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Climate Change Project Team
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Level 10, 8 Nicholson St
East Melbourne VIC 3002

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To Whom It May Concern

Climate Change Adaptation Plan Directions Paper

Hobsons Bay City Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of Victoria's second Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Council has a strong commitment to action on climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures outlined in our Corporate Greenhouse Strategy 2013-20, Community Greenhouse Strategy 2013-30, Climate Change Policy 2013 and Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2013-18.

The overall emphasis of Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan Directions Paper and the principles required for Victoria to effectively adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change is supported.

The Directions Paper, as noted by the Municipal Association of Victoria, is very high level and therefore lacks detail on how the various goals, principles and action areas will be translated into practical actions to achieve the strategic objectives. It is requested that the Climate Change Adaptation Plan be accompanied by a strong action plan with clear steps that show what practical action will be taken to implement the Plan.

Hobsons Bay City Council welcomes any additional opportunities to provide input into the development of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Should you wish to discuss the submission further please contact Kathleen McClusky, Acting Director Strategic Development on 9932 1004 or email kmclusky@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Chris Eddy
Chief Executive Officer



Hobsons Bay City Council Submission to the Climate Change Adaptation Directions Paper

Hobsons Bay is situated on the Port Phillip Bay, approximately seven to 20 kilometres south west of Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD). The community has told Council that they love Hobsons Bay for its foreshore, beaches, waterways and natural spaces.

In order to support this environment and liveability within the municipality, under the umbrella of Council's Environment Strategy, Council has developed a suite of strategies and plans to address the different aspects of climate change. These include: the climate change adaptation plan, corporate and community greenhouse strategies, an integrated water management plan, a community environmental engagement strategy and a waste and litter management plan.

The overall emphasis of Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan Directions Paper is supported. In particular:

- the goal of embedding climate adaptation considerations across all level of Victorian Government decision making, policies, planning and service provision
- the inclusion of equity in decision making and the amelioration of disadvantage through adaptation planning
- the inclusion of the economy, businesses and agriculture in adaptation planning and agrees that Victorian industries should be both encouraged and supported to adapt to climate change and to maximise opportunities in a low carbon economy
- planning and action to build the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities across Victoria to manage climate impacts
- the inclusion of climate change considerations in infrastructure planning
- the inclusion of climate change considerations in the ongoing planning, protection and management of biodiversity and the natural environment

As identified, the Directions Paper is very high level and does not provide an indication of how the strategic directions will be translated into practical outcomes. A clear process for embedding the adaptation principles across government decision making, policies, planning and service provision needs to be identified. To be effectively implemented the Plan must include an action plan that has measurable, time bound actions that are committed to and funded by the relevant government departments and agencies responsible for each area of governance. Hobsons Bay would welcome the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on the development of such an action plan.



The Plan should provide clear outcomes on the following areas:

- a focus on wellbeing and the needs of our most vulnerable communities
- how the Victorian Government intends to identify the most significant climate impacts for the community
- how the Victorian Government intends to identify which government agencies need to play a key role planning for and driving action to manage these impacts
- how the Victorian Government intends to monitor and evaluate these impacts to determine the level of action required
- the timeframe for the delivery of this work program
- how this program of work will be funded

The outcomes outlined above are of equal relevance to business, infrastructure and biodiversity, therefore, it is considered that these matters should be addressed within the Plan for each of these areas.

The Directions Paper lacks clear referencing and links between the Plan and other Victorian Government policies. Stronger linkages between the Plan and other Victorian Government policies as well as a strong commitment to embedding climate change adaptation principles into these policies is required. The following should be further explored:

- clarity on the links between the Plan and Plan Melbourne. The importance of climate change adaptation has been discussed in the Plan Melbourne Refresh. The revised plan seeks to identify pathways to improve the integration of climate change planning and responses into land use planning and the natural and built environment. Actions that can achieve greater linkages include:
 - a commitment to considering how health impacts and the urban heat island effect could be minimised through the effective design of the built form
 - a commitment to the facilitation of alternative transport options, particularly bicycle, pedestrian and public transport infrastructure and planning processes
 - implementation of the 20 minute city concept
 - preparation and release of already completed flood mapping information
 - identification of and planning for climate hazard areas
 - encouragement of water reuse and recycling to help manage water during drought periods
- clear links between the Plan and the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-19 to clearly articulate that climate change adaptation is essential for a healthy, liveable and resilient community. The health and wellbeing of



- vulnerable communities depends on the inclusion of equity in decision making and the amelioration of disadvantage through adaptation planning
- clear links to policies responding to climate change related health impacts such as a rise in communicable diseases and heat stress
 - clear links to policies areas of relevance to business to strengthen businesses understanding of and capacity to adapt to climate impacts
 - clear links between the Plan, Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2036 and Plan Melbourne to protect patch size and connectivity of remnant vegetation to facilitate the coastal retreat of ecosystems under threat from sea level rise
 - clear identification of where climate impacts straddles two areas of policy and how these impacts will be effectively managed. For example, sea level rise will impact on fluvial flooding and drainage infrastructure in coastal communities. State based agencies must work collaboratively to ensure that these impacts are investigated and managed

For more than a decade water authorities, local governments and research institutions have been collaboratively working together to transition Melbourne to a water sensitive city. This has involved planning for and undertaking works to improve water security, increase liveability and protect the natural environment. Much of this work has strong links with climate change adaptation including the creation of alternative water supplies and utilising water in the landscape to manage urban heat island impacts. This work should be reflected in the Plan to ensure a continued and ongoing commitment to fund and support this work.

Infrastructure has been constructed to provide a service to people. When considering the impacts of climate change on infrastructure it is important to ask: "How is the climate event impacting on the service the infrastructure is providing?" By examining the impact of the service provided by the infrastructure we can explore a wider range of solutions and therefore, through more flexible decision making processes, pick the best solution for our present and future rather than being constrained by historical solutions.

An example of this is recognising that cars enable people to move from place to place. Planning only for the movement of cars and not for the movement of people limits the range of solutions. Efficiently planning for the movement of people to their place of work, shops, service centres through integrated planning processes should be at the forefront of infrastructure planning and we ask that this be explored more thoroughly in the Plan.

Effective emergency management requires planning, preparedness and strong collaboration between multiple state and local agencies and neighbouring councils. Hobsons Bay welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the Victorian Government



and the SES to determine the most effective way to embed climate adaptation planning within emergency management processes. Last year Hobsons Bay undertook a trial to include climate change considerations within the Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) and found the process to be highly effective. Hobsons Bay will now continue to include climate change as a critical component within its emergency risk assessment process and we welcome the opportunity to share our learnings from this process and be part of the development of an effective process that is consistent across the state.