

ICLEI Oceania Local Governments for Sustainability Communiqué to the United Nations Climate Conference, COP26 Glasgow

21 October 2021

Local governments are Australia's secret weapon to achieving net zero. Local governments across the country are working to deliver ambitious net zero targets, offering a pathway for an ambitious national net zero target to be achieved.

Local governments across Australia seek meaningful partnership with the Federal government to deliver on a national net zero target and improve adaptation and resilience for the entire Australian society, industry and economy as soon as possible. Local governments call for the Australian government to:

- Put in place interim targets and steep emissions reductions during this decade as part of the net zero commitment and in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C at the United Nations Climate Conference, COP26 Glasgow.
- Support a dedicated federal funding stream to local government for climate mitigation and adaptation¹ including the Australian Local Government Association's request to commit to a Local Government Climate Change Response Partnership Fund of \$200 million over four years to provide support for councils to help their communities reduce emissions and understand and transition to the future².
- Support global programs to help local governments deliver their climate ambition through initiatives such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Green Climate Cities and Cities Race to Zero.

Local governments remind us that cooperative action at all levels and across all sectors is needed to deeply and rapidly cut our emissions, while also preparing for climate impacts that can no longer be avoided. Local governments urge Government at all levels and non-state actors to take rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 and deliver a healthier, fairer zero carbon world in time.

The Local governments recognise the significant actions being taken as detailed in the [2021 Australian Local Government Climate Review](#) and [State of Play: Local governments and city networks accelerating climate action in Australia](#).

¹ As per the motion adopted without dissent at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in June 2021.

² Local Governments Prepare for COP26 Global Climate Summit. <https://alga.asn.au/local-governments-prepare-for-cop26-global-climate-summit/>

Australian local governments are committed to working with the Federal Government to take decisive action on climate change and to keep global warming below the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement. This is evidenced by Australian local government commitments to:

- 17 pledged to the Cities Race to Zero
- 31 joined to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
- 101 declared a climate emergency
- 156 joined the Cities Power Partnership
- 17 signed the Better Futures Australia Declaration

This Communiqué was delivered by ICLEI during the **Australian Local Government Leaders Acceleration Action at COP26 Virtual Forum** held on the 21 October 2021 hosted ICLEI Oceania with support of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Oceania, Better Futures Australia, C40, Cities Power Partnership, Climate Emergency Australia, Ironbark Sustainability and UN-Habitat.

For more information about how Australian local governments are leading action:

- Australian Local Governments Climate Review 2021. <https://www.icleioceania.org/icleioceanianews/2021/8/17/launch-of-the-2021-australian-local-government-climate-review>
- State of Play: Local governments and city networks accelerating climate action in Australia. June 2021. <https://www.gcom-oceania.org/news-blog/2021/6/18/cities-are-secret-weapon-to-achieve-net-zero>
- Cities Race to Zero: https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/cities-race-to-zero?language=en_US

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability is a global organisation for local governments, city leaders and partners to accelerate local sustainable development. The ICLEI Oceania team supports Local Governments across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific to take greater action on climate change. ICLEI Oceania is the regional secretariat for the Global Covenant of Mayors where over 10,000 cities and towns globally have committed to real action on climate change. www.icleioceania.org or jessica.robbs@iclei.org.