

9.2 - Notice of Motion – Climate Change (SJ3761)	
Councillor	Councillor Rich
Disclosure of Officers Interest:	No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .

Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Rich via email on Monday, 14 March 2022.

The Notice of Motion is “That Council REQUESTS the CEO provide a report to Council detailing:

- What the Shire is doing to combat climate change?
- What detrimental effects will climate change have on the operation of the Shire in the short, medium and long term?
- What more can the shire do to lessen climate change impacts on the community of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale?”

Officer Comment

Climate change is a key issue for the Shire that impacts almost all aspects of the Shire’s operations and responsibilities. The Shire’s State of the Environment Report 2019 discusses climate change as one of the fundamental pressures that affect the natural and human environment:

“Anthropogenic climate change (the enhanced greenhouse effect) is predicted to result in warmer, drier conditions across the south-west of Western Australia. The expected changes will be a significant stress on the atmosphere; affect the ability of the land to support native vegetation and productive agriculture; have significant impacts on surface and groundwater availability and quality; place extreme pressure on ecosystems that are already under threat from many other factors; and impact on the population and urban expansion. Predicted human health impacts include increased heat stress related deaths, failure of public transport and electricity grids, and increased respiratory illness and disease during heatwaves and bushfires. Climate change will significantly affect hydrology and bushfire risk, which in turn will affect many of the themes of this report.”

The Federal Government has committed to a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, which can only be achieved through engagement at all levels of government. With local government being the closest level of governance to the community, it also has a unique opportunity in working collaboratively across its community and stakeholders, to help support behavior change and structuring responses to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Contact Us

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An introspective analysis also recognizes that climate change will impact on the large and diverse function of local government as an organisation, which also need planning and responding to. The notice of motion provides an opportunity to report to Council on the issue of climate change.

It would also be beneficial to provide a sufficient timeframe in which to develop the report, and this is recommended to be three months.

Voting Requirements: Simple Majority

Councillor Recommendation:

That Council REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer provide a report to Council detailing:

- a. What the Shire is doing to combat climate change?
- b. What detrimental effects will climate change have on the operation of the Shire in the short, medium and long term?
- c. What more can the Shire do to lessen climate change impacts on the community of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale?

Alternative Officer Recommendation:

That Council REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer provide a report to Council within three months detailing:

- a. What the Shire is doing to combat climate change?
- b. What detrimental effects will climate change have on the operation of the Shire in the short, medium and long term?
- c. What more can the Shire do to lessen climate change impacts on the community of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale?