

# Creating clean, local jobs: top opportunities for councils

Local governments can accelerate solutions to put Australians back to work quickly while tackling long term challenges like climate change through these top opportunities:

1. Drive **renewable energy and storage** within councils and communities to lower power bills and increase energy independence and resilience.

## Sunshine Coast Solar Farm

Sunshine Coast Regional Council (QLD)



The 15MW Sunshine Coast Solar Farm is providing enough energy to meet Council's entire electricity demand every year, including administration buildings, aquatic centres and sporting facilities, libraries and other public buildings. The facility is expected to deliver Council net savings of over \$22 million over a 30-year period.<sup>1</sup>

2. Accelerate, and advocate for, **sustainable transport** to future proof cities and connect communities and regions.

## Fifteenth Avenue Smart Transit Corridor

Liverpool City Council (NSW)



Fifteenth Avenue Smart Transit (FAST) Corridor is a visionary city-shaping project to deliver a sustainable public transport link between the Liverpool CBD and Western Sydney International Airport. High quality public and active transport options (like trackless trams) are critical for commuters, residents and airport visitors and the FAST Corridor will play a key role in the sustainable growth of the Liverpool LGA.<sup>2</sup>

3. Roll out **energy efficiency** measures within council and the community to create jobs, reduce energy costs and create more comfortable homes and workplaces.

## LED Street Light Project

Orange City Council (NSW)



Since December 2019, most streetlights in Orange have been replaced with energy efficient LEDs, and the savings in electricity and greenhouse emissions are already proving substantial with up to 50 percent energy savings and an expected \$500,000 savings every year.<sup>3</sup>

4. Increase **revegetation and urban greening**, as well as undertake ecosystem restoration to maintain unique biodiversity, clean air and water and healthy communities.

## Greening Onkaparinga

City of Onkaparinga (SA)



Over 35,000 trees have been planted in streets, parks and waterways since 2017 as part of Onkaparinga's accelerated greening program, which aims to plant 100,000 trees on council land. Council's ambitious targets for tree planting are inspired by mapping of urban tree canopy and heat impacts, as well as a desire to increase habitat for wildlife. By 2045, there will be a 20 per cent increase in both canopy cover and urban green cover, supporting 8 jobs every year.<sup>4</sup>

1 Sunshine Coast Regional Council, 2020  
2 Liverpool City Council, 2020  
3 Orange City Council, 2020  
4 City of Onkaparinga, 2020

- 5.** Integrate **circular economy** principles across council to close the loop on resource use, such as enhancing organic waste collection and processing, to create jobs and cut carbon emissions.

**Your Waste – Got it Sorted?**

Wagga Wagga City Council (NSW)



To reduce emissions, save money and cut waste to landfill, Wagga Wagga City Council introduced a food organics and garden organics collection as part of its three bin kerbside waste service. In its first two years, 20,268 tonnes of food and garden waste was diverted from landfill and over \$2M was saved in landfill costs.<sup>5</sup> The program also supported 32 jobs in the construction period and provides 7 ongoing jobs.

- 6.** Support local businesses to be more sustainable through opportunities like increasing the uptake of renewable energy, aiding energy efficiency upgrades and waste management support.

**Sustainability Incentives Scheme (SIS)**

City of Adelaide (SA)



The SIS provides financial rebates to the community to support adoption of sustainable technologies and actions that improve environmental performance. Since 2015, the Scheme has leveraged \$8.35 for every \$1 spent through rebates. During this time, the Scheme provided rebates for 106 energy storage and 302 solar PV systems.<sup>6</sup>

- 7.** Actively **engage communities** to provide a clear understanding of the importance and benefits of taking action on climate.

**Whitsunday Climate Change Innovation Hub**

Whitsunday Regional Council (QLD)



The Whitsundays Regional Council established the Whitsundays Climate Change Innovation Hub (The Hub) in late 2018 to advance Council’s ability to better respond to the various challenges posed by climate change and build resilience. Lessons learned, information gathered, and techniques developed will be disseminated to other local communities nationally and globally.<sup>7</sup>

- 8.** Prioritise local businesses, skills and supplies for new or ongoing projects and ensure sustainability is at the core of council purchasing.

**Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (MREP)**

City of Melbourne (VIC)



The City of Melbourne partnered with 13 organisations (local governments, cultural institutions, universities and corporates) to secure a 10 year renewable Power Purchase Agreement which supported the construction of an 80 MW wind farm in regional Crowlands, VIC. Part of the evaluation criteria included a preference for using local goods and services, which saw the Crowlands wind farm construction deliver significant economic development for the region, including almost 150 local jobs.<sup>8</sup>

5 Wagga Wagga City Council, 2020  
 6 City of Adelaide, 2020  
 7 Whitsunday Regional Council, 2020  
 8 City of Melbourne