

# Draft Integrated Climate Strategy for Consultation

Strategic Alignment - Environmental Leadership

Public

**Tuesday, 5 December 2023**  
**City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee**

**Program Contact:**  
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**Approving Officer:**  
Ilia Houridis, Director City Shaping

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present a draft Integrated Climate Strategy (draft Strategy), for the purposes of public consultation.

The draft Strategy is informed by recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee and discussions at its meetings on [10 May 2023](#), [4 August 2023](#) and [10 November 2023](#).

The draft Strategy replaces seven existing City of Adelaide climate related plans and strategies into a single integrated Strategy. A review of all existing plans and strategies was undertaken to inform the draft Strategy.

The draft Strategy comprises Council policy and strategy for climate related action to 2030 and establishes consolidated directions for the community and Council's own operations under five goals as follows:

- Goal 1: A climate resilient city
- Goal 2: A net zero city
- Goal 3: A city where nature thrives
- Goal 4: Transition to a decarbonised economy
- Goal 5: A climate leading capital city council.

Each goal includes priorities, targets and an outline of the scale of action required to deliver on the draft Strategy.

The timing of the draft Strategy will enable it to inform Council's 2024/2025 annual business plan and budget process.

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## RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 12 December 2023 for consideration

THAT THE CITY PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

THAT COUNCIL

1. Endorses the draft Integrated Climate Strategy contained in Attachment A to Item 5.1 on the Agenda for the Special meeting of the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee held on 5 December 2023, for the purposes of public consultation.
2. Endorses the draft Integrated Climate Strategy Engagement Plan contained in Attachment B to Item 5.1 on the Agenda for the Special meeting of the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee held on 5 December 2023, for the purposes of public consultation.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor and technical amendments to the documents contained in Attachment A and Attachment B to Item 5.1 on the Agenda for the Special meeting of the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee held on 5 December 2023, for the purposes of finalising the documents for public consultation.

## IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

<p>City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan</p>	<p><b>Strategic Alignment – Environmental Leadership</b></p> <p>The draft Integrated Climate Strategy has been developed for alignment with the draft City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028 endorsed for consultation on 24 October 2023. The Strategic Alignment section of the draft Integrated Climate Strategy will be updated to reflect Council's decision on the draft Strategic Plan 2024-2028.</p>
<p>Policy</p>	<p>The draft Integrated Climate Strategy (draft Strategy) public consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Consultation Policy dated 16 July 2019.</p> <p>The Integrated Climate Strategy will replace the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025, Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015-2025, Climate Risk Adaptation Plan 2021-2026, Resource Recovery Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2028, Zero Emissions Vehicle Plan 2019-2030, Water Sensitive Cities Plan 2021-2025 and Integrated Biodiversity Management Plan 2018-2023 and delivers on the former Council's decision to develop a Climate Policy.</p>
<p>Consultation</p>	<p>Targeted stakeholder and broad community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Consultation Policy.</p> <p>Internal consultation to develop this draft Strategy occurred across the City of Adelaide Park Lands, Policy and Sustainability Program and Traffic and Transport teams. Further internal engagement will be undertaken during the public consultation period, including discussion about potential budget proposals for 2024/25 and resource plan.</p>
<p>Resource</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Risk / Legal / Legislative</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>The development of an Integrated Climate Strategy will clarify Council's policy position and role in responding to climate change for the community and its own operations.</p>
<p>23/24 Budget Allocation</p>	<p>Funding for Climate related objectives in 2023/24 is \$2,571,683, across:</p> <p>Climate Change Action Initiative Fund (CCAIF) \$783,250 (excluding salaries): \$125,000 to climate action plan implementation, \$140,000 to climate active certification and inventories, \$225,500 to Sustainability Incentive Scheme and \$180,000 to community and business support, \$51,250 to climate risk adaptation, \$20,500 to water sensitive city, \$10,250 for Resilient East Partnership and \$30,750 to the Taking Climate Action Roadmap. The CCAIF deliverables have included funding direct works via the Sustainability Incentive Scheme, community battery investigations, urban cooling approach project with University of Adelaide, River Torrens recovery project, development of carbon calculators, Race for 2030 precinct electrification partnership, collaborative offsets project and purchase of offset credits.</p> <p>The City of Adelaide Resource Recovery Strategy and Action Plan of \$788,433 to deliver. This strategic project funding concludes in 2023/24.</p> <p>Council allocated an additional \$1.0M for greening in 2023/24 to increase tree canopy cover in the City of Adelaide.</p>
<p>Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation</p>	<p>The draft Strategy will require prioritisation of actions through the 2024/25 annual business plan and budget process, with consideration of climate initiatives in the short, medium and long term. Costs, above current service levels, for implementation of key initiatives over the life of the Strategy will be presented with the final draft Strategy and incorporated into the Long-term Financial Plan pending prioritisation through the 2024/25 budget process, which will include consideration of grant program funding levels as well as initiative funding.</p>

Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The draft Strategy is proposed to deliver climate actions from 2024-2030.
23/24 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

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# DISCUSSION

## Background

1. At its meeting on 10 May 2023, the Audit and Risk Committee considered that the mid-point review of the Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026 be brought forward and an update be provided to the October 2023 Audit and Risk Committee meeting.
  - 1.1. *At the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 10 May 2023, at Item 5.1 - Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan, it was resolved that the Audit and Risk Committee:*
    1. *Notes the report.*
    2. *Recommends bringing forward the mid point review of the Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan and requests an update to the October Audit and Risk Committee meeting.*
2. The Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan (Plan) 2021-2026 includes actions to integrate climate risk management into governance documents and processes, facility planning and management and service provision.
3. An update was provided to the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting on 4 August 2023, at which the Committee commended the intention to integrate Council's Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026 and the City of Adelaide Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 by December 2023.
  - 3.1. *At the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 4 August 2023, at Item 5.3 – Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan, it was resolved that the Audit and Risk Committee recommends to Council that Council:*
    1. *Notes the report.*
    2. *Commends the intention to integrate Council's Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026 and the City of Adelaide Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 by December 2023.*
    3. *Notes the internal audit review project proposed as part of the strategic internal audit plan in relation to strategic climate change impacts.*
4. On 4 August 2023, the Audit and Risk Committee considered a three-phase approach to review the Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan:
  - 4.1. Phases 1 and 2 of the review are complete and involved assessment of the Action Plan's achievements to date and comprehensive review of the Plan to enhance its effectiveness and improve its capacity to address climate risks.
  - 4.2. Phase 3 of the approach includes target setting, developing metrics and measurement, defining Council's role(s), integration across the organisation and roadmap for implementation. Phase 3 is being delivered through the draft Strategy and an internal audit of the Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan.
5. A further report on progress will be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee in 2024.

## Development of the Draft Strategy

6. The draft Strategy in **Attachment A** has been prepared in consultation with key consultation stakeholders and is informed by a series of Council decisions and strategic directions, as follows:
  - 6.1. Council's draft Strategic Plan 2024-2028 endorsed for public consultation on 24 October 2023, which states under its environment pillar:
    - 6.1.1. In ten years Adelaide will be a nation leading Green City in a Park showcasing the benefits of green infrastructure, increased biodiversity and a community that is adaptive and resilient to climate change.
  - 6.2. City Plan – stakeholder engagement through the City Plan Studio Sessions held in September 2023.
  - 6.3. Council endorsed its current Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 on 2 May 2022 following comprehensive community consultation. The Plan was developed for a three-year timeframe to align with the conclusion of the Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015-2025. Implementation of the Plan commenced under the previous Council term in 2022/23 and has continued in 2023/24. The remaining actions are integrated in the draft Strategy.
  - 6.4. In endorsing the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025, the Council decision included as a priority action in 2023/24, that Administration would revise the community emissions target and map emission reduction pathways. Updated targets and emission reduction pathways are included in the draft Strategy.

- 6.5. A draft Climate Policy was developed in response to a CEO Undertaking given at the Council meeting on 10 May 2022. A draft Climate Change Policy was developed and approved for consultation on 9 August 2022 under the previous Council term. The draft Climate Policy was publicly consulted on in 2022 and is delivered through the draft Strategy.
- 6.6. On 28 March 2023, Council asked Administration to prepare a report for Council on an electric vehicle (EV) transition roadmap for consideration as part of the 2024/25 budget process. The EV Transition Roadmap was endorsed by Council on 24 October 2023 with seven priority actions which are included in the draft Strategy. Additional work to progress targets for EV Infrastructure and further investigation of electric micro-mobility are being progressed in parallel to the draft Strategy.
- 6.7. On 13 June 2023, Council directed Administration to prepare a report reviewing the Sustainability Incentives Scheme (SIS) to assess its effectiveness in reducing community greenhouse gas emissions and identify opportunities for more targeted future investment. The SIS is a key funding mechanism for the Integrated Climate Strategy and work to enact Council's decision is occurring in parallel with the draft Strategy for reporting to Council in February 2024.
7. The draft Strategy replaces seven existing City of Adelaide climate strategies and plans suitable for integration into a single Strategy that focuses Council's climate activities and investment:
  - 7.1. Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 (review brought forward from 2024/25)
  - 7.2. Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015-2025 (final report published with the State Government at the conclusion of the partnership)
  - 7.3. Climate Risk Adaptation Plan 2021-2026 (mid-point review brought forward to 2023/24 at the request of Audit and Risk Committee)
  - 7.4. Resource Recovery Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2028 (mid-point review in 2023/24)
  - 7.5. Zero Emissions Vehicle Plan 2019-2030 (mid-point review in 2023/24)
  - 7.6. Water Sensitive Cities Plan 2021-2025 (review brought forward from 2024/25)
  - 7.7. Integrated Biodiversity Management Plan 2018-2023 (being reviewed in 2023/24).
8. A review of actions across the existing strategies and plans has been undertaken to prioritise those that best align with the feedback from Council to date on its climate priorities and with reference to the strategic priorities set out in Council's draft Strategic Plan 2024-2028. The draft Strategy includes themes from all existing plans updated to reflect Council priorities.
9. The draft Strategy is being informed by Council initiatives funded in the 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget including:
  - 9.1. Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Roadmap (endorsed by Council on 24 October 2023)
  - 9.2. Adelaide Park Lands Biodiversity Survey as a key evidence base for the draft Strategy and its ongoing monitoring and reporting
  - 9.3. Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Infrastructure Investment priority study to inform opportunities to improve 29 priority locations for street scale WSUD improvements and 14 Adelaide Park Lands large-scale WSUD opportunities.
  - 9.4. Tree auditing and canopy analysis undertaken as a key evidence base for the draft Strategy and urban greening
  - 9.5. Kerbside audit of waste diversion and resource recovery by residents and businesses
  - 9.6. An additional \$1M for greening in to increase tree canopy cover in the City of Adelaide.

### **Draft Integrated Climate Strategy**

10. The draft Strategy is structured under five goals, each with priorities, targets and required undertakings, that address community and Council climate action. A two-page summary of the goals, priorities and targets is provided for reference (Link 4 view [here](#)). The goals and priorities are:
  - 10.1. Goal 1: A climate resilient city
    - 10.1.1. A cool city with no urban heat island effect.
    - 10.1.2. Greening supported by sustainable water resources.
    - 10.1.3. Homes and businesses are protected from climate hazards.

- 10.2. Goal 2: A net zero city
  - 10.2.1. All homes and businesses will be electrified and powered by renewables.
  - 10.2.2. Public EV charging infrastructure is available for all users, including micro-mobility, catalysing the uptake of EV's in Adelaide.
  - 10.2.3. Triple the number of city workers who cycle to work, and double the number of local residents who walk to work.
- 10.3. Goal 3: A city where nature thrives
  - 10.3.1. Caring for Country in partnership with Kaurna Miyurna.
  - 10.3.2. Biodiversity, native grasslands and woodlands are protected and enhanced.
  - 10.3.3. Karrawirra Pari, waterways, Adelaide Park Lands and Squares act as arteries connecting our native species.
- 10.4. Goal 4: Transition to a decarbonised economy
  - 10.4.1. Growth in circular economy industries in the city.
  - 10.4.2. Procurement decisions that localise supply, prioritise reuse and drive green industries.
  - 10.4.3. Zero avoidable kerbside waste to landfill ('zero waste') by 2035.
- 10.5. Goal 5: A climate leading capital city council
  - 10.5.1. Reduce City of Adelaide's operational carbon emissions 75% from 2020 to 2030 and achieve absolute zero emissions by 2035.
  - 10.5.2. Transitioning our corporate fleet to zero emissions.
  - 10.5.3. Climate change and sustainability are integrated into how we do business.

## Resourcing and Financing

- 11. The City of Adelaide has existing funding mechanisms for the delivery of the draft Strategy. These will be considered as part of the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget Process for prioritisation and contribute towards climate actions that impact the operation of the City of Adelaide and community progress on climate action.
  - 11.1. Climate actions are currently funded via the Climate Change Action Initiative Fund (CCAIF). The CCAIF is comprised of 1% of rates revenue and funds operating priorities and salary costs.
  - 11.2. Of the total CCAIF funding, \$225,500 is directed to the Sustainability Incentives Scheme (SIS) which offers small scale rebates (up to \$25,000) for eligible community, not-for-profit and business sustainability improvements. Since 2015, the SIS has invested over \$1.6 million dollars in over 700 projects and leveraged \$8.30 of community investment for every dollar spent. A review of the SIS will be presented to Council in February 2024 seeking to expand funding to enable larger scale Council investment in business and community activities, such adaptive reuse projects.
  - 11.3. Investment in capital works (major projects, new and significant upgrades) and further integration of climate priorities in procurement, project management frameworks, Asset Management Plans, and the Long Term Financial Plan.
- 12. The scale of action identified in the draft Strategy will require additional budget allocation toward climate activities. The draft Strategy will enable discussions by Council through the 2024/25 budget deliberations.

## Next Steps

- 13. Pending decision by Council on the draft Integrated Climate Strategy for public consultation, targeted stakeholder and broader community consultation will commence in February 2024 (**Attachment B**).
- 14. Review of the Sustainability Incentives Scheme is scheduled to be presented to Council in February 2024.
- 15. A separate piece of work is being commissioned in 2023/24 to peer review the draft Strategy including priorities and metrics, and to develop a risk and reporting structure for the delivery and monitoring of the Strategy. These will be included in the draft Strategy for consideration by Council post consultation.
- 16. The updated Integrated Climate Strategy is targeting presentation to the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee in March or April 2024, subject to conclusion and assessment of the public consultation process and will include a resource plan and monitoring framework.

## DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – [Audit and Risk Committee, Agenda Item 5.1, Friday 10 May 2023](#)

Link 2 – [Audit and Risk Committee, Agenda Item 5.3, Friday 4 August 2023](#)

Link 3 – [Audit and Risk Committee, Agenda Item 5.4, Friday 10 November 2023](#)

Link 4 – Draft Integrated Climate Strategy – Two Page Summary

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## ATTACHMENTS

**Attachment A** – Draft Integrated Climate Strategy

**Attachment B** – Draft Integrated Climate Strategy Engagement Plan

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