### Compact of Mayors for Climate Change

Directorate: Strategic Development Appendix: 9 3rd Pink

#### Purpose

To seek Council’s support for joining the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Compact of Mayors, a global coalition of the worlds leading councils, mayor and city leaders committed to action on climate change.

#### Recommendation

**That Council joins the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – Local Governments for Sustainability Compact of Mayors, and in so doing renews its commitment to reducing local greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing resilience to climate change, and reporting progress publicly.**

##### Summary

The Compact of Mayors is a global coalition of mayors and city officials committing to reducing local greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing resilience to climate change and tracking progress publicly. It is an agreement to combat climate change through consistent and complementary measures in collaboration with state and national efforts.

With the aim of benchmarking Council’s performance and enhancing recognition of its action to address climate change, water management and greenhouse gas emissions, it is recommended that Hobsons Bay participate in an international benchmarking exercise, called the Compact of Mayors.

##### Background

Council has a number of policies aimed at supporting our community to move to a low carbon future. The Community Greenhouse Strategy 2013-30 focusses on a series of emissions reduction strategies for business and the community, whilst the Corporate Greenhouse Strategy 2013-20 is targeted at Council’s role in reducing emissions and achieving zero net emissions by 2020. The community, through the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision, has asked Council to activate sustainable practices, including action on climate change, water management and greenhouse gas emissions.

As climate change remains a critical issue for Hobsons Bay, so too does reducing Council’s emissions. In 2011-12 Council commenced reporting to the community on its key environmental undertakings through the Sustainability Report. Whilst Council currently reports on an annual basis on how it is delivering on its sustainability initiatives often reporting occurs into the next year due to access to timely data. Significant achievements are identified and documented in the Sustainability Report but they are not shared amongst a wider audience that includes governments of all levels, industry and business. Sharing the impact of these current efforts and recognising the impact of new and ongoing actions is imperative, in part because a review of climate change policy and Council’s Environmental Engagement Strategy 2013-18 will be undertaken over the next year. Establishing a clear framework and methodology for reporting and being able to benchmark against other councils will enable Hobsons Bay to have a clearer comparative understanding on how it is tracking with its sustainability initiatives. This reporting will align well with the Compact of Mayors for Climate Change program.

Council was also one of the first Local Governments to pledge for TAKE2, which is Victoria’s collective climate change pledge initiative, to reach **net zero emissions by 2050** and keep the global temperature rise to under two degrees.

##### Discussion

The Compact of Mayors is a global coalition of mayors and city officials committing to reducing local greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing resilience to climate change and tracking progress publicly. It is an agreement to combat climate change through consistent and complimentary measures in collaboration with state and national efforts.

The Compact of Mayors collects significant climate action data that Council is already reporting but enables it to be presented in a consistent and transparent manner. The data is then available in a single place. The Compact builds on existing cooperative efforts, partnering with other initiatives to better measure and communicate the impact of city action.

In Council becoming a member of the Compact of Mayors for Climate Change, Council is publicly pledging to report on the following actions:

* a greenhouse gas emissions inventory consistent with the Global protocol of Community Scale greenhouse missions inventory (GPC), within one year or less
* the climate hazards faced by our city, within one year or less
* our target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, within two years or less
* the climate vulnerabilities faced by our city, within two years or less
* our plans to address climate change mitigation and adaption within three years or less

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives **(**ICLEI) and the Compact of Mayors seeks to provide a comprehensive and robust greenhouse gas inventory in order to support climate action planning.  It aims to help cities establish a base year emissions inventory, set reduction targets and track their performance. Council will require support to undertake this work. Council can draw on data provided through the Australia’s National Greenhouse Accounts as well as assistance in the interpretation of data. A collaborative process will need to be undertaken with Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) to ensure their collection and reporting tool benefits the Compact of Mayor’s process. Networking with other councils will be important for a consistent and robust approach to the collection and interpretation of data.

Council has already undertaken significant work that goes some way to addressing the above mentioned actions:

* Council produces an Annual Sustainability Report that identifies the many capital works actions, day-to-day activities, community programs and events that are undertaken to protect the municipality’s biodiversity, manage waste, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and sustainably manage our water resources
* in 2013 Council prepared and adopted a Climate Change Policy and Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2013-18 that identifies climate hazards faced by our municipality
* in 2013 Council adopted a Corporate Greenhouse Strategy and Community Greenhouse Strategy that set a target of zero net emissions by 2020
* the Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2013-18 identifies vulnerabilities face by our city and identifies further strategic work to be undertaken to address these issues
* in 2016 Council adopted the recommendations of the Target 2265 Report which included a costed action plan of how Council could reduce its emissions by 2020

With the aim of benchmarking Council’s performance and enhancing recognition of its action to address climate change, water management and greenhouse gas emissions, it is recommended that Hobsons Bay participate in an international benchmarking exercise, called the Compact of Mayors.

##### Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives in the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan and Council Plan 2013-17:

**Goal 2: A well planned, vibrant and sustainable place**

2.5 Reduce the Council’s ecological footprint and ensure our community has the capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change

**Goal 3: Quality community infrastructure and public open spaces and places**

3.1 Protect and enhance our coastal environment, public open space network and natural areas

**Goal 4: An innovative, proactive and leading organisation**

4.1 Undertake responsible and sustainable decision making and management.

##### Policy and Previous Council Reports

This commitment aligns with the following strategies and plans: Corporate Greenhouse Strategy 2013-20, Environmental Engagement Strategy 2013-18, Waste and Litter Management Plan 2012-17, Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2013-18 and the Community Greenhouse Strategy 2013-30.

##### Legal/Statutory Obligations/Risk

In becoming part of the Compact of Mayors for Climate Change, Council commits to reporting publicly on our actions towards reducing our emissions.

##### Financial and Resource Implications

Undertaking works to reduce Council’s energy and water use will reduce long term operational costs. Measuring Council’s greenhouse gas emissions allows Council to manage and direct actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move toward the zero net emissions by the 2020 target. Council allocates around $400,000 a year towards projects that assist Council in reducing its greenhouse emissions. These works are informed by Council sustainability policies and Target 2265 Report which is a four year plan adopted by Council.

The cost of the implementation of the Council’s sustainability strategies is considered each year in the setting of the annual budget.

There is no cost involved in joining the Compact of Mayors. While not required, Council membership of ICLEI may be desirable in order to access advice and tools to assist with analysis and reporting of Council’s sustainability actions and progress. ICLEI membership is dependent upon population size.  For Hobsons Bay with a population of 87,000 people, the membership fee would be $1,700 per annum. An additional $3,000 contribution would be required to assist in preparing a gap analysis report to understand what data is currently collected, what is missing and what work is required to enable Council to be able to report on all emissions.

##### Environmental/Social/Economic Impacts

The Compact of Mayors program looks at the environmental initiatives that Council has undertaken which continue to contribute to the natural, built, economic and social environments within Hobsons Bay. Reporting on these initiatives is an important element of Council showing leadership to the community, increasing transparency and demonstrating the actions being undertaken by Council to meet the goals identified in the environmental strategies.

##### Consultation and Communication

The Sustainable Environment Advisory Group provides valuable input and feedback on Council projects and strategy development. In addition, the broader community is consulted when developing strategies and reviewing environmental sustainability projects and initiatives.

Council will continue to engage with our community through sustainability programs and seeking their view through the annual community survey.

##### Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.