

## **Mayors Statement on Climate Action to the Australian Council of Local Government, June 2023**

Australian cities and local governments are on the frontline of the impacts of the climate crisis and are bearing the cost of adapting to these impacts.

In addition to this, recent energy crises reinforce our view that investment in clean energy infrastructure, grids, energy system flexibility, and fuel availability should be priorities for Australia's orderly clean energy transition.

**We offer the opportunity to the Federal Government to partner with local government to help drive faster progress on their climate targets, and resilience building at the local community level across the nation.**

We support the Australian Government's May 2023 budget allocations for climate action. In particular the \$1.6 billion program for energy saving upgrades for homes, businesses and social housing will help to towards decarbonising our economy and reducing energy costs.

Local governments around the nation have a decades long history of helping their households and businesses reduce their energy costs and slash emissions. Some of the successful Council led programs include:

- The [Solar Savers program](#) facilitates the quick uptake of solar power by offering free advice and trustworthy quotes to residents and business owners.
- The [City Switch](#) program has improved energy efficiency and electrification of over 1070 commercial tenancies covering over 4.9 million square metres of space.
- [Solar my School](#) has been helping schools go solar, with support from start to finish.
- [Smart Green Apartments](#) provides advice and access to resources to reduce energy and water use in apartment buildings

These established programs, designed and run by Local Councils have demonstrated success in engaging with residents and businesses and getting energy and climate finance out the door in an equitable and reliable way.

These successful programs and others like them are ready to be replicated and could be scaled up around the country via other Councils across the local government sector.

Local government is the perfect partner for delivering this new federal government package in an efficient, accessible, accountable and affordable manner. Local governments are trusted and visible institutions throughout Australia and can provide the scale and have expertise and mix of skills to be able to deliver this funding in a reliable way.

As Mayors, we acknowledge the efforts of the Australian government, alongside state and territory governments, to confront the challenge of climate change and fast track the clean energy transition. We support the endorsed position of the Australian Local Government Association for a \$200 million emission reduction fund and a \$250 million resilience fund.

We see great value in establishing an effective and formal partnership between local governments and the Federal Government for strengthening climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience across all tiers of government.

With appropriate resources and agreement to implement well-defined and informed resilience and emissions mitigation actions, local government is the partner who can help with:

- policy reform to facilitate decentralized distributed renewable energy generation and storage technologies.
- commercial building retrofits and increased capability in the construction sector to deliver them, driven with an incentive fund.
- national methane emission reductions with expanded waste processing options for organic waste and recyclables and driving circular economy opportunities.
- national transport emission reductions through assistance to deliver EV charging infrastructure at community facilities, public and active transport infrastructure and help overcome barriers that prevent uptake of these solutions.
- helping to deliver community resilience if increased investment funding follows a climate risk framework and transition plan to build more resilient housings and reduce the un-insurability of properties.
- assisting the implementation of green building standards for new buildings and fuel efficiency standards to reach zero emissions for vehicles.

We have the opportunity to establish a comprehensive climate policy framework that integrates all levels of government and assists local government in calculating their contributions in the Australian Nationally Determined Contributions. This will ensure truly ambitious national climate targets.

Mayors are working in partnership with [ICLEI Oceania](#), the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy](#), [Cities Power Partnership](#), [Climate Emergency Australia](#), [Better Futures Australia](#), [ClimateWorks Centre](#) representing 204 Australian councils from 76% of the population, cities and local governments stand in solidarity in issuing this statement ahead of the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly being held from 13 – 16 June 2023.

**Signed:**

Cr. Anna Reynolds, Lord Mayor: City of Hobart  
Cr. Nuatali Nelmes, Lord Mayor: City of Newcastle  
Cr. Basil Zempilas, Lord Mayor: City of Perth  
Cr. Clover Moore, Lord Mayor: City of Sydney  
Cr. Sally Capp, Lord Mayor: City of Melbourne  
Cr. Jane Lomax-Smith, Lord Mayor: City of Adelaide  
Cr. Brendan Blomeley, Mayor: Clarence City Council  
Cr. Angelica Panopoulos, Mayor: Merri-bek City Council  
Cr. George Gear, Mayor: City of Melville  
Cr. Alison Jarman, Mayor: Devonport City Council  
Cr. Gordon Bradbery, Mayor: Wollongong City Council  
Cr. George Greiss, Mayor: Campbelltown, NSW  
Cr. Julie Williams, Mayor: City of Darebin  
Cr. Monica Broniecki, Mayor: City of Unley  
Cr. Peter Castaldo, Mayor: Banyule City Council  
Cr. Paula Wriedt, Mayor: Kingborough Council  
Cr. Jill Whittaker, Mayor: Campbelltown City Council, SA  
Cr. Hannah Fitzhardinge, Mayor: City of Fremantle  
Cr. Ruth Butterfield, Mayor: City of Armadale  
Cr. Moira Were, Mayor: City of Onkaparinga  
Cr. Bob Manning OAM, Mayor: Cairns Regional Council  
Cr. Paula Cristoffanini, President: Shire of Augusta-Margaret River  
Cr. Liz Pattison, Mayor: Surf Coast Shire  
Cr. Tanya Taylor, Mayor: Willoughby City Council  
Cr. Emma Cole, Mayor: City of Vincent  
Cr. Amanda Findley, Mayor: Shoalhaven City Council  
Cr. Jason Hamling, Mayor: Orange City Council  
Cr. Neil Reilly, Mayor: Kiama Municipal Council