

Submission to the Long Term Financial Plan

One of the largest issues that will affect our Wagga LGA is climate change. It will negatively affect:

- the environment, with large risks to native fauna and flora through rising temperatures, drought and bushfires
- the general population's well-being, with dangers from bush fires, droughts and floods, mental health risks and stresses on families for those dependent on the agricultural sectors
- disadvantaged residents particularly, as they do not have the resources or housing situations to deal with heat waves and other disruptions.

Nearly every area of responsibility of Council is at greater risk if climate change reaches a 2 degree temperature rise rather than being contained to a 1.5 degree rise.

Hence it is very important, and commendable, that Council has put in place net zero emissions targets for both the Council's own operations and for the community more broadly.

It is also very important that the Council dedicate new funds and new staff resources to a project in the Long Term Financial Plan to proactively and vigorously pursue these net zero emissions targets for Council and the Community beginning immediately.

Such a dedication of resources will deliver on a number of the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), such as "We create a sustainable environment for future generations", and CSP Outcomes such as "We demonstrate sustainable practices", and "We minimise our impact on the environment."

Thank you,