

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

### Council invites community input to plan for climate change

Waratah-Wynyard Council will produce a comprehensive integrated environmental plan to tackle mounting environmental challenges.

“Climate change is a new challenge for local government, but we’re ready to show leadership in this space,” said Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh.

In response to this challenge, Council is creating its first Integrated Council Environmental Plan 2020-25, or iCEP. When complete in mid-2020, the iCEP will be Council’s roadmap for caring for the natural environment while meeting the challenges of a changing climate.

Councillor Walsh explained, “We call the iCEP an ‘integrated’ plan because it will span community resilience, economic sustainability, environmental management, infrastructure planning and Council sustainability—all of these things are interconnected.”

Last month, the youth-led Global Climate Strike issued a call for climate action that was heard in more than 150 countries. Young people across North-West Tasmania joined the chorus, with students in Wynyard, Burnie and Devonport demanding that governments acknowledge their concerns for the future.

It’s a call that resonates in the Waratah-Wynyard municipality. “Council takes climate change very seriously,” Cr Walsh said.

Cr Walsh acknowledged higher fire danger, changing rainfall patterns and beach erosion are already a reality in Waratah-Wynyard, but said that Council is optimistic about the future.

“Local government has so many opportunities to influence sustainability, support community resilience and help future-proof the local economy.”

The iCEP will be a living document, renewed and updated every five years, to adapt to emerging issues and opportunities.

Consultation for the iCEP opens October 1 and runs until November 15.

“We want everyone’s voices to be heard,” Cr Walsh said. “Everyone in the community is invited to complete the online survey, fill out a consultation postcard, or come along to our iCEP street event in Wynyard later in November.”

To have your voice heard on the iCEP, head to the Council website at [www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/yoursay](http://www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/yoursay) for a link to the survey and to learn where you can find and submit a postcard.

**Authorised for general media distribution by Shane Crawford, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Tuesday, October 1, 2019.**

#### Waratah Wynyard Council

21 Saunders Street (PO Box 168) Wynyard Tasmania 7325

P: (03) 6443 8333 | F: (03) 6443 8383 | E: [council@warwyn.tas.gov.au](mailto:council@warwyn.tas.gov.au)