

Draft Integrated Climate Strategy for Endorsement

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Public

Tuesday, 4 June 2024

City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee

Program Contact:

Sarah Gilmour, Associate Director Park Lands, Policy & Sustainability

Approving Officer:

Ilia Houridis, Director City Shaping

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement on the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 (Strategy), provided in **Attachment A**, which incorporates consultation feedback on the draft Integrated Climate Strategy (draft Strategy) and is updated for recent Council priorities delivered through related initiatives.

On 12 December 2023 ([Link 1](#)) Council endorsed the draft Strategy for public consultation. Consultation opened on 5 February 2024 for a period of six weeks until 18 March 2024 (extended from 15 March 2024).

The consultation outcomes were presented to Council on 14 May 2024 ([Link 2](#)). Proposed amendments for the final Strategy have been included in **Attachment B**.

Key themes arising from the consultation are summarised as:

- General support for the draft Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 and proposed goals and priorities.
- Investment in public infrastructure for active transport, and street trees for greening and shading.
- Increasing community awareness of existing opportunities and programs that support action, such as the Incentives for Sustainability program, and energy and resource recovery assessments.
- There will be transitional challenges for many of the key actions identified in the draft Strategy requiring new actions or significant change to existing work to deliver the outcomes sought.

Priority actions for implementation in 2024/25 have been identified, subject to the finalisation of the draft 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget. The priority actions respond to the Council's decision on 13 February 2024 to identify alternative ways to reduce community carbon emissions through the Sustainability Incentive Scheme ([Link 3](#)).

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 11 June 2024 for consideration

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

THAT COUNCIL

1. Endorses the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee held on 4 June 2024.
2. Notes the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 will replace the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025, Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015-2025, Climate Risk Adaptation Plan 2021-2026, Waste and Recycling Services Policy 2014, 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.

3. Authorises the Acting Chief Executive Officer or delegate to make minor and technical amendments to the document contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee held on 4 June 2024 for the purpose of finalising the document for publication.
 4. Approves discontinuing the purchase of carbon offsets and adopting an approach to investing in direct emission reduction climate activities.
 5. Notes priority actions for implementation in 2024/25 will be determined through the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget process.
 6. Notes the risk and reporting framework for the delivery and monitoring of the Integrated Climate Strategy will be delivered in the first quarter of 2024/25 and reported through the Audit and Risk Committee in September 2024.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	<p>Strategic Alignment – Our Environment</p> <p>The Integrated Climate Strategy has been developed for alignment with the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028.</p>
Policy	<p>The Integrated Climate Strategy public consultation was undertaken in accordance with Council’s Community Consultation Policy.</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, Waste and Recycling Services Policy 2014, 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>
Consultation	<p>Consultation was undertaken from 5 February 2024 to 18 March 2024 in accordance with the engagement plan endorsed by the Council on 12 December 2023.</p>
Resource	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
Risk / Legal / Legislative	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
Opportunities	<p>The Integrated Climate Strategy will clarify Council’s policy position and role in responding to climate change for the community and its own operations.</p>
23/24 Budget Allocation	<p>Funding for Climate related objectives in 2023/24 is \$2,571,683, across:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Action Initiative Fund (CCAIF) \$783,250 (excluding salaries): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$125,000 to climate action plan implementation ○ \$140,000 to climate active certification and inventories ○ \$225,500 to Sustainability Incentive Scheme ○ \$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 ○ \$30,750 to the Taking Climate Action Roadmap. • The City of Adelaide Resource Recovery Strategy and Action Plan of \$788,433. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This strategic project funding concludes in 2023/24. • Council allocated an additional \$1.0M for greening in 2023/24 to increase tree canopy cover in the City of Adelaide. • The Quarter 3 budget review included an additional capital project of \$4.0m to fund a multi-year program of public realm greening to support the annual net increase in street trees.
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	<p>The draft 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget includes initiatives totalling \$6.175M and comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating activities of \$475,000 excluding salaries. • \$1.7M for greening in 2024/25 consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$1.0M green infrastructure ○ \$0.5M parklets

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$0.2M cycling infrastructure. <p>Through the 2024/25 budget deliberations, \$330,000 has been offered as permanent operating savings from the Park Lands and Sustainability Program. The allocation includes approximately \$180,000 for carbon offset purchases and may affect existing memberships, subscriptions and grant offers including the conclusion of the Carbon Neutral Partners program and CitySwitch program. The Council has indicated it wishes to redirect funding allocated to carbon offsets toward the delivery of climate resilience and emissions reduction projects.</p> <p>The Strategy will require prioritisation of actions through the 2024/25 and subsequent years' 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

DISCUSSION

Background

1. On 12 December 2023 ([Link 1](#)) Council endorsed the draft Strategy for public consultation. Consultation opened on 5 February 2024 for a period of six weeks until 18 March 2024 (extended from 15 March 2024).
2. Consultation opened on 5 February 2024 to 18 March 2024 with a total of 28 written submissions, 3 phone submissions, and 39 Your Say Adelaide survey submissions received.
3. The consultation outcomes and proposed amendments to the draft Strategy were presented to Council on 14 May 2024 ([Link 2](#)).
4. Key themes arising from the consultation are summarised as:
 - 4.1. General support for the draft Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 and proposed goals and priorities.
 - 4.2. Investment in public infrastructure for active transport, and street trees for greening and shading.
 - 4.3. Increasing community awareness of existing opportunities and programs that support action, such as the Incentives for Sustainability program, and energy and resource recovery assessments.
 - 4.4. There will be transitional challenges for many of the key actions identified in the draft Strategy requiring new actions or significant change to existing work to deliver the outcomes sought.
5. The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement on the final Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 (Strategy), provided in **Attachment A**, which incorporates consultation feedback and is updated for recent Council priorities delivered through related initiatives.
6. A table of changes to the draft Strategy is provided to assist the Council with its consideration of the Strategy ([Link 4](#)).

Priority actions for 2024/25

7. The draft 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget includes initiatives totalling \$2.175M and comprised of:
 - 7.1. Operating projects of \$475,000 excluding salaries.
 - 7.2. \$1.7M for greening in 2024/25 consisting of:
 - 7.2.1. \$1.0M green infrastructure.
 - 7.2.2. \$0.5M parklets.
 - 7.2.3. \$0.2M cycling infrastructure.
8. Through the 2024/25 budget deliberations, \$330,000 has been offered as permanent operating savings from the Park Lands and Sustainability Program.
 - 8.1. The allocation includes approximately \$180,000 for carbon offset purchases and affects existing memberships, subscriptions and grant offers including the conclusion of the Carbon Neutral Partners program and CitySwitch program.
 - 8.2. The Council has indicated it wishes to redirect funding allocated to carbon offsets toward the delivery of climate resilience and emissions reduction projects, noting direct investment of an equivalent amount will not achieve the same emissions reductions as offsetting.
 - 8.3. The Strategy is updated to a priority of a net zero ready city (rather than carbon neutral or net zero). The adjustment may result in a less favourable global benchmark through CDP reporting and concludes the City of Adelaide's participation in the Federal Government's Climate Active program.
9. Priority actions for implementation in 2024/25 have been identified, subject to the finalisation of the draft 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget. The priority actions respond to the Council's decision on 13 February 2024 to identify alternative ways to reduce community carbon emissions through the Sustainability Incentive Scheme ([Link 3](#)).
10. Commitments in the Strategy that will be activated in 2024/25 include:
 - 10.1. Goal 1: A climate resilient city.
 - 10.1.1. Continue to invest in a citywide network of sustainable water infrastructure through partnerships and co-funded projects.
 - 10.1.2. Deliver the Greener City Streets Greening Program (street tree planting).

- 10.1.3. Undertake comprehensive stormwater management planning across the City of Adelaide's catchments, in partnership with the State Government, to ensure the stormwater network is planned to meet the needs of the community under climate scenarios.
- 10.1.4. Installation of 50 microclimate sensors (air temperature, humidity, air pressure) across the city to establish baseline conditions and accurately plot the existing urban heat island effect.
- 10.1.5. Deliver the Resilient Flood Mapping project.
- 10.2. Goal 2: A net zero ready city.
 - 10.2.1. Embark on an electrification program to support harder-to-electrify strata residential and commercial buildings to transition.
 - 10.2.2. Enable on-street EV chargers in select locations which support the transition to EVs and minimise impacts on public realm.
 - 10.2.3. Develop an Integrated Transport Strategy to address movement, climate and community health and wellbeing by 2025.
 - 10.2.4. Deliver World Car-Free Day events to support visioning of what a less car dependent city could look like and increase community capacity for safe active transport to and from the city.
 - 10.2.5. Extend the North South bikeway in sections by connecting the existing Rugby-Porter Bikeway in Unley to the Braund Road Bike Boulevard in Prospect.
 - 10.2.6. Deliver the Sustainability Incentive Scheme, which supports our partners and community to implement changes to enable a reduction in community carbon emissions.
- 10.3. Goal 3: A city where nature thrives.
 - 10.3.1. Work in partnership with Kaurua Miyurna to return Caring for Country practices and principles to management of the Adelaide Park Lands.
 - 10.3.2. Establish Aboriginal Rangers Program for the Adelaide Park Lands to support traditional land management practices.
 - 10.3.3. Develop comprehensive mapping of our biodiversity and implement monitoring programs to quantify changes in biodiversity and ecosystem health due to large scale factors, such as climate change.
 - 10.3.4. Rehabilitate watercourses such as Botanic Creek, Wirrarninthe Wetlands, Park Lands Creek with native vegetation and protect their natural flow regime by managing urban stormwater volumes.
- 10.4. Goal 4: Transition to a decarbonised city.
 - 10.4.1. Reduce food waste generation and increase diversion of food waste from landfill.
 - 10.4.2. Undertake feasibility studies for kerbside and bulk bin waste and recycling collection services.
 - 10.4.3. Review procurement practices to select products that:
 - 10.4.3.1. Replace raw materials with low embodied carbon, sustainably produced, renewable and recycled content.
 - 10.4.3.2. Reduce carbon emissions and keep materials in circulation for longer and at their highest value.
- 10.5. Goal 5: A climate leading capital city council.
 - 10.5.1. Consider climate change risk and sustainability in all capital works projects and asset renewals.
 - 10.5.2. Develop a Sustainability Governance and Reporting Framework by 2025 and capture and share data and learnings.

Next Steps

- 11. Pending Council's decision on the Integrated Climate Strategy, the document will be finalised and made public on the City of Adelaide website.
- 12. Implementation of the outcomes sought in the Strategy will commence in 2024/25, noting that delivery of the Strategy is subject to the Annual Business Plan and Budget process and prioritisation by Council.

13. Development of a risk and reporting framework for the delivery and monitoring of the Strategy will be delivered in the first quarter of 2024/25 and reported through Audit and Risk Committee in September 2024.
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DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – [City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee – Agenda – Tuesday, 5 December 2023](#)

Link 2 – [City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee – Agenda – Tuesday, 7 May 2024](#)

Link 3 – [Council – Agenda – Tuesday, 13 February 2024](#)

Link 4 – Summary of changes to the draft Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 following consultation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – City of Adelaide Integrated Climate Strategy 2030

- END OF REPORT -