

ORD03

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SUBJECT: PUBLIC EXHIBITION - CAMDEN: TOWARDS NET ZERO 2023
FROM: Director Community Assets
EDMS #: 23/289449

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to seek Council's endorsement to place the draft Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing in late June 2023.

BACKGROUND

The impacts of climate change are already being felt across the globe, with impacts on human and natural systems increasing in scale and severity. In Camden we have experienced increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that have led to costly disruptions and recovery, reduced liveability for our local communities and impacts on natural systems including flora and fauna.

These climate changes are attributed to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions driven by human activities and the use of fossil fuels.

Action on climate change and achieving net zero emissions is being driven from all levels of governments, with 196 countries, including Australia, signing the Paris Agreement to work towards limiting temperature increases to well below 2°C and to strive for 1.5°C. Achieving this target will require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes on a global scale to reach net zero as quickly as possible.

The Australian Government has adopted a target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 with a 43% reduction by 2030 based on 2005 levels, while the NSW Government has recently updated its targets to achieve net zero by 2050 with a 70% reduction by 2035 based on 2005 levels.

Councillors were briefed on the draft Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 plan on 23 May 2023.

MAIN REPORT

Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 (**Attachment 1**) has been developed to outline the pathway to achieve net zero emissions from Council operations by 2050 with an interim target to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030, based on 2018-19 levels.

The development of this plan and the implementation of actions identified within it supports the delivery of the Delivery Program 2022-26 and the Sustainability Strategy 2020-24.

To build an understanding of Council's operational emissions, a profile based on the 2018-19 financial year was prepared. This profile separates emissions into Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

In 2018-19, Camden Council's emissions profile was 20,745 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO²-e) including all Scope 1 and 2 emissions, and limited Scope 3 emissions. The majority of Council's emissions are Scope 3 emissions from purchased goods and services, with electricity use and streetlighting also significant contributors.

Long term emissions projections were also prepared to understand our future emissions based on a business-as-usual approach. It is projected that Council's emissions will be 25,618 tonnes of CO²-e by 2049-50 if no carbon reduction actions are implemented.

While Council has already implemented several significant projects and initiatives to reduce its emissions, more targeted and coordinated action is required to achieve the reductions necessary to meet our targets.

The plan sets out the framework to assist with planning and help achieve the biggest carbon emissions reductions through delivery of 46 actions. These actions have been arranged under six focus areas:

1. *Energy* – Our buildings, facilities and assets are energy efficient and powered by renewable energy.
2. *Waste* – Our waste diversion rates will be increased through continual improvement.
3. *Goods and Services* – Commitment to progressively lower emissions through our purchased products and services.
4. *Built Environment* – Our buildings and facilities will have low or zero emissions.
5. *Transport and Plant* – Our staff fleet vehicles, operational vehicles and plant fleet will include low greenhouse emission options.
6. *Emissions Management* – We have the skills, knowledge and systems to allow us to understand and track our emissions.

The actions have been identified for delivery as either short, medium or long-term actions. Short-term actions are those that we will aim to complete by 2028 and medium-term actions are those that we will aim to complete by 2030 to achieve our interim target while long-term actions are those that will be completed beyond 2030. It is noted that carbon offsets have not been included as a focus area as these will only be considered as a last resort to meet targets when all other opportunities have been exhausted.

It is proposed to place the draft Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 plan on public exhibition commencing in late June 2023 for a period of 28 days. During the exhibition period, hard copies of the draft plan will be available for viewing at our Libraries, and the Oran Park Administration Centre. The document will also be available for comment through Council's online engagement platform Your Voice Camden.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for the implementation of the actions within the draft plan will be sourced from current and future budgets as well as from suitable grant funding and partnerships.

CONCLUSION

Council has prepared Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 to provide a pathway for Council operations to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, with an interim target to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030, based on 2018-19 levels. This plan demonstrates Council's commitment to our growing community to help slow the long-term effects of climate change.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. **endorse Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing in June 2023;**
- ii. **if no unresolved submissions are received during the public exhibition period, adopt Camden: Towards Net Zero effective from the day after the close of the exhibition period; and**
- iii. **if any unresolved submissions are received during the public exhibition, receive a further report to consider the submissions.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023