

## Australian Local Government Association - 2023 National General Assembly

### Climate Change Funding Motion

<p><b>Motion</b></p>	<p>The National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide local government funding to support Council’s operational and capital expenses in implementing climate adaptation and carbon offset and mitigation initiatives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move towards net zero emissions</li> <li>• Minimise the impacts on climate change in our communities</li> <li>• Minimise and offset emissions across Council operations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Objective</b> (max 200 words)</p> <p><i>Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA?</i></p>	<p>Australia is already experiencing the impacts of climate change with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• warming temperatures and heat events</li> <li>• drier conditions in southern parts of Australia, wetter conditions in northern Australia</li> <li>• increase in the intensity of heavy rainfall events</li> <li>• increase in extreme fire weather</li> <li>• sea surface temperatures have warmed with longer and more frequent marine heatwaves</li> <li>• sea levels have risen</li> <li>• increase in coastal erosion</li> <li>• increase in coastal inundation</li> <li>• snow depth trends have seen a downward trend</li> <li>• And further changes are projected.</li> </ul> <p>(source: <a href="#">CSIRO's State of the Climate Report</a>)</p> <p>The Australian Government’s introduction of the Climate Change Bill in 2022 legislates the nation’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43% below 2005 levels by 2030, and net zero by 2050.</p> <p>Funding support should be provided to local governments to lead the way in their communities for climate adaptation, mitigation and carbon offset and minimisation.</p>
<p><b>Summary of Key Arguments</b> (max 500 words)</p> <p><i>Background information and supporting arguments.</i></p>	<p>Local governments have the opportunity and responsibility to play an important role in the nation’s response to climate change and are well placed to lead the way for local responses to reducing and offsetting emissions, with global impacts.</p> <p>A dedicated source of finance to fund initiatives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plans and delivers projects and actions that lower Council’s own carbon footprint and that of their community</li> <li>• Supports Council’s to embed climate risk management across the business</li> <li>• Finances dedicated resource/s to lead projects and action that lower carbon footprint and emissions, including reporting and monitoring</li> </ul> <p>Examples of projects that support Council’s to reduce their emissions may include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transitioning fleet, plant and equipment to renewable energy sources e.g., electric vehicles, hydrogen powered plant etc.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Converting streetlighting to solar or LED</li> <li>• Utilising solar or other renewable energies for Council assets</li> <li>• Power purchase agreement and renewable energy supply agreements</li> <li>• Upgrades to infrastructure for optimised asset performance, reducing emissions and impacts to the environment</li> <li>• Funding for local government roles to lead and manage actions and projects for Councils e.g., Sustainability or Net Zero Officer</li> </ul> <p>The impacts of climate change, if not addressed, will have major detrimental effects to local governments day to day operations and service delivery. For example, the increase in frequency and severity of weather events can be expected to increase insurance costs for councils until assets are not insurable at all. Resulting in recovery and replacement costs coming at a cost to rate payers or simply not being undertaken.</p> <p>Funding to support council's expenses in implementing climate adaptation and carbon mitigation initiatives directly aligns with the federal and state government emission targets.</p> <p>Emissions reducing projects/transitions and upgrades also offer councils the opportunity to reinvest efficiencies and funds saved to continue their climate adaptation journey for the longer term. This funding allows councils the funds needed to implement and realise these efficiencies.</p>
<p><b>Does this motion complement or build on the policy objectives of the Council's state local government association? Y/N</b></p>	<p>Yes, aligns with LGAQ's Advocacy Action Plan.</p>