

Media Statement

East Fremantle's CARG Leading the Way *Town Hosts CARG Climate Action Seminar*

The Town of East Fremantle's Climate Action Reference Group (CARG), the conduit between the Council and the community, is leading the way with action on climate change. Having recently completed the draft Climate Emergency Strategy 2022-2032, last week, in the function room at the iconic Left Bank, the Town hosted a CARG Climate Action Seminar.

The Town's CARG members; Cr Tony Natale (Chair), Cr Cliff Collinson, Rebecca James, Fraser Maywood, Paul van der Beeke, Christine Finlay, Leigh Nicholas, Wendy Wisniewski, Miles Dracup, Maureen Flynn and Jane Melvin, were joined by Mayor O'Neill, CEO Gary Tuffin, Crs Dean Nardi, Andrew McPhail and Andrew White, special guest speakers Professor Bill Hare, Professor Peter Newman AO, Anna Chapman and Katie Biggs, invited guests and Town staff to mark the completion of the Strategy (a document providing the framework for Council to address the climate emergency).

Mayor, Jim O'Neill, opened the seminar with an 'Acknowledgement of Country' and in his introduction highlighted the importance of CARGs focus from the outset, 'the keyword for CARG is action,' he said. 'Tonight is about acknowledging the CARG members, elected members and staff for all of the hard work, passion and interest in formulating the Town of East Fremantle's Climate Emergency Strategy. The next stage is taking the strategy to the March Council Meeting and then developing the CARG Action Plan, followed by implementation,' Mayor O'Neill said.

Chair of CARG, Councillor Tony Natale, talked about the journey of CARG up until now and Connor Warn, Waste and Sustainability Officer at the Town introduced the guest speakers for the evening; Professor Bill Hare (physicist, climate scientist and Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change {IPCC} Fourth Assessment Report and founder and CEO of Climate Analytics), Professor Peter Newman AO (Professor of Sustainability at Curtin University, who has written 20 books and over 350 papers on sustainable cities with a global reputation and has worked to deliver his ideas in all levels of government), Anna Chapman (Climate Policy Analyst at Climate Analytics) and Katie Biggs (Sustainability Officer at the Shire of Augusta Margaret River).

Professor Bill Hare and Anna Chapman delivered an informative global overview of climate change from an Australian perspective. Professor Peter Newman AO talked about climate change from a Western Australian perspective with local solutions and provided specific examples of local Net Zero projects that are gaining momentum and Katie Biggs, who has assisted with the formation of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River's Climate Action Plan which was launched in September 2021 spoke about local climate action and how local government can empower communities.

The Town of East Fremantle's CARG will continue to ensure climate related responses are raised collaboratively with the community and be guided by local priorities and expertise to develop actions and strategies for the reduction of community-wide greenhouse gas emissions and find ways to prepare the community and Council to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Town celebrates the completion of the draft Climate Emergency Strategy 2022-2032 and looks forward to keeping you informed as we progress to the Climate Emergency Action Plan and implementation. The Town would also like to acknowledge the contributions of former CARG members, Roger Hughes and Duanne Ginger.

-Ends-

Date: 24 February 2022
Contact for enquiries: Larisa Motton, Marketing & Communications, Town of East Fremantle
E: lmotton@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
P: 08 9339 9339