



**Brighton
Council**

MEDIA RELEASE

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BRIGHTON COUNCIL REDUCES EMISSIONS BY 70% & ENDORSES AMBITIOUS NEW EMISSIONS TARGETS

Brighton's new targets:

- 85% reduction on 2021 emissions by 2030
- Net zero emissions by 2035
- 100% renewable electricity target for council assets by 2030

Brighton Council has endorsed a revised Climate Change and Resilience Strategy a new corporate target of 85% emission reductions by 2030, and net zero by 2035. This comes off the back of achieving their previous 2030 target eight years early, by achieving a 70% reduction in the past couple years.

The new Strategy and targets were agreed to by councillors at Tuesday night's Council meeting after workshopping the matter in February.

"Each tier of government needs to play its part. Around the country we manage more public infrastructure than state or federal government, such as 75% of roads. We are demonstrating that moving to a low carbon economy is possible, is the right thing to do, brings benefits and offers opportunities." Mayor Gray said.

Mayor Gray said the Council's Climate Change and Resilience Strategy 2023 identified the Brighton Council region as a potential beneficiary of the transition to a low carbon economy.

"We want to take the opportunities that the transition to a low carbon economy provides such as cost savings from efficiencies and emerging technologies in a circular economy, renewables and hydrogen economies," he said.

"Our Strategy outlines 55 actions that demonstrate local government climate action, reducing emissions and increasing the resilience of Council assets and the community to climate impacts."

"Local government can and must play a major role in lowering our emissions and decarbonising our economy. We not only do our part to lower the environmental footprint of Council's operations, managing street lights, buildings, parks, sporting facilities, car parks and vehicle and plant operations, we facilitate action in the community through leadership, advocacy, education and information."



“Momentum is gaining, our climate change action is making a difference, and this weekend we’re proud to be hosting the BIG Weekend of Sustainable Living Ideas 25-26 March, run by Sustainable Living Tasmania, at the Brighton Civic Centre in Bridgewater.”

Mayor Gray said reducing waste to landfill will be a major topic for debate at the event and remained one of the biggest challenges, community waste services representing 89% of greenhouse gas emissions from Council’s services.

“We are proud of our action on waste. We made the switch from a standard landfill to Copping Landfill, where Southern Waste Solutions captures and burns methane for renewable electricity generation. This action, combined with our introduction of a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service integrated with our Sustainability and Waste Education Program in schools were the biggest contributors to our 70% reduction in emissions. We have kept over 1,300 tonnes of organic waste away from landfill and turned into compost, which would otherwise have rotted in landfill, creating methane.”

Sustainable Living Tasmania President Margaret Steadman said, “We are really excited to bring our state-wide event to Brighton, especially at a time when Brighton Council is showing such leadership on climate action. We must all hear the calls of scientists and civil society all over the globe saying urgent action to reduce emissions is needed.”

“The BIG Weekend of Sustainable Living Ideas is about working together to do our part. There will be workshops, displays and forums on gardening, food, energy and waste and much more to help us all to work through practical solutions as well as music, art and fun.” Steadman said.

Mayor Gray said, “We will continue our climate change action, diverting waste away from landfill by supporting our community to reduce, reuse and recycle wherever possible, as part of the new interim emissions reduction target of 85% by 2030, based on 2021 levels.

“We have agreed to new targets to build on the progress we have already made delivering 25 significant emission reduction measures from 2011, including the bulk changeover of more than 1150 streetlights to more efficient LED lighting, installing four rooftop solar systems, and procuring a full electric vehicle and two hybrid electric vehicles as part of Council’s vehicle fleet.”.

“Investing in energy and waste measures that have high returns on investment and make significant emission reductions will be a key strategy to achieve further greenhouse gas emission reductions.” Mayor Gray said.

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