

CACE Council Fact Sheet #2

Motion of acknowledgement and commitment to action

Community Action in the Climate Emergency V1.0 Last edited 26 Aug 2018(abp)

A first step for a council's climate emergency response is a public acknowledgement of the climate emergency as a motion of Council. The acknowledgement can be accompanied by a commitment to climate emergency action. This document lists a range of draft text options for councils to consider, in two parts: (1) an acknowledgement of the climate emergency and the need to climate emergency action and (2) a commitment to climate emergency action by Council. The options are listed from strongest to weakest.

Part 1: The acknowledgement

Stronger

Council acknowledges that current levels of global warming and future warming already committed constitute nothing less than an emergency for most life on this planet. Maximising survival of life on this planet and minimising suffering requires an emergency response by all levels of government, including local government. Time wasted now in implementing effective solutions will result in more avoidable loss and suffering.

Strong

Council acknowledges that current levels of global warming and future warming already committed constitute nothing less than an emergency for most life on this planet, requiring an emergency response by all levels of government, including local government.

Darebin / Yarra (actual text)

Council recognises that we are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government, including by local councils.

Part 2: The commitment to action

Immediate Declaration

Council declares a climate emergency and will move into emergency mode. Council commits to a climate emergency response where Council directs all available resources to completion of the follow actions within 6 months of the passage of this motion. Council resolves to: 1. Call in and revise the Council Plan immediately and prioritise a climate emergency response within the Plan. 2. Allocate additional staff resources to enable the execution of steps 3-6. 3. Appoint a Council Advisory Committee of climate emergency experts to assist with steps 3-6. 4. Develop a climate emergency plan to guide the implementation of a climate emergency response within Council. 5. Conduct change

management processes to educate Council staff about the climate emergency and develop a new approach to Council business to facilitate a climate emergency response. 6. Review all existing policies and plans with a view to facilitating a climate emergency response. Council's climate emergency response will be directed to (a) implementing climate restoration and resilience solutions and (b) accelerating the adoption of a climate emergency response by other councils, state/territory governments, the national government and the international governance system and underpinned by the principle of seeking to achieve maximum protection for all life on this planet.

Very Strong

Council resolves to: 1. Call in and revise the Council Plan immediately and prioritise a climate emergency response within the Plan. 2. Allocate additional staff resources to enable the execution of steps 4-7. 3. Appoint a Council Advisory Committee of climate emergency experts to assist with steps 4-7. 4. Develop a climate emergency plan to guide the implementation of a climate emergency response within Council. 5. Conduct change management processes to educate Council staff about the climate emergency and develop a new approach to Council business to facilitate a climate emergency response. 6. Review all existing policies and plans with a view to facilitating a climate emergency response. 7. Roll out a public education and support-building campaign in order to provide broad community support for the council to declare a climate emergency and move into climate emergency mode. Councils commit to the completion of steps 1-7 and formally declare a climate emergency to trigger an emergency response where Council directs all available resources to complete its climate emergency response, within 12 months of the passage of this motion. Council's climate emergency response will be directed to (a) implementing climate restoration and resilience solutions and (b) accelerating the adoption of a climate emergency response by other councils, state/territory governments, the national government and the international governance system.

Strong

With a view to developing and implementing, as its highest priority, a climate emergency response by Council and the XYZ community, Council resolves to: 1. Immediately call in and revise the Council Plan and immediately prioritise a climate emergency response within the plan. 2. Develop a climate emergency plan. 3. Appoint a Council Advisory Committee of climate emergency experts.

Los Angeles City Council (text summaries approached currently being investigated by LA)

Council resolves to establish a Climate Emergency Mobilization Department with all powers to plan and coordinate all of the City's climate and resilience responses including emergency climate mitigation and resilience and adaptation programs. The Department would have authority over other City Departments.

Medium

Council resolves to immediately review the current Council Plan with a view to developing and implementing a climate emergency response by Council and the XYZ community as its highest priority, including the development of a new Climate Emergency Plan to guide the emergency response by Council.

Limited

Council resolves to immediately develop a new Climate Emergency Plan to guide the emergency response by Council.