submitted in support of the PECAN Joint letter**

#### **Inform all residents and businesses of the critical importance of tackling climate change.**

- Information about the challenges of climate change are already included in corporate and sustainability communications. In addition, Council delivers workshops and information sessions including the recent Community Climate Action Now forum and regular Sustainability Business Network breakfast events.

#### **Commit to clear timelines and budgets to achieve net zero emissions**

- Council has a net zero target for the organisation that will be achieved in the 2020-21 financial year.
- Council has a net zero goal for the community by 2050 (in line with the Victorian Government target)
- The community target timeline acknowledges that net zero for the community can't be achieved without action from other levels of government.
- The Council actions to deliver these targets are fully budgeted and published in a range of corporate communications.

#### **Don't just redescribe existing policies and strategies under the rubric of the Climate Emergency Declaration. We need new strategies, policies and practices.**

- The Declaration of a Climate Emergency noted the existing comprehensive climate change response that is formalised in strategies and funded projects.
- New strategies, policies and practices would require a new Council resolution and budget commitment.

#### **Fossil fuel disclosure for all contracts by reducing or removing the \$1mill threshold**

- Council's tender templates require disclosure on all advertised tenders over \$150,000
- The Procurement Policy is reviewed each year. In line with the Declaration, the review will incorporate the Climate Emergency.

#### **Refuse to award contracts to companies that actively contribute to the fossil fuel industry (Specifically Adani)**

- Disclosure of exposure to the fossil fuel industry affects the Corporate Social Responsibility score for advertised tenders.
- On 4 April 2018, Council resolved to formally state its opposition to the proposed Adani mine in the Carmichael basin. This resolution did not include specific actions related to procurement.

#### **Increase sustainability expenditure**

- In line with the Declaration, Council will consider the Climate Emergency when developing the 2020-21 budget. However, the Declaration does not specifically allocate new funds to sustainability projects or programs.
- The current COVID-19 State of Emergency has severely impacted all parts of the Australian Economy and will necessitate a review of all Council budgets going forward.
- Note that average annual allocation to sustainability in the last Council Plan (2013-17) was \$1.74 per \$100 of spend. This has increased by \$2.65 to \$4.39 per \$100 of spend. An increase of 153%.

### **Facilitate Community Energy (Solar Farms, microgrids, virtual power plants)**

- Council has already committed to exploring alternatives to roof top solar to support the community to access renewable energy in *Act and Adapt*.
- Council co-funded a feasibility report into a South Eastern regional collective power purchasing agreement to facilitate the building of a new renewable energy plant. The Report concluded that it wasn't feasible based on insufficient purchasing power of the participants.
- Council held a workshop in February for apartment dwellers to share information about different options and test interest in a Council facilitated group purchasing model and the latest energy sharing technology.

### **Advocate to end deforestation in Central Highlands and Gippsland, sign the Ethical Paper Pledge and encourage local businesses to do the same.**

- Council doesn't currently have a specific advocacy position on deforestation outside of the municipality. However, it is noted that deforestation releases carbon into the atmosphere and contributes to habitat and biodiversity loss.
- Council does have an ongoing commitment to improving sustainability outcomes and increasing the use of recycled content through procurement. As such, Council signed the Ethical Paper Pledge in 2011 and only purchases 100% recycled content copy paper.
- Sustainable Business Network Breakfasts have addressed sustainable procurement. A future online session will include the Ethical Paper Pledge as an option for local businesses.

### **Encourage revegetation of native species in the Council area incl neighbourhood houses, community centres and Elster Creek. Facilitate community planting days.**

- Native species form a significant part of Council's planting palette. There are also six identified Native Vegetation Areas within the municipality that are prioritised for native species.
- Council facilitates community planting days and funds the Port Phillip EcoCentre to deliver a range of volunteering activities that include planting. In 2019-20 Council facilitated 28 planting days where volunteers planted 21,067 indigenous plants in the Native Vegetation Areas along the foreshore.
- Council is in the process of developing a Biodiversity Plan as a committed action in the Act and Adapt Strategy

- Future relevant policy reviews that will incorporate the Climate Emergency Declaration and improving biodiversity include Greening Port Phillip, the Street Tree Planting Guide and the Open Space Strategy.

**Consider funding Westgate Biodiversity to propagate plants or encourage citizens to be part of the solution**

- Council has a long-standing history of partnership with the relatively newly named Westgate Biodiversity and Bili Nursery dating back to the formation of the then St Kilda Indigenous Nursery Cooperative and its connection to the pre-amalgamation St Kilda and Port Melbourne City Councils.
- Council continues to promote the organisation through its community sustainability programs and welcomes funding applications via its grants and annual budget processes.