



13 February 2019

NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Committee Member,

The next Environmental Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday, 20 February 2019 in the Committee Room, 7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring.

The attached agenda is presented for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Throssell".

Jonathan Throssell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Please Note

If an Elected Member has a query regarding a report item or requires additional information in relation to a report item, please contact the senior employee (noted in the report) prior to the meeting.

AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
20 FEBRUARY 2019

ATTENTION/DISCLAIMER

The purpose of this Committee Meeting is to discuss and make recommendations to Council about items appearing on the agenda and other matters for which the Committee is responsible. The Committee has no power to make any decisions which are binding on the Council or the Shire of Mundaring unless specific delegation of authority has been granted by Council. No person should rely on or act on the basis of any advice or information provided by a Member or Employee, or on the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the Committee Meeting.

The Shire of Mundaring expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of relying on or acting on the basis of any advice or information provided by a Member or Employee, or the content of any discussion occurring during the course of the Committee Meeting.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE ROOM, 7000 GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY, MUNDARING – 6.00 PM**

1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES

Acknowledgement of Country

Shire of Mundaring respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We wish to acknowledge elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the region.

1.1 Announcement of Visitors

1.2 Attendance/Apologies

Staff Ruth Broz Minute Secretary

Apologies Member Jim Thom

Guests

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3.1 Declaration of Financial Interest and Proximity Interests

Elected Members must disclose the nature of their interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting (*Part 5 Division 6 of the Local Government Act 1995*).

Employees must disclose the nature of their interest in reports or advice when giving the report or advice to the meeting (*Sections 5.70 and 5.71 of the Local Government Act 1995*).

3.2 Declaration of Interest Affecting Impartiality

An Elected Member or an employee who has an interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting must disclose that interest (*Shire of Mundaring Code of Conduct, Local Government (Admin) Reg. 34C*).

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

| |
|-----------------------|
| RECOMMENDATION |
|-----------------------|

That the Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held 27 November 2018 be confirmed.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

6.0 REPORTS OF EMPLOYEES

6.1 Climate Change Networks and Alliances for Emissions Reduction

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| File Code | EV.PRG 13 |
| Author | Briony Moran, Coordinator Environment and Sustainability |
| Senior Employee | Mark Luzi, Director Statutory Services |
| Disclosure of Any Interest | Nil |
| Attachments | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement2. Summary Perth Solar City Program3. Table of Local Government responses to solar savers questions |

SUMMARY

At its February 2018 meeting, Council requested EAC investigate a Community Solar Project. Various local governments were contacted by the Shire President to share their approach or participation in community solar projects. The following report collates these findings, highlights the factors that have supported those programs and the potential for regional structures to help coordinate and deliver the strong climate change action called for in the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Climate Change Policy Statement.

It is recommended the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend that Council:

- 1) endorses the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Climate Change Policy Statement;
- 2) writes to WALGA requesting investigation of regional climate change networks or greenhouse alliances; and
- 3) notes that EAC members will engage with residents to better understand community attitudes and obstacles to energy efficiency and emissions reduction initiatives.

BACKGROUND

With the release of the WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement in 2018 (Attachment 1) there is now an opportunity for Council to endorse the document and advocate for implementation across the sector. It is also suggested the Shire advocate for State support and the establishment of 'regional' organisational structures to allow for the delivery of cost-effective emissions reduction programs.

The following decision was made at the annual electors meeting on 13 December 2017:

As members of the local community and Mundaring in Transition we would like to move a motion that the Shire of Mundaring create a working group, including members of the community, council staff and councillors, to investigate undertaking a project in our local area based on the Darebin Solar Savers initiative.

Council considered the request at its meeting of 13 February 2018 and resolved to:

1. *Request the Environmental Advisory Committee to create a working group including members of the community, a council representative and Shire staff to investigate financial implications and broader community interest in a Community Solar Project; and*
2. *Note that as the reporting of the working group will come back to Council via the Environmental Advisory Committee, this reduces any financial need to set up a separate working group.*

At its meeting of 22 May 2018 the EAC appointed five members to form an Energy and Emissions Working Group and invited two members from Mundaring in Transition.

The Energy and Emissions Working Group was then able to assist with -

- 1) development of an emissions reduction target; and
- 2) review of a draft Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy (EERS).

The EERS was prepared by the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) as part of the Achieving Carbon Emissions Reduction program.

The emissions reduction target and EERS were adopted by Council at its meeting of 11 September 2018. The primary focus of the current EERS is on reducing the Shire's corporate emissions, for which the Shire has the most accurate information, direct control and responsibility, and where future energy cost savings will be shared by all ratepayers.

In accordance with the EERS, Shire spending will initially be focussed on installing solar systems and reducing energy use at Shire facilities, and making information available to residents in various formats to encourage voluntary action to reduce community emissions. However the EERS also notes that advocacy for effective leadership and action from the State and Commonwealth Governments will be a necessary component:

"It is important to note that local governments alone cannot and should not be expected to manage emissions reduction to the extent necessary to avoid dangerous levels of climate change. Current international commitments are too low to avoid a global rise in temperature of over 2°C. To date there has been a concerning lack of direction from the State and Commonwealth Governments, and Australia's emissions are well above the levels required to meet the national target of 26-28% reduction by 2030 (from 2005 levels).

At its meeting of 11 September 2018, Council also decided to join the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership (CPP) program. CPP activities includes lobbying of State and Commonwealth Governments for emissions reduction, on behalf of local governments.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Shire's Environmental Sustainability Policy includes the following relevant principles:

- 1.4 *Human induced climate change is recognised as a key threat to biodiversity, requiring mitigation action to reduce carbon emissions at all levels of government, and adaptation to local impacts.*
- 2.1 *The Shire will pursue and promote improved water and energy efficiency, reduced carbon emissions and sustainable use of natural resources.*
- 3.3 *Information will be made available for schools and residents on sustainability and local environmental issues through publications, talks, workshops and other mediums.*

4.2 The Shire will remain agile; learning and collaborating with community groups, research institutions and relevant government agencies to adapt best practice environmental management to fit the Shire's context.

The WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement is consistent with the Environmental Sustainability Policy, particularly principle 1.4.

Collaboration with other local governments, state agencies, research institutions and community groups could be enabled by building climate action networks or greenhouse alliances similar to those that have been established in Victoria.

Provision of reliable information, publications, talks and workshops for residents about renewable energy and energy efficiency would be consistent with all of the policy principles above, as well as the Strategic Community Plan as noted below.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Talks, workshops and publications regarding energy efficiency and emissions reduction can be undertaken as part of the existing environmental education program. Community solar projects such as those undertaken in Victoria represent one possible initiative to reduce carbon emissions, but may not represent the greatest emissions reduction per dollar spent. There will be a range of lower cost options that could contribute to the dual aims of reducing residential emissions and assisting vulnerable households, which might enable the Shire to assist more households within budget limitations. The previous Perth Solar Cities project is an example of a grant supported, regional program that included a variety of options for households to reduce electricity use (see summary in Attachment 2).

Taking a longer term view, achieving the Shire's agreed target of 30% reduction by 2030 represents a significant challenge without financial support from the State and a collaborative approach to the delivery of programs. There is a need for the Shire to advocate for organisational arrangements which will facilitate efficient and cost effective emissions programs. Regional collaborations are more likely to gain greater traction in attracting Federal and State funding.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring 2026 Strategic Community Plan

Priority 3 - Natural environment

Objective 3.2 – A place where the environment is well managed

Strategy 3.2.4 – Encourage renewable energy use by residents and businesses

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environmentally, climate change is recognised as a significant threat to species and ecosystems, requiring action at all levels of government to reduce carbon emissions. Funds allocated by the Shire to reducing energy use and emissions should be directed carefully in a way that will result in substantial emissions reductions.

There would be social and economic benefits to enhancing energy efficiency and reducing energy costs across the shire.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Lack of regional collaboration to address climate change limits engagement with utilities and relevant institutions, efficiency of emissions reduction programs and opportunities for substantial grant funding

| Likelihood | Consequence | Rating |
|--|-------------|--------|
| Almost Certain | Moderate | High |
| Action / Strategy | | |
| Request for WALGA to investigate regional climate change networks or greenhouse alliances to coordinate action | | |

| Risk: Programs and initiatives to encourage increased household energy efficiency or use of renewable energy are developed without understanding the motivations or perceived barriers for local residents and have limited effectiveness | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| Likelihood | Consequence | Rating |
| Likely | Minor | Moderate |
| Action / Strategy | | |
| Engage with residents about their energy use including at events such as Blue Sky Festival to gain understanding and inform development of useful publications and programs | | |

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

WALGA developed the revised Climate Change Policy Statement through consultation with local governments. Shire of Mundaring staff participated by providing initial comments on the WALGA Climate Change Position Statement Review Discussion Paper, and also on the draft of the updated version. The Policy Statement has therefore been informed by the Shire's strategic environmental framework.

WALGA and EMRC staff have been asked about their knowledge and support of the Victorian greenhouse alliance structure. At officer level, both EMRC and WALGA staff are aware of the model and have expressed interest in regional structures which could enable more effective emissions reduction programs.

Letters were sent to 18 Victorian local governments that have participated in Solar Savers programs providing solar systems to low income residents. The letter included the following sets of questions, based on a request by Mundaring in Transition members:

What was it about the Darebin initiative that appealed to your City or Shire? Were there any incentives to do the roll-out? What was the justification for running the project?

What costs were (or are expected to be) incurred by Council in initiating, setting up and running the project? Were all costs recovered through rates over time? Information on the financial costs, costs in staff time and any other funding implications would be helpful. Was there any funding support from state or federal government or other organisation?

What were (or are the expected) benefits to local residents and ratepayers? How many PV systems have been or will be installed? What savings in greenhouse gas emissions have been achieved or are expected?

What were (or are expected to be) the perceived benefits to your City or Shire?

What was the reaction of the community prior to, during and after the project? How did your City or Shire 'sell' the initiative to ratepayers?

Seven responses were received, however one only confirmed participation in the program and did not answer any of the questions. The other six responses are presented in Attachment 3.

Three factors are notable in the supports that have enabled Victorian local governments to participate in the Solar Savers initiative. The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV, equivalent to WALGA) assisted with procurement, contracting solar suppliers and installers and securing competitive prices through the scale of the program. The established regional Greenhouse Alliances obtained substantial State Government funding, and managed the majority of the program on behalf of the participating local governments.

The responses highlight the value of local government collaboration and structures such as greenhouse alliances to attract external funding and deliver regional emissions reduction programs. The greenhouse alliances are formal partnerships of 5 – 13 local governments, representing 75 of the state's 79 Councils. Some greenhouse alliances are based only on local government partners while others include state government agencies, corporations, universities and community groups. The primary focus of the alliances is collaborating to drive regional emissions reduction and action on climate change.

Several respondents noted the \$760,000 provided to greenhouse alliances to deliver the Solar Savers initiative as part of the Victorian State Government's New Energy Jobs Fund. This funding allowed for dedicated regional staff to manage the project including administration, scoping jobs, quoting systems, arranging contracts, answering calls, providing templates, mail-outs and other functions.

Even with the high level of state funding and greenhouse alliance support structure, five of the six local governments have not chosen to pay for solar systems and recover costs through the rates system. Instead they have participated in bulk-buy based programs and connected low income residents to low cost loans from private providers. The involvement of a number of local governments appears to have been primarily using the rates database to mail out letters to potentially eligible residents, to inform them of the program and direct them to the Solar Savers program regional staff.

One local government is currently undertaking a program similar to the Darebin model. There are 39 households signed up for solar systems that will be funded by the local government (minus \$2,225 Victorian State Government rebate) which will recoup the costs through special rates charges over 10 years at 0% interest.

Not all responses included the number of households involved, but for several local governments the number of systems installed through the program is less than eight. The small number of households involved is likely to be a reason that the overall uptake in rooftop solar systems in participating local governments does not appear to be significantly different to non-participating local governments.

A number of the respondents identified confusion and complexity of the solar market as a barrier to households installing solar systems, in addition to upfront financial costs. Benefits of the program for the participating households including the assurance of independent energy use assessments and advice on system sizes, and confidence in the vetted brands and suppliers.

COMMENT

While the WALGA Policy Statement is noted within the EERS, the Shire of Mundaring has not yet formally endorsed it. This Policy Statement acknowledges that there is a global climate emergency, and calls for:

- i) *Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.*
- ii) *Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.*

The Policy Statement also states that Local Government seeks from State and commonwealth Government *‘partnering with and resourcing Local Government to deliver community emissions reduction programs that are most effectively implemented at the Local Government level.’*

Climate change is already having significant impacts and more urgent mitigation and adaptation changes will be required not only from local governments but from almost all organisations. The Australian Local Government Climate Review 2018 Report (published by ICLEI Oceania Local Governments for Sustainability, Beyond Zero Emissions and Ironbark Sustainability) recommends that local governments ‘replicate the Victorian Regional Greenhouse Alliances model’ and ‘collaborate with regional alliances to leverage opportunities, efficiencies and economies of scale.’

Individual local governments and regional councils are unlikely to be able to maintain multiple ‘alliances’ or networks involving utilities, universities, banks and other corporations. Broader alliances would assist in delivering coordinated and effective regional action to reduce emissions and transition to renewable energy in line with the WALGA Policy Statement on Climate Change.

WALGA could assist with coordination between local governments, beyond advocacy and information sharing. The development of regional structures focussed on climate action would support efficient program delivery and engagement with the State Government in implementing its climate change policy.

In December 2018 the Western Australian Environment Minister announced that the Department of Water and Environment Regulation’s Climate Change Unit would coordinate development of a new climate change policy for the state. The current state strategy, *Adapting to Our Changing Climate*, was published in October 2012 in the context of a national carbon price and did not set a state emissions reduction target:

“The Australian Government introduced a broad-based carbon price in July 2012 which initially takes the form of a \$23 per tonne carbon tax. The carbon price directly covers the larger emitters of stationary energy, industrial processes, waste and fugitive emissions... . An emissions reduction target is not considered appropriate for Western Australia, as the State falls under the overall national targets which will allow abatement to occur across the nation in the least-cost and most economically efficient manner. It is therefore clear that the bulk of mitigation policy will occur at the national level.”

The carbon tax was repealed following a change of federal government, and all other state and territory governments have since adopted state emissions reduction targets and/or renewable energy targets. Victoria, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania have all committed to net zero emissions by 2050. Other state governments have also provided financial assistance to local governments (directly or through regional councils, collaborations or alliance structures) to undertake emissions reduction initiatives and increase renewable energy use. The Western Australian State Government should also be expected to provide for local government assistance, but may prefer to fund more efficient regional collaborations rather than individual local government initiatives.

The structure of the Victorian greenhouse alliances varies, but the role includes accessing large grants and coordination for delivery of regional initiatives. Some only have local government members, while others (such as the Gippsland Climate Change Network) also

includes universities, state agencies, community groups and corporations. ERM staff who have investigated regional sustainability and climate change focussed structures in other states are supportive of the greenhouse alliance model that has been effective in Victoria.

A local example of a regional collaboration was the Perth Solar City program which ran from 2009-2012. Seed funding from the Australian Government Solar Cities Program funding (\$13.9 million) enabled the Perth Solar City program, with additional cash and in-kind funding of \$33.3 million from project partners in a Consortium. The Consortium members included the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council, Mojarra, Prospero Productions, Solahart, SunPower and Synergy. Western Power, as lead Consortium member, was accountable for the delivery of the Program on behalf of the Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

As part of the Perth Solar City program 700 households purchased discounted solar systems and 1,100 purchased discounted solar hot water systems. Over 9,000 households had smart meters installed and 3,500 received a home eco-consultation. A range of other initiatives were also offered to reduce household power use and their effect is summarised in Attachment 1. Many of the interventions included advice or monitoring systems to encourage behaviour changes by residents. While the program was considered successful, it was the substantial external funding that made it possible and brought the Consortium partners together. The cooperative arrangements effectively ended with the federal funding.

The Shire subscribes to the EMRC's Achieving Carbon Emissions Reduction program which includes monitoring Shire energy use and emissions and also advising on significant grant opportunities and developing proposals. There is no funding currently available, however political pressure is building for action on climate change and new grant opportunities may be offered by the federal or State Government. It is likely that if grants are offered then regional scale projects would again be developed, as they are often more attractive to the funding bodies and can be delivered more efficiently than multiple, individual local government projects.

The establishment of regional greenhouse alliances or climate change networks within Western Australia could increase engagement with utilities, universities and corporations. This would support coordination of strong climate change action, consistent with the Shire's Environmental Sustainability Policy, Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy and the WALGA Policy Statement on Climate Change. It would also provide a structure to deliver regional programs such as community solar projects using state or federal funding as this becomes available. Participation in larger networks may be more attractive to universities, utilities, corporations and State agencies than multiple smaller alliances based on existing regional councils.

In addition to advocating for State support and regional collaborations to reduce emissions, the Shire can advocate for increased energy efficiency and uptake of renewable energy by local residents. As noted by several of the Victorian local governments, for many households that could install solar systems the obstacle may be a lack of reliable information or confidence in choosing a system or supplier. The Shire could have a significant role in providing information on solar systems, as well as a range of cheaper energy efficiency measures or behaviour change options to reduce residential emissions.

The Shire and EAC stalls at the upcoming Blue Sky Festival would provide an opportunity for conversations about rooftop solar with a number of residents, or a more formal survey of residents. More information about why people hesitate to install solar systems or make other simpler energy changes would help ensure that the programs or information offered

will be useful to the community. The information collected could then be considered by the Energy and Emissions Working Group to help develop effective communications and assistance for residents and local businesses.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

| |
|-----------------------|
| RECOMMENDATION |
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That Council:

1. Endorses the WALGA Policy Statement on Climate Change;
2. Writes to WALGA to request that they investigate options and local government support for establishing regional greenhouse alliances or climate change networks to coordinate climate change action; and
3. Notes that EAC will consult residents about their household energy use, energy efficiency and uptake of renewable energy during the Blue Sky Festival to better understand community attitudes and opportunities for the Shire to encourage community emissions reduction.



Climate Change Policy Statement

July 2018



Version tracking

| Version number | Date | Author | Comments / Modifications |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|--|
| 1 | February 2018 | Laura Simes | Major revision of 2009 Climate Change Policy Statement, taking into account sector responses to the <i>WALGA Climate Change Position Statement Review Discussion Paper (November 2017)</i> . |
| 2 | May 2018 | Laura Simes | Revisions taking into account sector comments on the <i>Draft Climate Change Policy Statement (March 2018)</i> . Reviewed by Nicole Matthews and Mark Batty. |
| 3 | July 2018 | Laura Simes | Addition to include support for communities impacted, as recommended by State Council (July 2018). |
| | | | |

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1.0 Policy Statement

Local Government acknowledges:

- I. The science is clear: climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.
- II. Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.
- III. Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.
- IV. A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.

Local Government is committed to addressing climate change.

Local Government is calling for:

- I. Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.
- II. Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.



2.0 Rationale

2.1 Purpose and intent of this document

Climate change is a key issue for Local Governments that impacts almost all aspects of their operations and responsibilities.

This Policy Statement represents the consolidated position of Western Australian Local Governments regarding this important issue.

WALGA will promote the Climate Change Policy Statement and act consistently with its content. The Policy Statement will form the basis for WALGA's climate change advocacy on behalf of the WA Local Government sector.

Individual Local Governments are encouraged to support and utilise this Policy Statement in developing and implementing their own climate change strategies and programs, but are not bound by the Policy.

2.2 The science is clear

International scientific consensus is that climate change is occurring, and human activities are the dominant cause.

The *Fifth Assessment Report*, the latest report of the scientific consensus-based Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), found:

Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, sea level has risen, and the concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased¹.

Most aspects of climate change will persist for many centuries even if emissions of CO₂ are stopped².

Surface temperatures will remain approximately constant at elevated levels for many centuries after a complete cessation of net anthropogenic CO₂ emissions. Due to the long time scales of heat transfer from the ocean surface to depth, ocean warming will continue for centuries. Depending on the scenario, about 15 to 40% of emitted CO₂ will remain in the atmosphere longer than 1,000 years. It is virtually certain that global mean sea level rise will continue beyond 2100, with sea level rise due to thermal expansion to continue for many centuries³.

Further, the IPCC has also found:

It is extremely likely [95–100%] that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.⁴



2.3 Climate change is a global threat, and Australia has committed to being part of the solution

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Australia has committed to taking action on climate change and to ensuring that mitigation and adaptation action is equitable and consistent with the aims of the SDGs.

Local Government is committed to meeting international obligations through Australia's participation in protocols and agreements established under the UNFCCC, including but not limited to the Paris Agreement and successive international treaties.

The Paris Agreement expressly recognises the importance of engagement at all levels of government⁵. **Local Government is committed** to contributing to national and international emissions reduction targets to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise to well below 2° Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5° Celsius.

Local Government acknowledges that current worldwide commitments under the Paris Agreement are insufficient to achieve even the 2° Celsius goal⁶. Australia is a developed country with among the highest per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the world⁷. Recognising this, **Local Government calls on the Commonwealth Government show international leadership, by committing to a more ambitious Paris target.**

Local Government recognises that both the impacts of climate change and the policy responses required to contribute to the avoidance of dangerous climate change have significant equity implications⁸. These equity considerations have domestic and international dimensions, for both present and future generations and for the survival of other species. Climate change disproportionately affects disadvantaged and marginalised groups⁹ including the poor and rural and regional communities.

Local Government supports an equitable transition to a carbon constrained world:

- **globally**, the right of developing countries to increase their share of global wealth in ways that remain within the ecological capacities of the planet;
- **domestically**, the need to equitably share the cost of climate change adaptation and mitigation and ensure disadvantaged and marginalised groups receive adequate support. This includes provision of support and incentives for communities impacted by the transition (eg, by fostering innovation, and supporting workforce adjustment packages and new employment opportunities).

Local Government supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and supports climate change action as part of a broader sustainable development agenda.

2.4 Local Government is already acting on climate change, but all levels of Government must act

For Australia to meet its international obligations, all levels of government must act. The Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments have an obligation to address climate change in partnership with Local Government, and in consultation with the community.

Local Government calls on the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments to develop a formalised coordinated approach, such as in the form of a Commonwealth/State/Local Government partnership agreement or Intergovernmental Agreement, establishing consistent and coordinated principles, objectives and actions across Australia that provides for long-term planning to address climate change.

The strategic, long-term planning that Local Government seeks from the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments includes:

- adequate ongoing funding for essential research, science and innovation to underpin climate change policy initiatives and program design¹⁰
- taking direct responsibility for the delivery of mitigation actions, adaptation and resilience planning in areas that lend themselves to centralised coordination at Western Australian or Commonwealth Government level;
- embedding climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations in Government projects and policies (government procurement, land management, development, investment strategies that move away from fossil fuels etc.);
- partnering with and resourcing Local Government to deliver community emissions reduction programs that are most effectively implemented at the Local Government level;
- removing existing barriers to climate mitigation and adaptation actions by Local Government; and
- ensuring all decisions are guided by the precautionary principle.

Local Government calls on the Commonwealth Government to develop and implement a national plan for action to:

- meet Australia's international obligations;
- ensure Australia is prepared to adapt to the impacts of climate change; and
- navigate the pathway to a low carbon economy, fostering innovation, new employment opportunities and economic growth.

Local Government calls on the Western Australian Government for a major revision and update of the 2012 climate change strategy¹¹.



2.5 Local Government urges effective mitigation action

Local Government recognises that there is a global climate emergency which requires urgent action.

Local Government is committed to reducing operational GHG emissions and supporting the reduction of GHG emissions in the community.

Local Government recognises that Australia has the capacity to contribute to global climate change mitigation, by reducing emissions now, in a way that creates positive opportunities for communities, business and the economy.

Local Government acknowledges a successful response to the challenge of climate change requires cross-sectoral action by government, business and the community.

However, there are insufficient long-term Western Australian and Commonwealth Government plans or resources directed to climate change action. There is a particularly significant policy vacuum within the Western Australian Government, with negligible demonstrated or coordinated leadership or long-term planning. Australia and the world is seeing a shift away from fossil fuels towards energy efficient and renewable technologies that includes widespread uptake of rooftop solar¹², battery storage¹³, energy trading¹⁴, virtual power plants¹⁵, electric vehicles¹⁶, energy efficiency and energy productivity¹⁷. The market, business, insurers, many Local Governments, communities and (other) State Governments are moving in this direction. **Local Governments are calling on the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments** to accelerate action and remove barriers to transition to a low carbon, energy efficient economy.

Local Government considers a wide range of policy measures - from regulatory intervention and market-based mechanisms (such as an emissions trading scheme) through to voluntary schemes, education and behaviour change programs - are required to successfully achieve emissions reduction targets.

As part of the required national plan for action, **Local Government calls on the Commonwealth Government** to put in place efficient, effective and equitable measures to drive national emissions reductions.

Local Government is in a unique position to drive and implement mitigation programs, foster innovation and support sustainability at the community level, and has had successful collaborations and partnerships to implement such programs in the past¹⁸.

Local Government calls on the Commonwealth Government to partner with Local Government in its efforts to further reduce GHG emissions, including through:

- renewable energy projects (small scale and large scale);
- energy efficiency projects (eg, mass LED public lighting retrofits);
- waste management;
- enabling take-up of new renewable and sustainable technologies; and



- accelerating the take up of low or zero emissions vehicles (eg, Local Government electric vehicle fleets, installation of electric vehicle charging stations).

Local Government calls on the Western Australian Government to:

- follow the lead of the other States and Territories and introduce a State-level renewable energy and/or emissions reduction target;
- ensure that statutory planning policies are consistent with climate change mitigation priorities (eg, maintaining and increasing urban forest to reduce heat island effect, best practice building energy efficiency etc.); and
- drive mass LED public lighting retrofits, by addressing the regulatory hurdles and unaligned incentives that act as a disincentive to the uptake of low cost, energy efficient public lighting.

Local Government calls on the Environmental Protection Authority to take a stronger regulatory role in assessing and recommending conditions to mitigate the GHG emissions associated with major projects within the Environment Impact Assessment process¹⁹.

2.6 Local Government urges effective adaptation and resilience planning

Local Government is committed to the common goal of ensuring that Western Australia's human communities and natural ecosystems have the resources and assistance to enable them to build maximum resilience and adapt to climate change impacts that are now understood to be unavoidable.

Local Government asserts that it is the responsibility of all spheres of Australian Government to ensure that their decisions, policies and programs take into consideration the likely impact of climate change on current and future human settlements, natural resources and ecosystems and facilitate adaptation to these. These include but are not limited to disaster relief, national security, environment, energy, infrastructure and land use planning, water, housing, health and transport.

Local Government notes there are some policies, programs and limited funding for *coastal* adaptation in Western Australia, and a body of work completed in relation to bushfire planning and management. While this action is welcome, it is insufficient, and there is currently only *minimal* capacity and resourcing available to adapt to other effects of climate change, such as changes in temperature and rainfall, extreme weather events such as heatwaves and floods, flow-on effects such as the health and social impacts of climate change.

In many cases, Local Governments do not have the financial resources to shoulder the cost of implementing adaptation measures alone. This must be a shared responsibility.



Effective adaptation and resilience planning by Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments includes:

- a strategic approach to progressing and funding action for climate change adaptation and building resilience;
- adequate assistance, including funding, for Local Governments and Commonwealth and State agencies engaged in adaptation action;
- recognising and planning for the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and agricultural productivity, particularly in relation to biosecurity;
- sustainable management of water resources;
- providing greater certainty for Local Governments managing their risk and liability flowing from adaptation planning decisions;
- a State-Wide Coastal Hazard Map;
- coastal management legislation in Western Australia to define and establish principles, objects, actions, roles and responsibilities for integrated coastal zone management, with specific reference to planned and managed retreat;
- ensuring the Western Australian planning system adequately incorporates consideration of climate change effects and adaptation issues; and
- hazard identification and planning beyond coastal planning, into current and expected effects of changes on extreme weather events, bushfires, biodiversity, invasive flora and fauna, health, social impacts etc.

Local Government is also calling for national and state emergency management and disaster relief policies that adequately incorporate climate change in their planning and implementation. Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) financial measures need to provide funding to reinstate a damaged or destroyed asset to a more disaster resilient standard, where this is an appropriate and cost effective response based on likely recurrence of the disaster event.

¹ IPCC (2013). "Summary for Policymakers" in *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA at 4. Available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/>.

² As above, at 27.

³ As above, at 28.

⁴ As above, at 17. The term "extremely likely" is defined by the IPCC as having an assessed likelihood of 95-100%: See "Chapter 1: Introduction" in *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA at 121 (footnote 2).

⁵ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015) *Adoption of the Paris Agreement*, 21st Conference of the Parties, Paris: United Nations at 2. Available at: http://unfccc.int/files/home/application/pdf/paris_agreement.pdf.



⁶ The Climate Action Tracker (Climate Analytics, Ecofys & NewClimate Institute) calculates the gap in current policies, Paris Commitments and the emissions reductions required to keep the world at a 1.5°C and a 2.0 °C increase. Available here: <https://climateactiontracker.org/global/cat-emissions-gaps/>.

⁷ Australia has the highest per capita emissions of the OECD countries, and the seventh highest per capita in the world after Kuwait, Brunei, Qatar, Belize, Oman and Bahrain: CAIT Climate Data Explorer (World Resources Institute) (2018). *GHG Emissions Totals Excluding Land Use Change and Forestry Per Capita 2014*. Available at: <http://cait.wri.org/historical>.

⁸ Althor, G. et al. Global mismatch between greenhouse gas emissions and the burden of climate change. *Sci. Rep.* 6, 20281; doi: 10.1038/srep20281 (2016). Available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep20281>.

⁹ "People who are socially, economically, culturally, politically, institutionally or otherwise marginalised are especially vulnerable to climate change" IPCC (2014). Summary for Policymakers" in *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, at 6. Available at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/>. See also CSIRO (2015). *Climate Change Adaptation for Health and Social Services*, edited by Rae Walker and Wendy Mason. CSIRO Publishing, and L Rickards et al. (2016). *On the Frontline: Climate Change & Rural Communities*. Climate Commission. Available at <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/ruralreport>.

¹⁰ For example, BOM and CSIRO's Climate Change in Australia: <https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/>, Western Australian Marine Science Institution: <https://www.wamsi.org.au/>, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility: <https://www.nccarf.edu.au/> and CoastAdapt: <https://coastadapt.com.au/>.

¹¹ Western Australian Government (2012). *Adapting to our Changing Climate*. Available at: <https://www.der.wa.gov.au/your-environment/climate-change/254-adapting-to-climate-change>.

¹² See for example: A Bruce & I MacGill. "FactCheck Q&A: Is Australia the world leader in household solar power?" *The Conversation*. 28 March 2016. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/factcheck-qanda-is-australia-the-world-leader-in-household-solar-power-56670>.

¹³ See for example: N Harmsen. "Elon Musk's giant lithium ion battery completed by Tesla in SA's Mid North". *ABC News*. 24 November 2017. Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-23/worlds-most-powerful-lithium-ion-battery-finished-in-sa/9183868>; Climate Council. *Fully Charged: Renewables and Storage Powering Australia*. 2018. Available at: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/battery-storage-2018/>.

¹⁴ See for example: K Diss, "Blockchain technology fuels peer-to-peer solar energy trading in Perth start-up". *ABC News*. 11 October 2017. Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-11/blockchain-technology-fuels-peer-to-peer-energy-trading-start-up/9035616>.

¹⁵ See for example: C Chang. "South Australian government strikes deal with Tesla to install free batteries to 50,000 homes". *News.com.au*. 5 February 2018. Available at: <http://www.news.com.au/technology/innovation/south-australian-government-strikes-deal-with-tesla-to-install-free-batteries-to-50000-homes/news-story/fd04731350da176c374383f3fb25e947/>.

¹⁶ A Gray. "Countries are announcing plans to phase out petrol and diesel cars. Is yours on the list?" *World Economic Forum*. 26 September 2017. Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/09/countries-are-announcing-plans-to-phase-out-petrol-and-diesel-cars-is-yours-on-the-list/>.

¹⁷ Energy productivity is an indicator of the amount of economic output that is derived from each unit of energy consumed. See, for example, the Australian Alliance for Energy Productivity project to double productivity by 2030: <https://www.2xep.org.au/>.

¹⁸ For example as delivery agents of the Commonwealth Government's Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) and Local Government Energy Efficiency Program (LGEEP) and the Cities for Climate Protection.

¹⁹ See commentary on State climate change in the EPA's *Annual Report 2016-2017* at 38-40. Available at: <http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/annual-reports/epa-annual-report-2016-2017>.



Appendix A

Acronyms

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| BOM | Bureau of Meteorology |
| CAIT | Climate Access Indicators Tool |
| CEEP | Community Energy Efficiency Program |
| CO ₂ | Carbon dioxide |
| CPP | Cities for Climate Protection |
| CSIRO | Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas |
| ICLEI | International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – Local Governments for Sustainability |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| LED | Light Emitting Diode |
| LGEEP | Local Government Energy Efficiency Program |
| NCCARF | National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| UNFCCC | United National Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| WALGA | Western Australian Local Government Association |
| WAMSI | Western Australian Marine Science Institution |
| WANDRRA | Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements |
| WRI | World Resources Institute |

Appendix B

Background Information

Climate change in Australia¹:

- Australia's climate has warmed in both surface air temperature and surrounding sea surface temperature by around 1°C since 1910.
- By late this century, Australia's average temperature is projected to increase by 3–5°C compared to a 1986–2005 baseline under the current global trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions, 1.5–2.5 °C for a medium emissions scenario or 0.5–1.5 °C for a low emissions scenario.
- There has been, and will continue to be, an increase in the number of days with weather conducive to fire in southern and eastern Australia. The number of days is projected to double by the end of the century under a high emissions scenario.
- May–July rainfall has reduced by around 19 per cent since 1970 in the southwest.
- Winter rainfall is projected to decrease across southern Australia, by a median of 17 per cent with a range of 2–32 per cent under a high emissions scenario by the end of the century, relative to 1986–2005, with more time spent in drought.
- Past and ongoing emissions commit us to further sea-level rise around Australia of around 6–19 cm by 2030, relative to the 1986–2005 baseline. By 2100, sea level rise could exceed two metres².
- The rise in mean sea level will amplify the effects of high tides and storm surges.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): This is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change. IPCC assessments provide a scientific basis for governments at all levels to develop climate related policies, and they underlie negotiations at the UN Climate Conferences. IPCC reports undergo multiple rounds of drafting and review to ensure they are comprehensive and objective and produced in an open and transparent way. Thousands of other experts contribute to the reports by acting as reviewers, ensuring the reports reflect the full range of views in the scientific community.

Paris Agreement: The first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal, adopted by 195 countries at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Paris, December 2015. It aims to respond to the global climate change threat by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C. It aims for global greenhouse gases to peak as soon as possible, and seeks to foster resilience and climate adaptation. Full text of the Paris Agreement is available [here](#). As of November 2017, all 195 countries have signed on to the Paris Agreement. The United States of America has indicated an intention to withdraw (it is unable to withdraw until November 2020). Further information tracking country ratifications and targets is available [here](#).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): In September 2015, 193 countries (including Australia) agreed to the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. The SDGs are a successor to the Millennium Development Goals, but unlike the Millennium Development Goals, relate to all developed and emerging countries, as well as



developing countries. They aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, build strong institutions and partnerships, and more. Aims include climate action (Goal 13), affordable and clean energy (Goal 7), responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) and sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11). For further information on how the SDGs are relevant to Local Governments, see the Global Network of Cities, Local and Regional Government (UCLG) publication "The Sustainable Development Goals: What Local governments need to know", available [here](#).

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): an international environmental treaty adopted on 9 May 1992. The UNFCCC objective is to "stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system".

Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA): provides a range of financial relief measures to assist communities to recover from an eligible natural disaster event, jointly funded by the Western Australian and Australian Governments, which reimburses Local Governments for the restoration and replacement of essential public assets owned by a local government to the extent necessary to restore the asset to the equivalent of its pre-disaster standard.

Western Australian Local Government action on climate change: WA Local Governments have, for a number of years, been actively engaged in a range of climate change mitigation and adaptation activity, together with education and encouraging awareness and behaviour change amongst residents. Many Local Governments have made voluntary commitments or pledges in relation to climate change, including the following:

| Pledge | Description | Number of Local Government Participants |
|--|--|---|
| Local Government Climate Change Declaration | Developed by WALGA. A voluntary opportunity for Local Governments to demonstrate their political commitment to locally appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation action. ³ | 40 (representing 65% of the WA population) |
| Divesting from fossil fuels | Commitment to shift money out of banks that fund fossil fuels. ⁴ | 12 (representing 30% of the WA population) |
| Compact of Mayors | A coalition of city leaders around the world committed to addressing climate change. ⁵ | 4 |
| Cities Power Partnership | Launched July 2017 by the Climate Council, aims to celebrate and accelerate emission reductions and clean energy in Australian towns and cities. ⁶ | 10 |



In the past, Western Australian Local Governments have been key delivery agents of Commonwealth Government climate change mitigation programs, such as the Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP), the Local Government Energy Efficiency Program (LGEEP) and the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program that was delivered by ICLEI with Commonwealth Government support. The LGEEP and CEEP grants assisted Local Governments in undertaking a wide range of building energy efficiency, LED public lighting and geothermal projects.

| Program | Program dates | WA Local Government participants |
|--|---------------|--|
| Cities for Climate Protection | 1999-2006 | 30 |
| Local Government Energy Efficiency Program (LGEEP) | 2011-2014 | 50 (includes 1 WALGA grant) |
| Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) | 2011-2016 | 15 (includes 1 WALGA grant) |
| Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) | 2014-present | 2 (both transitioned from the Carbon Farming Initiative) |

Adaptation is a current issue for Local Government, particularly as the effects of climate change are now unequivocally being felt, and Local Governments are in a position where they need to be planning for further effects of climate change in the future.

The Western Australian State Government provides around \$1.3 million funding per year under the CoastWest, Coastal Management Plan Assistance Program and Coastal Adaptation and Protection programs. In contrast, the New South Wales State Government (with a coastline one sixth the length of Western Australia), is providing \$63 million over five years. The Queensland State Government (with a coastline a little over half the length of Western Australia) provides \$12 million dollars over three years.

The Western Australian state planning system has encompassed coastal adaptation planning, but this has not yet been expanded to deal with other current and expected issues such as changes in temperature, rainfall and extreme weather events (including floods), heatwaves and bushfires.

¹ CSIRO 2016 *State of the Climate*. <https://www.csiro.au/en/Showcase/state-of-the-climate>.

² B Dennis and C Mooney. 2016. 'Scientists nearly double sea level rise projections for 2100, because of Antarctica'. *The Washington Post*. 30 March 2016. Available at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/03/30/antarctic-loss-could-double-expected-sea-level-rise-by-2100-scientists-say/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.574c448f582f.

³ For further information see here: <http://walga.asn.au/Policy-Advice-and-Advocacy/Environment/Climate-Change.aspx>.



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- ⁴ For a list of Australian Local Governments that have committed to divest see here: <http://gofossilfree.org.au/fossil-free-councils/>. Not listed are City of Bayswater, City of Subiaco and the Shire of Mundaring, which have also recently committed to divest.
- ⁵ Cities of Joondalup, Perth, Melville and Mandurah. Further information about the Compact of Mayors available here: <https://www.compactofmayors.org/>.
- ⁶ Local Governments participating in the Cities Power Partnership are shown on the map here: <http://citiespowerpartnership.org.au/power-partners/>.



Perth's Eastern Region was home to the Perth Solar City Program; one of seven designated solar cities across Australia. The \$94 million Australian Government Solar Cities Program offered a suite of initiatives designed to bring together individuals, communities, governments and businesses to trial and showcase practical and creative ways to be smarter about energy use.

From 2009 to 2012, over 16,000 households participated in the Perth Solar City program, making it WA's most comprehensive energy efficiency program. Collectively, participating households saved over \$1 million on their electricity bills during 2012. In total:

- 9,269 smart meters were installed;
- 3,515 households received a home eco-consultation;
- 6,300 households participated in 12 months of eco-coaching;
- 2,251 households received a smart meter enabled in-home display;
- 746 households participated in an innovative time-of-use tariff trial;
- 700 homes were fitted with a SunPower photovoltaic (PV) system, and
- 1,100 homes purchased a Solahart solar hot water system.

The EMRC would like to thank everyone who took part in the program. Your participation has provided valuable information which has been reported back to the Australian Government through the national Solar Cities program to inform future government policy.

| | AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICITY REDUCTION | PEAK ELECTRICITY REDUCTION (2PM-8PM WEEKDAYS) |
|---|--|--|
| Demand management (Air Conditioning Trial - ACT) | N/A | 25% (during weekends) |
| Time-of-use tariff (PowerShift) | 5.1% | 8.9% 11.8% on top 10 critical peak days during 2011 and 2012 |
| In-home display (MAX) | 1.5% | 5.0% |
| Time of use tariff and in-home display | 6.3% | 13.1% |
| Home eco-consultation | 12.3% | 7.7% |
| Living Smart (behaviour change) | 7.5% | 7.1% |
| Living Smart, home eco- consultation and in-home demonstration | 21.4% | 16.6% |
| Residential solar hot water | 18.2% | N/A |
| Residential solar PV | 40.7% | N/A |

Summary of Responses from Local Governments Participating in Victorian Solar Savers Program

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Brimbank City Council | 194,319 residents in 2016 | | |
| Incentives or justification | Costs & funding | Benefits achieved / expected | Reaction of community |
| Supported by external funding; reduction of greenhouse emissions in residential sector aligned with Greenhouse Reduction Strategy and Climate Change Adaptation Framework. Note separate Positive Charge program offered to all Brimbank residents to help simplify the purchasing and installation of a solar system with independent advice and vetted list of solar providers. | Regional Solar Savers Program (coordinated by Maroondah City Council) received funding of \$760,000 from the Victorian Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning. This provided for regional staff, set up of bank financing program, and administration of the program. Brimbank contributed approximately \$2000 in-kind, e.g. mailing out letters to target audience. | Barriers faced by low-income pensioner households include complexity of solar market and lack of access to affordable loans to purchase solar. The bank loan pilot offered households a special low-interest loan from a private sector finance provider. Two systems installed, fourteen underway and fourteen in the vetting process. | Marketed as an alternative way to purchase solar with reliable parts and suppliers; assessment of energy bill to ensure at least \$100 savings each year; guided through the process of solar purchase. Solar programs and workshops received very positively by community. "Council is taking the complexity and confusion out of going solar." |
| Indigo Shire Council | 15,465 residents in 2016 | | |
| Incentives or justification | Costs & funding | Benefits achieved / expected | Reaction of community |
| The incentive to join was the ability to access benefits of energy consultants and the grant funding (\$760,000 to greenhouse alliances from New Energy Jobs Fund). The program had a demonstrated success and excellent feedback from the previous rounds before Indigo Shire became involved. | Indigo Shire did not offer the rates based mechanism, and residents of our Shire that participated in the program either self-funded the installation or were connected with a low interest finance option. The costs incurred were minimal, comprising of mail out costs to eligible residents and in-kind staff time. | Eight solar systems installed. Benefits to residents included access to low interest finance and free access to an unbiased, objective energy consultant. A barrier to uptake of solar has been a lack of objective information. Benefits to the Shire included leveraging a substantial amount of grant funding with other councils to provide a service at a very low cost. | The letter to eligible rate payers (based on rates database) directed enquiries to the regional Solar Savers team, therefore Solar Savers had most interaction with participants. Community members were positive about the experience. The council-endorsed program added assurance to customers that process and suppliers could be trusted. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mount Alexander Shire Council | 18,239 residents in 2016 | | |
| Incentives or justification | Costs & funding | Benefits achieved / expected | Reaction of community |
| Supporting vulnerable residents with cost of living pressures, and assisting low income pensioners to avoid the upfront costs of solar. The shared service delivery model led by the greenhouse alliances was attractive as it enabled us to participate in the program at little cost (in-kind) and the project management was delivered externally. | Mt Alexander was not in a position to follow the Darebin model with special rates charges to recoup the costs of solar from households. The regional project Mt Alexander participated in included an option of promoting a low interest bank loan as an alternative funding model, which made it possible to participate. The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) managed procurement. | Often households installing solar are confronted by the complexity of choosing the right solar system and installer for their home. This complexity can be paralysing for all but the most technically minded. Homeowners need information on the number of panels, types and size of inverters, warranty details and whether the installer has the appropriate experience and qualifications. Drawing on the expertise of Victorian councils, MAV, the Alternative Technology Association and four Victorian greenhouse alliances gave pensioners confidence that they would receive a quality, reliable and safe solar system for their home. | Council promoted Solar Savers to appropriate households through its Home and Community Care program. The Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance was responsible for the project management. |
| Gannawarra Shire Council | 9,919 residents in 2016 | | |
| Incentives or justification | Costs & funding | Benefits achieved / expected | Reaction of community |
| Has decided not to participate in the Solar Savers program for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years. | - | Experience to date has not been positive. Noted alternative state government Solar Victoria program. | Previous 'solar for low income households' program did not meet the target of four (4) households. |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Hepburn Shire Council | 14,859 residents in 2016 | | |
| Incentives or justification | Costs & funding | Benefits achieved / expected | Reaction of community |
| The Solar Savers program is well proven in Victoria and we were able to access the program and all of the administration support and expertise that comes with it. Solar Savers staff cover administration such as scoping jobs, quoting systems, arranging contracts, answering calls, providing templates, mail-outs and a number of other functions. | The systems are being fully funded by Council and will be repaid through a 0% interest loan over a period of ten years. A large part of the system cost (\$2,225 per system) will be covered by the Victorian State Government rebate, collected by Council and applied to the debt to reduce loan terms. There is a need for a full time person for the 2-3 month set-up of the program. Also Shire in-kind costs for Council reports and communications, mail-outs, rates changes etc. | Previously participated in a similar program which was not highly subscribed within the Shire, with only six households signing up. Current round has thirty-nine households signed up. | Current combination of 0% interest, additional state rebates, community information sessions and environmental awareness has increased applications. |
| Bayside City Council | 102,427 residents in 2016 | | |
| Incentives or justification | Costs & funding | Benefits achieved / expected | Reaction of community |
| Council's Environmental Sustainability Framework included an action to provide a solar 'bulk-buy' program to residents. | Used the 'Low-interest bank loan' model, not the Special Rates Charge model. As all administration was managed through an officer appointed by a regional Greenhouse Alliance, program contributions and Victorian government grants, program administration costs to Council were minimal. | Only three solar systems were installed as most residents who were interested were ineligible as they did not meet the 'low-income' requirement for participation. | Ran a well-attended workshop of over 30 participants to explain the program and its benefits. The three households who installed solar panels have been evaluated and are happy with the savings on bills through the program. |

7.0 URGENT BUSINESS (LATE REPORTS)

8.0 CLOSING PROCEDURES

8.1 Date, Time and Place of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, 22 May 2019 at 6.00pm in the Committee Room, 7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring.

Future Meeting Dates

Wednesday, 21 August 2019

Wednesday, 20 November 2019

8.2 Closure of the Meeting