

SUBJECT: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – NEWCASTLE CLIMATE ACTION TASKFORCE

REPORT BY: STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT

CONTACT: DIRECTOR STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT

DIRECTOR COMMENT

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Taskforce has focused on climate action and affordable and clean energy. The Taskforce has recorded the following climate commitments:

- AGL - Net Zero Emissions by 2050
- City of Newcastle - Net Zero Emissions by no later than 2030, and community wide by 2040
- Compass Housing Services - Net Zero Emissions by 2030
- CSIRO Newcastle Energy Centre - Net Zero Emissions by 2025
- Glencore - Net Zero Emissions by 2050
- GPT Group - Net Zero Emissions by 2024
- Hunter New England Health - Net Zero Emissions by 2030
- Hunter Water - Aspirational Goal for Net Zero Emissions by 2030
- Infrabuild - Net Zero Emissions by 2030
- Koppers - 35% Reduction by 2030
- Lake Macquarie City Council - Net Zero Emissions for Council and Community by 2042
- Molycop - 50% Renewable Energy by 2020
- NSW Government - Net Zero Emissions by 2050
- Orica - 40% Reduction in Scope 1 and 2 Emissions by 2030 and Net Zero by 2050
- Port of Newcastle - Net Zero Emissions by 2040
- Rio Tinto - Net Zero Emissions by 2050
- Stockland - Net Zero Emissions by 2028
- Uniting - Net Zero Emissions by 2040
- University of Newcastle - Net Zero Emissions by 2030
- Upper Hunter Shire Council - Net Zero Emissions for Council Operations by 2030

RECOMMENDATION

That the City of Newcastle:

1. Notes the preceding commitments by the City of Newcastle to addressing climate change, including but not limited to:
 - a. Adopting the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals to underpin Council's long-term planning (2016)

- b. Becoming an inaugural partner of the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership and committing to five key actions to reduce carbon emissions (2017)
 - c. Formally committing to the principles and targets of the Paris Climate Agreement (2018)
 - d. Commencing an accelerated upgrade of its street lights to LED (2018)
 - e. Commencing upgrading its car fleet to electric vehicles (2018)
 - f. Commencing installing electric fleet vehicle fast chargers throughout the Local Government Area (2018)
 - g. Becoming a member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and committing to the requirements of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (2018)
 - h. Declaring that there is a Climate Emergency (2019)
 - i. Forming the Hunter SDG Taskforce with Compass Housing Services, Port of Newcastle, Hunter Water, Kumalie, Port Waratah Coal Services and University of Newcastle (2020)
 - j. Adopting the Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-25 that commits the City of Newcastle to net zero emissions for its operations by no later than 2030, and a Net Zero Emission City by not later than 2040 (2020).
 - k. Taking the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Cities Race to Zero and Race to Resilience Pledges ahead of COP26 (2021).
 - l. Constructing a 5-megawatt solar farm on the closed landfill site at Summerhill Waste Management centre (2019)
 - m. Installing additional rooftop solar photovoltaic on the Council Administration Centre, along with EV charging, Internet of Things (IoT) sensors and smart building controls (2019)
 - n. Becoming the first council in NSW to make the switch to 100% of the electricity used across its operations produced from renewable sources (2020).
 - o. Commencing development of a zero emissions whole of fleet vehicles transition plan (2022)
 - p. Taking delivery of its first fully electric truck (2022)
 - q. Supporting the Hunter Jobs Alliance in the diversification of the region (2021)
 - r. Commencing work on the renewal of the Newcastle Environment Strategy (2021 and ongoing)
2. Acknowledges the work of the Hunter Community Alliance, representing 23 organisations and more than 250,000 people in the Hunter region, in the development of climate action proposals through cross-sector collaboration since October 2020.
 3. Invite the Hunter Community Alliance to join the SDG Hunter Region Taskforce, which represents Hunter based organisations including the City of Newcastle, Port of Newcastle, Hunter Water Corporation, University of Newcastle, Hunter New England Health, Samaritans, Compass Housing, Allambie Care and Hunter Workers in delivering on the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals

with a particular focus on SDG 7 and 13 – affordable and clean energy, and climate action.

4. Undertake a Climate Change Risk Assessment for Council and community assets and services. A first pass risk assessment is underway to inform Council's understanding of climate risk. A second, comprehensive, climate risk assessment will be undertaken as an initiative of the Newcastle Environment Strategy.
5. Develops a Circular Economy Plan and a Climate Adaptation Plan following the development and adoption of the Newcastle Environment Strategy, which is at the stakeholder engagement phase and is due for adoption in 2022. The Environment Strategy and both Plans will be placed on public exhibition as well as workshopped with the SDG Hunter Region Taskforce.

Background:

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