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MEDIA RELEASE

Alexandrina Council establish inaugural Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

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Alexandrina Council has reached another important environmental milestone since declaring a climate emergency in December 2019, by formally establishing the inaugural Climate Emergency Advisory Committee at its meeting on 15 February.

Council appointed a committee of five community representatives and one Independent Chairperson, from a pool of high quality applicants, bringing a wealth of expertise on matters relating to Council's Climate Emergency Declaration. Members have diverse professional backgrounds including academia, industry, local, state, and federal government, and are well connected, passionate community members. The Independent Chairperson is Christine Trenorden and the community representatives are Bruce Brooks, Dr Kenn Fisher, Mark Laurie, Shen Mann and Claire Stephenson. The panel also includes two Elected Member Representatives, Councillor Bill Coomans and Councillor Bronwyn Lewis; and Mayor Keith Parkes in his ex-officio role.

Once fully established, meetings will be held on the first Monday of every second month. As details come to hand, further information will be made available on Council's website at alexandrina.sa.gov.au

The functions and responsibilities of the Committee include, but are not limited to:

- assisting Council in developing and implementing a Climate Emergency Action Plan, and assisting to implement its outcomes;
- collaborating with Council's project team leader on project outcomes, milestones and community consultation;
- focussing on the climate emergency and creating solutions;
- providing feedback and information to and from other interested community groups and members about Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan;

- assisting Council in the education of the community and Council staff to become climate-resilient and climate-smart, with the goal of carbon neutrality by an achievable timeframe, as set out under the Climate Emergency Action Plan; and
- reviewing existing Council policies and plans, with a view to facilitating a climate emergency response.

As recognised in the A2040 Community Strategic Plan, climate change is the issue of greatest concern to the people of Alexandrina. Increasingly frequent adverse events, the fragility of our ecosystems and the security of our water supplies led to our Climate Emergency declaration in 2019. The actions of this committee will be pivotal towards Council's planning and policy development, as well as to focus on climate change mitigation and adaption strategies.