

## **Agenda Papers and Additional Information**

### **Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group**



## **Agenda Item 5.1**

### **Prioritising partnerships and frameworks for public commitments**

#### **Introduction**

The Town of Gawler has declared a climate Emergency and has recently signed the Lofaten Declaration calling for immediate action of Governments to transition away from fossil fuels.

There are also a large number of programs and frameworks that could provide benefits for the Town of Gawler in its journey to develop and implement its Climate Emergency Action Plan.

This discussion Paper proposes some principles to guide decision making on which programs and frameworks the Town of Gawler will participate in, including the standards and accounting methodologies that it will comply with.

#### **Outcome sought**

The Town of Gawler will efficiently manage its participation in climate change related programs and frameworks to maximise efficiency of effort, achieve the best outcomes for responding to the climate emergency and assure the integrity of its actions and claims.

#### **Principles for adopting Climate Programs and Frameworks**

The Town of Gawler will sign up to, adopt or comply with Programs and Policies that:

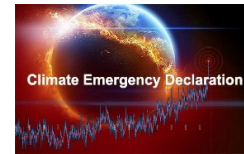
1. Align with the Town of Gawler's core areas of climate emergency focus for Council operations, community response and community engagement.
2. Minimise duplication
3. Are likely to be stable and lasting
4. Align with national and international best practices and standards
5. Provide opportunity to assure council climate emergency actions, governance and integrity of claims
6. Facilitate collaboration and advocacy with strategic partners
7. Support engagement with community and stakeholders.
8. Maximise funding opportunities

#### **Current Programs and Frameworks (Current January 2020)**

1. Climate Emergency Declaration
2. Lofaten Declaration
3. **Local Government Association**, provides motions and supports decisions that support climate emergency action on climate emergency action

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#### Potential new programs and frameworks

a) **Climate Change Sector Agreement with the Government of South Australia.**

These agreements are described in South Australia's Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act (2007). Establishing such an agreement will ensure direct channels of communication with the State Government but would require the CEAP Working Group to oversee the Agreement and an invitation for a member of the State Government Climate Change Branch to participate in CEAP meetings with observer status. The Agreements are non-binding and may not include any commitments beyond those approved by Council. Previously, the Town of Gawler supported the Barrossa Region Climate Adaptation Plan. Aligns with Principles 6, 7 and 8.

b) **South Australia's Climate Adaptation Framework**

Provides guidance on Climate Adaptation and potential links to funding. This framework is usually integrated into a Climate Change Sector Agreement. Other Councils and Regions have received funding for Project Coordinators and project initiatives. Aligns with Principles 1 and 6.

c) **Local Government Association**

Motions proposed and endorsed that support climate emergency action on climate emergency action  
Aligns with Principles 6 and 7.

d) **Global Covenant of Mayors** – not assessed to date

e) **Climate Active**

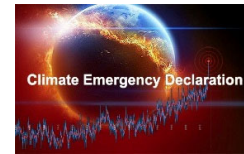
Climate Active is the Federal Government's voluntary framework for organisations to take action on climate change. It was formerly known as the National Carbon Offset Standard – Carbon Neutral Plan (and before that the GreenHouse Challenge). This framework incorporates greenhouse accounting standards and methodologies, guidance for determining scope and operational control boundaries and an accreditation mechanism. Claims that are accredited under this mechanism are robust (Despite some major issues with GHG accounting of renewable electricity).  
Council and community emissions inventories should follow Climate Active methodologies, which also indirectly link to the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting methods and National Greenhouse Accounts Factors, and indirectly link to the GHG Protocol.  
Aligns with Principles 1, 2 and 5.

f) **Cities Power Partnership**

the cities Power Partnership is a free, national program that brings together Australian towns and cities making the switch to clean energy. This Partnership offers opportunity for the Town of Gawler to collaborate with larger councils of influence to advocate for renewable electricity reforms. The City of Sydney and City of Canberra are key partners and promising discussions have already been held with the City of Sydney, Manager Carbon Strategy, City Sustainability  
Aligns with Principle 6.

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#### Next Steps

Not all of these programs, frameworks and standards require a specific action of joining or signing. However establishing a Climate Change Sector Agreement with the South Australian Government, and joining the Cities Power Partnership would require a decision by council.

It is recommended that the CEAP Working Group prepare a paper for Council that describes the steps to be taken, requirements and benefits for the Town of Gawler to commit to developing a Climate Change Sector Agreement and joining the Cities Power Partnership.

Further detail is provided under Appendix 1

## APPENDIX 1 INFORMATION RELATING TO PREFERRED NEW FRAMEWORKS FOR 2020

### Climate Change Sector Agreements

Climate Change Sector Agreements are described under the South Australia Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007

“An Act to provide for measures to address climate change with a view to assisting to achieve a sustainable future for the State; to set targets to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions within the State; to promote the use of renewable sources of energy; to promote business and community understanding about issues surrounding climate change; to facilitate the early development of policies and programs to address climate change; and for other purposes”.

#### 16—Sector agreements

- (1) The Minister may enter into agreements (*sector agreements*) with a particular person or entity or industry or business group on a voluntary basis for the purpose of recognising, promoting or facilitating strategies to meet any target set under this Act.
- (2) A sector agreement may provide for such matters as—
  - (a) objectives for a particular enterprise or industry, or a particular sector of the State's economy, with respect to reducing or limiting greenhouse gas emissions or mitigating the effects of greenhouse gas emissions;
  - (b) strategies to achieve any objectives, including strategies to achieve a reduction in energy use, to maximise efficiencies in the use of energy or to promote the use of renewable energy;
  - (c) strategies to promote or support research and development, and innovation in technologies or practices, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or to adapt to climate change;
  - (d) methods to measure or acknowledge successes in meeting any targets.

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- (3) A sector agreement recognised under this section must—
  - (a) be consistent with the objects of this Act; and
  - (b) include specific requirements for reviewing, and reporting on, the operation of the agreement (with particular reference to providing information for the purposes of section 7).
- (4) The Minister must take steps to achieve a sector agreement with key State Government business enterprises and administrative units by 1 July 2008.
- (5) The Minister must prepare a report on the outcomes achieved for the purposes of subsection (4) and cause a copy of the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament within 6 sitting days after the report is finalised.
- (6) The Minister must establish and maintain—
  - (a) a register of sector agreements; and
  - (b) a scheme to provide for the inspection and independent assessment of sector agreements (subject to the operation of section 17).

## **Cities Power Partnerships**

The Cities Power Partnerships requires a minimum pledge or targets.

The City of Mitcham recently signed up to the Partnership. See City of Mitcham Council minutes: Page 75 10 December 2019 Item 9.4 9.4 Cities Power Partnership.

[https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0013/370111/10-December-2019-Full-Council-Agenda.pdf](https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0013/370111/10-December-2019-Full-Council-Agenda.pdf)

It should be noted that a partnership pledge (such as the draft shown overleaf, can be short and simple to convey renewable electricity commitments.



# **DRAFT CITY POWER PARTNERSHIP PLEDGE**

**The Town of Gawler is committed to transitioning to on site generation and use of renewable electricity and purchased accredited renewable electricity**

## **COUNCIL'S RENEWABLE ENERGY PERCENTAGE**

Establish a target of **40%** of renewable electricity for council operations from GreenPower and on site generation and consumption.

Seek to increase this renewable electricity percentage target.

## **ON SITE RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Install renewable **260 kW** on council buildings and lands representing **20%** of council electricity consumption

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Investigate energy performance and efficiency opportunities at three priority sites in 2020.

Support communities to improve the energy efficiency of the Town of Gawler's buildings, including our unique and valued heritage buildings.

## **SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT**

Support fast-charging infrastructure in the Town of Gawler key locations for electric vehicles.

Support the electrification of the Gawler –Adelaide Rail Service and advocate that it be operated using accredited renewable electricity by 2021.

Trial all electric vehicles and develop an electric vehicle policy to assist council in its assessment of life cycle costs and procurement.

## **RENEWABLE ADVOCACY AND POLICY REFORM**

Through the LGA and the Cities Power Partnership Program, the Town of Gawler will support the development of national legislated standards for retail renewable electricity and end user claims.

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## Agenda Item 5.4

### Event for Climate Emergency Committed Councils

Following some initial discussions with Jen St Jack, State Government regional Climate Change Coordinator, the following email was received.

Hello Climate Emergency declaring councils,

First up, I encourage you to attend the [National Climate Emergency Summit](#) in Melbourne on 14-15 February. This includes a Council workshop on the Saturday morning to identify collaboration opportunities. Unfortunately I'm unable to attend, but Greg Sarre from Mount Barker will be there and can report back.

Following that Summit, I propose that we have another get-together in Adelaide to share our progress, plans and resources. The LGA has already indicated they can provide the venue, and I can facilitate. This event would be for this group of declared Councils, as well as any others who are considering motions or are progressing despite unsuccessful motions. We've come a long way since our first meetup in May 2019 – this one will be an opportunity to share your progress and ID specific opportunities to work together.

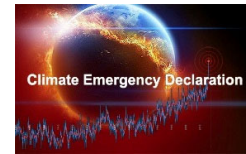
**I am proposing a 2.5-hour Climate Emergency meetup, 10:00am to 12:30pm, on either Tuesday 25 February or Tuesday 3 March. Please use the voting buttons to indicate your availability.**

Meanwhile, an update. By my reading, the 16 South Australian declaring Councils have committed to:

COMMITMENT	COUNCILS
Develop a Climate Emergency Plan	Gawler, Mount Barker, Alexandrina
Develop a Carbon Reduction/Management Plan or Energy Plan	Adelaide Hills, Port Lincoln, Salisbury
Advocate to other LGs and/or State and Federal politicians	Adelaide Hills, Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Salisbury, Mount Barker, Campbelltown, Charles Sturt, Alexandrina, Victor Harbor
Establish a working group and/or a review to further develop Council's response	Light, Port Lincoln, Alexandrina, Victor Harbor
Establish a Climate Emergency Advisory Committee of Council	Alexandrina
Introduce specific climate-related goals and objectives into governance, or prioritise	Adelaide, Burnside, Holdfast Bay, Salisbury, Mount Barker, Campbelltown

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implementation of existing plans and initiatives eg. Strategic Plan, Environment Plan, Risk & Audit	
Develop a Climate Change Policy	Burnside, Campbelltown
Introduce regular reporting on climate action	Burnside, Campbelltown
Create a public awareness campaign on the climate emergency	Alexandrina
Acknowledge what Council is already doing	Adelaide Hills, Port Lincoln, Adelaide, Burnside, Port Adelaide Enfield, Mitcham, Campbelltown, Victor Harbor

I trust this list is helpful to you in seeking support from your colleagues to share knowledge while reducing duplication and effort.

Note that while some Councils have not officially 'declared', their amended motions include initiatives like:

- Norwood, Payneham & St Peters is considering developing an Emissions Reduction Plan in 2020/21
- Onkaparinga is developing a Climate Change Response Plan in 2020

Of course plenty of Councils have not declared and are continuing to take climate action regardless.

I have included my latest CED tracking sheet for your records, as well as the CEDAMIA request for info on how CEDs are 'more than just words', in case you haven't seen it.

Cheers

Jen

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## Agenda Item 5.11

Climate Grant Opportunities (Forwarded by Jen St Jack)

### [Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought Program – Biosecurity Management of Pests and Weeds](#)

Eligibility: [Only listed eligible Councils](#) (drought affected)

Open: 19 December to 5 February

Pool: \$10 million nationwide

### [Grant: \\$50,000 to \\$1M – a consortia of Councils may apply for up to \\$3M Open Space and Places for People Grant Program](#)

Eligibility: Councils (or orgs representing OOC areas), to purchase land, undertake planning & urban design, or develop public realm

Open: December to 31 March 2020

Pool: State Gov Planning and Development Fund

Grant: Up to 50% of project costs, no \$ limit

### [Circular Economy Market Development Grants](#)

Eligibility: Local councils, industry associations, not-for-profit organisations, research institutes and businesses that produce, manufacture, sell or promote South Australian recycled materials and/or recycled-content products

Open: From January 2020 – eligible applicants can submit an EOI at any time, until the round closes (no date provided), or until program funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first

Pool: \$300,000 in 2019/20

Grant: Up to \$100,000 per applicant, up to 50% of project costs

### [SA Healthy Towns Challenge](#)

Eligibility: Towns in the Country Health SA Local Health Network region

Open: Jan/Feb (not open yet – stay tuned) to April 2020 and 2021 (end of program)

Pool: Up to five towns each year

Grant: Up to \$50,000 each year for five years