

Adopted 24/03/2021

City of Fremantle Climate Emergency Position Statement

In May 2019, elected members for the City of Fremantle voted to show their unanimous support for a declaration of climate and biodiversity emergency, in response to a letter put to them by the Fremantle Youth Network.

The City of Fremantle acknowledges the science-based recommendations in reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that outline the severity of the state of emergency we are in, including that the City of Fremantle is likely to be substantially affected by climate impacts, particularly sea level rise, heat waves, drought and floods.

The City acknowledges that the situation requires urgent action by all levels of government. The City calls upon the State and Federal Governments to acknowledge that there is an emergency and to act accordingly, to rapidly decrease and drawdown greenhouse gas emissions. Any action should align with the Paris Agreement, which aims to cap global heating at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The best and most efficient way to achieve the rapid emissions reductions required to avert catastrophic climate change is for the federal government to reinstate a market-based mechanism for controlling the release of greenhouse gas emissions, such as an emissions trading scheme. In the absence of this, the Western Australian State Government should build on its existing climate change policy to establish a clear state strategy with a well-defined pathway to state-wide net zero-carbon before 2050. The strategy should include a target of 100% renewable energy by 2030, in line with the minimum targets of other states, and additional targets set at regular intervals to ensure we are on track to meet our decarbonisation goals.

In addition to acting urgently to reduce emissions, action is needed to climate proof our communities. Support is needed for addressing local climate change impacts including coastal erosion, conservation of heritage buildings, worse storms, increased drought impacts and heatwaves.

Most importantly, the City of Fremantle urges all levels of government to base climate change policy on science, including publishing and promoting sound, peer-reviewed research as the basis for climate change positions and strategy.

The City will continue to demonstrate corporate responsibility and leadership in its operations, and its promotion of low carbon living.

Local Government Climate Change Declaration

The City of Fremantle is a signatory of the Local Government Climate Change Declaration. This Declaration stands as a voluntary opportunity for Councils to demonstrate their political commitment to locally appropriate climate change management, and to participate in a sector wide leadership approach. The Declaration is consistent with the intent of the Western Australian Local Government Association's endorsed Climate Change Policy Statement, and it was endorsed at the August 2011 meeting of State Council.

WALGA's Climate Change Policy Statement

Local Government acknowledges:

- I. The science is clear: climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.
- II. Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.
- III. Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.
- IV. A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.

Local Government is committed to addressing climate change. Local Government is calling for:

- I. Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.
- II. Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.