

## Background Information

Environmental Sustainability is a key strategy for the Hutt City Council. Our strategy embraces measures to protect the environment. This involves careful consideration of what we can do to minimise our carbon footprint, of which Council has an important role to play, not only in terms of its own operations but also for its Council-Controlled Organisations.

The zero carbon target will apply to the Hutt City Council and its Council-Controlled Organisations. Hutt City Council Controlled Organisations include Urban Plus Ltd, Seaview Marina, and the Community Facilities Trust. The Council is also a shareholder in Wellington Water Ltd.

Net zero means any greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere are balanced by other processes that see an equivalent amount removed e.g. forests soaking up carbon dioxide.

Setting this target is consistent with the aims of the Paris Agreement, which New Zealand ratified in 2016. Through this agreement New Zealand has set an initial target to reduce its emissions to 30% below 2005 levels by 2030

Council notes the nationwide consultation that has already taken place around the proposed Zero Carbon Bill and the work currently underway to draft this legislation. In June 2018 the Council endorsed the Zero Carbon Bill and its objective to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050.

If zero carbon legislation is passed in 2019 then this will likely become the de-facto Lower Hutt community-wide emissions target and Council will consider, alongside government agencies, how this could be facilitated.

The Council expects that by making a decision to set a zero carbon target and applying it to Council's business and operations we will be able to share our experiences and provide advice to other local authorities in the Wellington region.

Later in 2019, the Council will consider the development of a *Lower Hutt Climate and Resilience Plan*<sup>1</sup> to identify relevant objectives and prioritise community-focused actions to assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the anticipated New Zealand net zero target.

One example of the Council reducing its carbon footprint was through the installation of a ground source heat pump underneath the new Council administration building on Laings Road. This was the first use of energy piles in New Zealand significantly reducing the operational costs of heating and cooling systems.

---

<sup>1</sup> Working title