

# The Motion was **BLOCKED** by the team while having the largest amount of public support and attendance at a meeting for that term 2018 - 2022

## Resolution:

SIMS/(no seconder)

That Council:

1. Affirms its commitment to future generations by addressing catastrophic climate change and biodiversity loss through its on-going policies, strategies and leadership by supporting the declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency and registering with the Climate Emergency Declaration network (<http://climateemergencydeclaration.org/>)
2. Commits to building public awareness and engagement around the declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency, by endorsing the information provided to Councils by the Climate Emergency Declaration network, and inline with the UN Sustainability Development Goals about a climate emergency response
3. Consults with other Tasmanian and leading Councils on the matter of declaring a climate emergency in order to work collaboratively including the sharing of ideas, practice and information about addressing climate change in an evidence based, best practice manner
4. Writes to the relevant State and Federal politicians and the Prime Minister to urge the Commonwealth Government to declare a climate emergency at a national level
5. Requests a further report to be presented to Council at *23rd December 2019 Council Meeting* containing work already completed and future recommendations for the implementation of a strategy and/or framework and/or action plan for Council's climate emergency response that aligns with the UN Sustainability Development Goals.

Because the motion was not seconded, the motion lapsed.

## **Alderman SIMS - Climate Change Motion**

Monday 30th September 2019, Glenorchy City Council

Speak to the motion. *Speech*

**On Wed the 18th Sept at 4pm** I met with several concerned parties about climate change. They represented a wide array of communities within the Glenorchy City Council area, and also involved the largest protest in the world since the Iraq war.

This Motion underpins an issue that's proven by a scientific, educational and medical consensus - it's not only driven by fear, let's make that very clear. It's fuelled by a lack of action from our leadership to date. Don't blame our teachers for facilitating our children's learning and best interests, that's incredibly short-sighted and patronising. It should be at the forefront of every leader's mind. Children are currently driving this initiative best and understand the facts due to learning it as part of their mandatory school curriculum and frameworks (being made up of proven research and data). We are arguably setting them up for failure.

Where else have you seen scientists, doctors and professors all agree on something so controversial... the consensus is still growing and the numbers are even more precise. It's not a religion and it's not about belief.

The momentum of the recent National Petition TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES is a testament to this. This motion and the need to take this action shouldn't be a surprise to anybody at any level of government, we've collectively acknowledged the facts within many of our strategies and objectives - we even claim to be acting upon this issue, but clearly science says (not just the teachers and children) that we are not doing this well enough! The adults can't be trusted... or arguably it's the politicians representing them.

**The former Chair of the Australian Coal Association and former CEO of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Ian Dunlop said:** "We are out of time for gradualist policy, we need courage rather than procrastination from our aspiring leaders."

**Former head and former Secretary of the Departments of Defence and Primary Industries & Energy, and a former CEO of the Business Council of Australia, Paul Barrett said:** "Climate policy is not providing a secure future for Australians. Just as we have faced fire, flood, drought and military threat in the past, we now need to throw everything we can at the climate crisis. We must make it the nation's highest-level priority."

So I feel that it's very unlikely that "the greens" have seized the reigns of not only industrial power, in addition to infiltrating the U.N and the independent science academies of every developed nation, but also all of the top research institutes all around the world. Clearly it's simply time to face the facts.

**THE DEFINITION OF REPRESENTATIVES is a person chosen or appointed to act or speak for another, More specifically in local government; To lead the Council.**

**The Act defines the functions of a council is to;**

- provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community;
- represent and promote the interests of the community; and
- provide for the peace, order and good governance of the area represented.

As a leader of this community, it's important to note that our role is not to be involved at every level all of the time, it is to assess the peer reviewed and evidence based facts along with the motions put up and to undertake any research and preparation in order to make an informed decision at the time of voting. It's disheartening knowing that all aldermen were emailed about this motion in advance and invited to attend a meeting with the key drivers, most declined or didn't respond to the initial email.

Our role at Council is not just as a provider of baseline services. It's a democratic tier of the government system responsible for creating active, sustainable and supportive communities while driving and working with the upper levels to better promote therefore enable this. The Act requires councils to exercise community leadership, promote social justice principles, conserve the environment and facilitate public involvement.

A justified, measured and balanced transition for all staff, policies and programs across all areas is paramount for success. Basically put, people must be better recognised when implementing change and supported to be "no worse off". Transitions take time to do in a healthy, respectful and balanced way.

So in summing up... I bid you to think carefully about this motion, about which side of history you want to be on and to consider the risk. You must ask yourself if a 50% chance that the world's climate is survivable by mid-century is an acceptable risk to you?

**Business as usual needs to include ongoing sustainable reform at this level to survive at all.**

## Global Climate Strike



Cassy O'Connor MP - Tuesday, 24 September 2019

Tags: [Climate Change](#)



**Ms O'CONNOR (Clark - Leader of the Greens)** - Mr Deputy Speaker, this morning in question time we asked the Premier where he was last Friday when thousands and thousands of Tasmanians including young people, their mums, dads, aunts, uncles and friends took to the streets to join the global climate strike. There are estimates that around the world 150 million people stood up to demand a safe climate and real climate action now.

In better news, there are 500 councils around the world that have declared a climate emergency as at May 2019. So it is higher now. Nineteen of them are in Australia. They include the Launceston City Council and the Hobart City Council. Now that number has apparently grown to 1020 as at September this year and 50 are within Australia and that number is fast-growing.

On Monday night at Glenorchy City Council Alderman Kelly Sims will move this motion,

That Council:

- (1) Affirms its commitment to future generations by addressing catastrophic climate change and biodiversity loss through its ongoing policies, strategies and leadership by supporting the declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency and registering with the Climate Emergency Declaration Organisation;
- (2) Commits to building public awareness and engagement around the Declaration of a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency by endorsing the information provided to councils by the Climate Emergency Declaration Organisation and in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals about a climate emergency response;
- (3) Consults with other Tasmanian and leading councils on a matter of declaring a climate emergency in order to work collaboratively, including the sharing of ideas, practice and information about addressing climate change in an evidence-based, best-practice manner;
- (4) Writes to the relevant state and federal politicians and the prime minister to urge the Commonwealth Government to declare a climate emergency at a national level; and
- (5) Requests a further report to be presented to council at 23 December 2019 council meeting containing work already completed and future recommendations for the implementation of a strategy and/or framework and/or action plan for councils, climate emergency response that aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Well done to Alderman Kelly Sims, showing leadership on Glenorchy City Council. We are seeing that kind of leadership shown at a grassroots and local government level right across Tasmania and the country. I hope that aldermen on Glenorchy City Council endorse Alderman Sims' motion on 30 September. That is one more council that will have declared a climate emergency in Tasmania.

## **Notice of Motion - Alderman Sims**

Author: General Manager (Tony McMullen)

Qualified Person: General Manager (Tony McMullen)

### **Reporting Brief:**

To consider a notice of motion by Alderman Kelly Sims submitted in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 16(5) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

## Motion

That Council:

1. Affirms its commitment to future generations in addressing catastrophic climate change and biodiversity loss through its on-going policies, strategies and leadership by supporting the declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency and registering with the Climate Emergency Declaration organisation ([climateemergency.org](http://climateemergency.org)).
2. Commits to building public awareness and engagement around the declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency by endorsing the information provided to Councils by the Climate Emergency Declaration organisation about their climate emergency response.
3. Consults with other Tasmanian Councils on the matter of declaring a climate emergency in order to share ideas, practice and information about addressing climate change.
4. Writes to the relevant State and Federal politicians and the Prime Minister to urge the Commonwealth Government to declare a climate emergency at a national level
5. Requests a further report to Council (at a future meeting) containing recommendations for the implementation of a strategy and/or framework and/or action plan for Council's climate emergency response that aligns with the UN Sustainability Development Goals

## Rationale

# WHY ARE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TAKING CLIMATE ACTION?

Local governments are the closest level of government to communities and has a responsibility under the *Local Government Act 1993* to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community. This role includes taking action on climate change.

The Australian Local Government Association, the peak body representing local governments, identifies climate change as one of the top five priorities to act on. It states that effective mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the impacts of climate change will transform the Australian economy, environment and society.

Local government is proven to and fundamentally responsible for driving change and influencing the community via the 'ground up' approach. Councils have a *duty of care* and the experience necessary to educate and work with their community on overarching and important issues such as Climate Change and Declaring a Climate Emergency. The future of human civilisation and the survival of the precious ecosystems on which we depend upon, now hang in the balance. We must begin the enormous task of safely drawing down the excess greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere by taking the necessary steps.

We know from our experience of full-scale wars that mobilisations and economic transformations can be achieved in just a few short years. This is driven by facing existential threats and it shouldn't have to be our own that heavily impacted before we face facts, research and data in order to take action. Let's demand equally strong leadership and action from our 'peacetime' government in order to rectify the climate emergency we now have. *Business as usual* often requires reform and without a greater need for our attention, we must focus on the highest priority known today - Climate Change.

Smart Cities and the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority have funded and produced world class detailed reports that accurately reflect the footprint of GCC across a wide variety of key areas relating to climate change and the declaration of a climate emergency. "Just Transition is a principle, a process and a practice."

# Just Transition Alliance states:

*Just* transitions are vision-led, unifying and place-based principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy.

This means approaching production and consumption cycles holistically and waste-free. The transition itself must be just and equitable; redressing past harms and creating new relationships of power for the future through reparations. If the process of transition is not just, the outcome will never be.

## Just Transition describes both where we are going and how we get there

As of May 2019, 500 Councils around the world and 19 in Australia had Declared a Climate Emergency. That number is now at 1020, 50 are within Australia and that number is fast growing. These Councils are reported to have mapped out current projects and process against set targets in a variety of ways as. Each location is different, but the overarching goals remain the same.

Glenorchy City Council are already underway in working towards and delivering outcomes inline with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

It's time to share this information more meaningfully and to better engage with the greater community on these issues, while positively advocating our position, achievements and successes for addressing our footprint.

## Attachments/Annexures

1. Darebin Council Framework and Action Plan
2. Resource for Effective Local Government Climate Emergency Response
3. ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25
4. Smart Cities
5. Un Sustainable Development Goals

## Darebin Council Framework

<http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/-/media/cityofdarebin/Files/Darebin-Living/CaringfortheEnvironment/EnergyandClimate/DCCFramework4ppA4FA1digital.ashx?la=en>

## Darebin Council Action Plan

<http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/-/media/cityofdarebin/Files/YourCouncil/HowCouncilWorks/CouncilPlan/Council-Plan/CouncilPlanActionPlan2019-2020-June2019.ashx?la=en>

Resource using the case study of Darebin Council *being the first*:

<http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/-/media/cityofdarebin/Files/Darebin-Living/CaringfortheEnvironment/EnergyandClimate/ClimateChange/DCCClimateEmergencyCouncilsResource.ashx?la=en>

## ACT Strategy

[https://www.environment.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/1414641/ACT-Climate-Change-Strategy-2019-2025.pdf/\\_recache](https://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1414641/ACT-Climate-Change-Strategy-2019-2025.pdf/_recache)

## Smart Cities - draft form only

<https://yoursay.hobartcity.com.au/38006/documents/103142/download>

## UN SD goals

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

# Supporters

**27+ individuals attended the initial meeting held at GCC on Wednesday the 18th September 4pm.**

**Groups represented included but are not limited to:**

- Youth Climate Action Hobart
- Australian Youth Climate Council
- Extinction Rebellion
- Extinction rebellion Youth
- Seed
- Australian Parents for Climate Action
- Climate Resilience Network
- Climate Action Hobart
- Break Free - Greenpeace
- Climate Victory Gardens Tasmania
- Montrose Bay High
- Cosgrove High
- Claremont College
- Glenorchy Youth Taskforce
- Glenorchy Citizens
- Southern Schools Social Workers