



# Brighton Council

## MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,

COUNCIL OFFICES, 1 TIVOLI ROAD, OLD BEACH

AT 4.45 P.M. ON TUESDAY,

14 FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT: Cr Curran (Chairperson); Cr Irons (Deputy Chairperson); Cr De La Torre; Cr Gray (arrived at 4.53pm); Cr Murtagh and Cr Owen.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J Dryburgh (General Manager); Ms G Browne (Corporate Executive); Mr D Allingham (Manager Development Services); Ms A Turvey (Acting Governance Manager); Ms A Johnson (Climate Resilience Officer).

### 1. Acknowledgement of Country

### 2. Apologies

*Nil.*

### 3. Public Question Time and Deputations

### 4. Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the chairperson of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest or conflict of interest in any item on the Agenda.

In accordance with Section 48(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, it is the responsibility of councillors to then notify the general manager, in writing, the details of any interest(s) that the councillor has declared within 7 days of the declaration.

*There were no declarations of interest.*

## 5. Business

### 5.1 Brighton Council Climate Change and Resilience Strategy Review

Author: Climate Change Resilience Officer (Alison Johnson)

Authorised: Development Services Manager (David Allingham)

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#### Background

Brighton Council endorsed the Climate Change and Resilience Strategy in 2019 (the “Strategy”). The Strategy provides overarching goals to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and respond to the impacts of climate change (adaptation). The Strategy has been well received so far. It outlined 90 actions, the bulk of which are being acted upon – a summary of progress is provided at Attachment A.

The Strategy is being reviewed four years after finalisation, as stipulated in the Strategy: “Review implementation of this Strategy and report back to Council”. Recommended updates following the review include making the next version of the document more concise and consolidating actions to streamline reporting based on the funding available.

Staff resourcing was allocated to the implementation of the Strategy soon after finalisation in 2019 with a part time (0.6FTE) Climate Change resilience Officer role funded. In 2021 further funding supported a part time Waste Education Officer and a part time NRM Officer. Since funding staff roles and providing supporting budget sustainability and climate change action Brighton Council has gained momentum, offering a range of community projects and programs, garnering \$300,000 in grant funding, and Brighton Council was nominated as a finalist for the environment program at the LGAT Excellence Awards 2022 and received recognition of the environment program as part of Brighton Council being overall local government runner-up at the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards Tasmania 2022.

The Strategy has been updated to include the recommendations of the review, such as relatively new corporate emission reduction targets, updated local climate impacts modelling, community emission footprints and the development of linked strategies such as the Draft NRM Strategy and the Draft Corporate Emission Reduction Plan. The existing actions have been streamlined into 55 actions, centred around 5 core areas for action; leadership, corporate emission reductions, community emission reductions, corporate adaptation and community adaptation.

The updated Draft Climate Change and Resilience Strategy 2023 is provided at Attachment B.

The Draft Strategy has four key strategic directions:

1. Provide leadership for effective climate change programs locally;

2. Reduce greenhouse emissions, environmental impacts and become more resource efficient;
3. Adapt and plan for climate change; and
4. Identify opportunities to innovate in research, markets, technologies, institutions and in the way we live to build sustainable and resilient communities.

### **Consultation**

The Senior Management Team has reviewed the Draft Strategy. It is intended make the Draft Strategy available for community review.

### **Risk Implications**

The Project is low risk as it is a risk assessment information project and builds on the foundations of an already fit for purpose strategic document.

The Draft Strategy is in line with the Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI), Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA), Tasmanian Government and Australian Government goals for climate action.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial costs from the Strategy review, with in direct costs being staff time.

### **Strategic Plan**

The Draft Strategy recommendations further the following strategies from Council's strategic plan:

S1.1: Understand/Improve Health and Wellbeing

S1.5: Build a resilient community and environmentally sustainable future

S4.1: Ensure Financial & Risk Sustainability

S4.2: Be well-governed

S4.4: Long-term thinking & evidence-based

### **Social Implications**

There are positive social implications from acting early on climate change, to improve the resilience and health and wellbeing of the community and to do Brighton Council's part to reduce emissions, from an intergenerational perspective and to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, environment and economy.

### **Environmental or Climate Change Implications**

The Draft Strategy is in line with Brighton Council's commitment to act on climate change.

## Economic Implications

None.

## Other Issues

None.

## Assessment

Council has made significant progress on implementing the Strategy. The updated Draft Strategy provides an opportunity to celebrate our success, but also provide greater focus on the large amount of work that is still to be done.

It is recommended that Council endorse the Draft Strategy.

## Options

1. Endorse the review recommendations of the Brighton Council Climate Change and Resilience Strategy.
2. Do not endorse the review recommendations of the Brighton Council Climate Change and Resilience Strategy.

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

- a) Note the progress made on the Climate Change and Resilience Strategy in 2019; and
- b) Endorses the Brighton Council Climate Change and Resilience Strategy 2023.

## **DECISION:**

*Cr De La Torre moved, Cr Owen seconded that the recommendations be adopted.*

**CARRIED**

## VOTING RECORD

### **In favour**

Cr Curran  
Cr De La Torre  
Cr Gray  
Cr Irons  
Cr Murtagh  
Cr Owen

### **Against**

## 5.2 Draft Brighton Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Annual Report 2022

Author: Climate Change Resilience Officer (Alison Johnson)

Authorised: Development Services Manager (David Allingham)

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### Background

Brighton Council recognises that significant emission reductions are urgently required. A corporate emission reduction target was set in 2021 to reach zero emissions by 2040 and an interim target of a 30% reduction by 2030 across Council operations.

In 2021-22, Council's emissions reduced by 70% (based on 2021 levels), exceeding the existing corporate greenhouse gas emissions interim target of a 30% reduction by 2030. The greenhouse gas emissions footprint was over 13,000 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e) in 2020-21 and reduced to 4,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2021-22. Current emissions are equivalent to the emissions from 862 passenger vehicles driven for one year.

The rapid fall in emissions was unexpected and is largely a result of Brighton's council managed waste being sent to the Copping facility, managed by Southern Waste Solutions, that captures, flares methane gas, and generates electricity from biogas, which lowers greenhouse gas emissions from landfill waste significantly.

Other significant projects that have led to this achievement include:

- Introduced a new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service, diverting 1,300 tonnes of organic waste away from landfill
- Improving efficient building energy use through heating and lighting upgrades
- Switching over 1150 streetlights to LED lamps
- Generating solar electricity onsite through the installation of rooftop solar on four council buildings
- Changing from full internal combustion engines to hybrid electric options, purchasing two Toyota Rav4's
- Sporting lighting upgrades to LED and sporting facility solar hot water installation.

Corporate greenhouse gas emissions have been reported annually for the years 2019-20 and 2021-22. Attachment A provides the latest summary as a report.

In 2023, a new corporate emission reduction target is to be considered on the pathway to zero emissions by 2040. Attachment B is a summary of key factors under consideration re-setting an interim target.

Work has also begun on a draft Corporate Emission Reduction Plan (CERP) which covers the relative costs and benefits of actions to improve the emissions and energy performance. The CERP highlights future emission reduction target achievements prioritising the range of potential climate change actions.

### **Consultation**

Consultation was undertaken with the General Manager and Manager Development Services as well as extensive consultation with the Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI), Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority on the corporate greenhouse gas methodology.

### **Risk Implications**

The Project is low risk as it is an information project that evaluates (to some degree) existing measures and adds value to the range of climate change actions implemented by Brighton Council.

There is a risk that the Tasmanian Government will stipulate a different method for greenhouse gas accounting in the future or that the local government reform will change the services councils are responsible for, but at this stage that is unknown. The Strategy is in line with the Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI), Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) corporate method for greenhouse accounting:

- using the Australian Government National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme method for waste emissions;
- embodied energy use and the life cycle footprint of products and services are currently excluded due to a lack of information available; and
- uses Council fuel and energy bills combined with the Australian Government National Greenhouse Accounts Factors to estimate overall emissions.

The STCA RCCI commissioned Sudgee Consultants to undertake a review of corporate methods and recommend the best approach for southern Tasmanian councils. Brighton Councils corporate 2021-22 results have been reviewed as in line with this method. A more detailed greenhouse summary will be provided in line with the RCCI STCA template later in the year.

### **Financial Implications**

There are likely to be direct financial costs associated with setting a new emissions target as discussed further in Attachment B.

### **Strategic Plan**

The Strategy recommendations further the following strategies from Council's strategic plan:

S1.1: Understand/Improve Health and Wellbeing

S1.5: Build a resilient community and environmentally sustainable future

S4.1: Ensure Financial & Risk Sustainability

S4.2: Be well-governed

S4.4: Long-term thinking & evidence-based

### **Social Implications**

There are positive benefits from evidence-based decision making. Undertaking greenhouse gas reporting and accounting increases the transparency of information and builds trust that savings are reliable. Action on climate change is in line with the 2050Vision goals.

### **Environmental or Climate Change Implications**

Without measuring greenhouse gas emission reductions, it is challenging to evaluate the success of projects and estimate the costs and benefits of individual actions.

The Greenhouse Gas and Energy Annual report is in line with Brighton Council's commitment to act on climate change in the Brighton Council Climate Change and Resilience Strategy. A key strategic measure in the Strategy is to "2. Reduce greenhouse emissions, environmental impacts and become more resource efficient." Providing the evidence base to evaluate climate action is a key measure in the Strategy 2019: "The targets in this Strategy should be reviewed in 2020 (and regularly in future) having regard to improved internal data, reviews of comparable LGAs, achievability, impact, ancillary benefits and cost implications."

### **Economic Implications**

None.

### **Other Issues**

None.

### **Assessment**

Council has made significant progress establishing a baseline to measure corporate greenhouse gas emissions and energy use. Measuring emissions savings is an opportunity to celebrate our success and achievements against the corporate greenhouse gas emission reduction interim target and highlights the key areas to further reduce emissions.

It is recommended that Council endorse the Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Annual Report 2022.

## Options

1. Note the draft Brighton Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Annual Report 2021-22.
2. Note the requirement to re-set an interim corporate emission reduction target.
3. Do not endorse the Brighton Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Annual Report 2021-22.
4. Do not endorse re-setting an interim corporate emission reduction target.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council agree:

- a) To endorse the summary Brighton Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Annual Report 2021-22 for publishing; and
- b) To re-set an interim corporate emission reduction target and provide direction to staff about what sort of target should be pursued.

## **DECISION**

*Cr Owen moved, Cr De La Torre seconded that Council:*

*a) Endorses the summary Brighton Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Annual Report 2021-22 for publishing; and*

*b) Resets an interim corporate emission reduction target of 85% reduction in emissions on the original baseline.*

**CARRIED**

### VOTING RECORD

**In favour**                      **Against**

Cr Curran  
Cr De La Torre  
Cr Gray  
Cr Irons  
Cr Murtagh  
Cr Owen

Meeting closed: 5.32pm

Confirmed:

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(Mayor)

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_ 21 February 2023