

Prepared By/GSA Council
Date Prepared/30 June 2019
Date Approved /30 June 2019
Approved By/GSA Council
Document Owner/GSA Council
Next Review /30 June 2021

Supporting Climate Strike on 20 September 2019

GSA Council Policy Statement

GSA Position

GSA endorses the September 20th general Climate Strike and advocates that the University of Melbourne release graduate students and staff from work and study in order to attend the climate strike.

Rationale

In the wake of the re-election of the Morrison government, there has never been a more critical time to rethink the approach of the combined activist movement to the climate crisis, and our role as students and workers in averting further global disaster.

With a re-elected Coalition government comes the threat of deeper cuts to tertiary education, further casualisation, and further threats to academic freedom, all of which will align universities with an undemocratic, neoliberal agenda and limit our ability as workers to respond to the climate crisis.

As such, students, teachers, workers and union members in the tertiary education sector see our fight against casualisation and the marketisation and commodification of education as inseparable from supporting our fellow workers in energy, transportation, and agricultural industries to decarbonise the economy and create dignified clean energy jobs. Our battle for secure jobs, full funding and greater student and staff control is part of a larger struggle.

These struggles require challenging the power of big business and radically shifting the economic status quo so we have a global economy and society that works for the many, not the few. We will continue to fight for a free, de-commodified, democratic tertiary education sector, and work to create an environment for generating ideas and plans for a green future rather than a corporate university that supports the unsustainable status quo.

Record of Review

Date	Reason for Review	Created/Revised by
30 June 2019	Position approved	GSA Council