

Draft Climate Policy

Strategic Alignment - Environmental Leadership

Public

Tuesday, 2 August 2022
The Committee - Pre-Council Discussion Forum

Program Contact:
Sarah Gilmour, Associate
Director Park Lands, Policy &
Sustainability

Approving Officer:
Ilia Houridis - Director City
Shaping

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The draft Climate Policy (draft policy) has been developed in response to a CEO Undertaking given at the Council meeting on 10 May 2022.

The draft policy provides the City of Adelaide's position on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the purpose of consultation.

The draft policy has been developed with consideration of Council's current commitments to climate action, the proposed Local Government Association of South Australia's Climate Policy principles, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Summary for Policy Makers released in February 2022.

It is proposed the draft policy is released for community consultation concurrently to the draft Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 (to be considered as Item # on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council held on 9 August 2022). Should Council decide to release the draft policy for consultation, a decision about adopting the policy will be made by the incoming Council post the local government election in November 2022.

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 9 August 2022 for consideration

That Council

1. Approves the draft Climate Policy for community consultation as set out in Attachment A to Item # on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council held on 9 August 2022.
-

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Environmental Leadership One of the world's first carbon neutral cities by 2025, where sustainability is core. A transition to low carbon and circular economies. A climate ready organisation and community.
Policy	Development of a draft Climate Policy aligns to existing Council commitments on climate related matters whilst considering future needs.
Consultation	It is proposed the draft Climate Policy is released for community consultation as a result of this report.
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	The absence of a Climate Policy may lead to a reputational risk regarding Council's commitment to climate action.
Opportunities	The opportunities presented by the draft Climate Policy include providing clear strategic direction for determining climate targets, embedding climate considerations and decision-making processes across Council assets and operations, and reporting on the outcomes of these actions.
22/23 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 23/24 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	It is proposed that this policy be reviewed in line with the development of a new Climate Strategy in 2025.
22/23 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

1. At the meeting of Council on 10 May 2022, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) committed to the following undertaking in response to a request from the Lord Mayor in relation to our overall Strategic Policy Framework:
 - 1.1. To review the strategic policy framework
 - 1.2. To look for gaps in the strategic framework
 - 1.3. Progress work on a climate and cultural policy.
 2. This report presents the proposed climate policy (**Attachment A**). Additional information regarding the review of the overall Strategic Policy Framework will be provided to Elected Members separately.
 3. Council acknowledges that climate change poses a serious risk to the people of Adelaide, and it should be treated as a national emergency (Decision of Council 27 August 2019).
 4. The City of Adelaide (CoA) is committed to leading by example in addressing climate change and decoupling economic growth from carbon emissions as set out by the *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025*.
 5. CoA has been working in partnership with the State Government on the Carbon Neutral Adelaide initiative since 2015 with joint implementation of the *Carbon Neutral Adelaide Action Plan 2016 – 2021*.
 6. The benefits of action to reduce emissions locally are well established, including reducing cost of living pressures, business operating cost efficiencies, transition to a low-carbon economy, and investment attraction for new industries.
 7. CoA's current commitments to climate action include:
 - 7.1. The aspiration and outcomes set in the *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025*.
 - 7.2. The actions committed in the *Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021 – 2026*.
 - 7.3. CoA's membership of Resilient East and the actions in the *Resilient East Action Plan 2020 – 2024*.
 - 7.4. Membership of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, and ICLEI Oceania.
 - 7.5. Being signatory to the Better Futures Declaration, the Cities Race to Zero pledge, and Cities Power Partnership pledge program as consistent with current strategic directions.
 - 7.6. Reporting on progress against emissions inventories, climate action adaptation and mitigation targets and plans, and other sustainability programs related to food security, waste, water, and energy through CDP (global environmental reporting platform).
 8. A draft Climate Action Plan, to support continued implementation of the Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025, is to be considered at Item # of the Council agenda. Pending Council decision, the draft policy and draft Climate Action Plan could be released and consulted on concurrently.
 9. Should Council decide to release the draft policy for consultation, a decision about adopting the policy will be made by the incoming Council post the local government election in November 2022.
 10. CoA has a variety of roles in climate action ranging from leader, provider, or regulator through to funder, facilitator, and advocate.
 11. The principles in the draft policy provide guidance on CoA's position on mitigating and adapting to climate change, including CoA's role and approach to matters such as partnerships, engagement, climate risk and decision making.
 12. The policy intent is to make considerations of climate change mitigation and adaptation to future climate change impacts across CoA as business-as-usual functions of Council.
 13. It is proposed that Council approve the draft policy, as set out in **Attachment A**, for the purposes of public consultation with the public, key stakeholders and organisations and within Council. The final draft will then be brought back to Council for adoption.
-

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Draft Climate Policy

- END OF REPORT -