

OSCAR Media Release

OSCAR endorses Cr Law's Notice of Motion for SCRC to Declare a Climate Emergency and strongly encourages all Councillors to wholeheartedly support the Motion

Cr Law's proposed Motion to recognise a climate emergency for the Sunshine Coast is to be considered at SCRC's Wednesday 10 November Meeting

In May 2021 OSCAR wrote to the Mayor, all Councillors and the CEO strongly encouraging Council to make a climate emergency declaration as proposed by community groups, adopt the proposed 2030 net zero emissions target, and develop and implement an action plan as soon as possible to achieve that target.

OSCAR continues to believe that a 2030 net zero emissions Council target is the most appropriate and feasible goal for responding to the climate emergency we are facing.

Though the *Environment and Liveability Strategy* proposes to reach net zero emissions by 2041, rather than 2030, OSCAR strongly encourages Councillors to support Cr Law's Notice of Motion, as it provides the first step towards achieving that goal, and hopefully our more ambitious one.

The devastating impacts of climate change are already being experienced worldwide. The unprecedented Australian droughts, mega bushfires, coral reef bleaching and extreme storm events of recent years are but a few examples of what awaits us in future.

We know from a diversity of sources that the Sunshine Coast region is highly vulnerable to a wide range of climate change impacts, and this creates a strong obligation for Council to act responsibly to protect our communities, businesses and environment.

OSCAR readily acknowledges the steps SCRC has already taken to seek to reduce its emissions and pursue adaptation and resilience strategies, and that other climate change response actions are in the pipeline.

However, as Cr Law points out, the unfortunate reality is that, despite Council's emission reduction efforts, Council's GHG emissions have **risen rather than declined** in 19/20 and 20/21 compared with the 2017/18 baseline year set in the *Environment and Liveability Strategy*.

Councillor Law's Motion requests Council to review its current actions and redouble its efforts to get back on track with emissions reduction, to review and strengthen performance in its current actions and pursue new initiatives as required.

This approach is clearly consistent with the consensus scientific consensus in the IPCC Sixth Report which informed the Glasgow COP26 Conference that we are facing a climate change emergency that requires decisive emissions reduction action in the coming decade to keep global temperature rises to around 1.5C. To do otherwise risks substantially greater temperature rises and more severe climate change impacts.

In the leadup to the 2020 elections, six of our current Councillors supported the declaration of a climate change emergency for the Sunshine Coast. OSCAR encourages them, and the remaining five Councillors to support this Motion, to demonstrate to our communities and businesses that Council understands the heightened risks of serious climate change impacts if emissions are not reduced significantly as soon as possible, and that our Council is determined to take early, strong actions across its local government jurisdictional responsibilities.

Melva Hobson President, OSCAR