



## **Local youth take the lead in climate change action, forming the first ever Victor Harbor Youth Climate Council**

***As the impacts of climate change continue to be felt across the globe, local young people have embraced the opportunity to learn more about the environment and take practical action.***

Established by the City of Victor Harbor, the Youth Climate Council is a group of likeminded, motivated individuals from Victor Harbor's three middle and senior schools who are committed to inspiring change.

The Youth Climate Council met for the first time on Friday 18 March 2022 at the Youth Climate Summit, hosted by the City of Victor Harbor.

The Summit was an opportunity to hear from knowledgeable guest speakers, including Tim Jarvis (mountaineer, explorer and environmental scientist), Mark Koolmatrie (local Ngarrindjeri leader), and Amber Brock-Fable (Young Achiever of the Year for the South Australian Environment Awards 2021).

City of Victor Harbor Mayor, Dr Moira Jenkins, said the creativity, passion and intelligence of our local young people cannot be underestimated.

“Young people represent the future of Victor Harbor. By engaging our youth in the climate action process, we can ensure we are adopting a united approach towards protecting our environment,” said Mayor Jenkins.

“We are also building a next generation of leaders that are equipped with the knowledge they need to fuel a sustainable future.”

Students who attended the event were tasked with brainstorming initiatives and projects (up to a maximum budget of \$2,000) that could help to tackle the issue of climate change in our community and environment.

Three projects were then put forward to Elected Members for consideration at the City of Victor Harbor's June Ordinary Council Meeting, where Council endorsed an allocation of \$4,278 to support implementation of the projects.

The projects include a small-scale nursery to propagate native plants (Encounter Lutheran College), a planting project in the dunes at the northern end of Franklin Parade (Investigator College) and a greenifying initiative (Victor Harbor High School).

The Council's environmental projects team will continue to liaise with the schools to support the projects coming to fruition.

City of Victor Harbor Mayor, Dr Moira Jenkins, said the Council was eager to empower local youth to make a difference.

"The knowledge and eagerness of our Youth Climate Council is outstanding, and Council was keen to support the projects."

"Bringing together the Youth Climate Council and giving our young people an opportunity to get involved in this importance space is just one of the actions that the City of Victor Harbor is taking to respond to the changing climate."

The establishment of a Victor Harbor Youth Climate Council was identified as a key action in the City of Victor Harbor's Climate Agenda to innovatively mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Other initiatives that the City of Victor Harbor is currently working on as guided by the Climate Agenda include the collection of data that will establish a benchmark of carbon emissions from Council operations and the integration of environmental criteria into procurement processes to encourage a market-led approach to low-carbon project delivery.

For more information about the City of Victor Harbor's Climate Agenda, visit [www.victor.sa.gov.au/climate](http://www.victor.sa.gov.au/climate)