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Statement on climate emergency

GSA Council Policy Statement

Purpose

This policy statement is to update the GSA Policy Statement approved by the Council on 30 June 2019.

GSA Position

The increase in extreme weather events we have experienced lately is influenced by aggressive changes in our climate system.¹ Intense precipitation of rain, snow or hail over various periods is increasing. At the same time, the increasing ocean temperature affects the intensity of cyclones, storms and hurricanes. Australia is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to be affected by the impacts of climate change as heatwaves are becoming longer and hotter.

We recall the University of Melbourne's commitments to prepare their graduates not only to be academically outstanding but also practically grounded and socially responsible future leaders. But for us, *business as usual* is no longer an option. We are being deprived of our future opportunities due to the likelihood of events of extreme environmental disasters.

OUR FUTURE IS NOW. WE MUST ACT NOW.

We demand the University of Melbourne take immediate action to achieve all objectives and reaffirm the commitments set out in the Sustainability Plan Priority Actions and to ensure the University will transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030. In so doing, the University of Melbourne must take into consideration all the recommended mitigation and adaptation options set out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

We acknowledge that we are standing on STOLEN LANDS and SOVEREIGNTY has never been ceded. Climate change is a symptom of centuries of colonialism. In the efforts of mitigating climate change, we must put the voices of our First Nations People front and centre.

We extend our solidarity to our fellow workers in the energy, transportation, and agricultural industries as we collectively struggle to decarbonise the economy and create dignified clean energy jobs. Our battle for secure jobs and full fundings is part of a larger struggle.

We acknowledge that the issue of climate change is borderless. Communities and countries in the GLOBAL SOUTH who contribute the least to the rising greenhouse gas emissions bear the enormous burden of climate change-induced environmental disasters.

¹ Weather Gone Wild: Climate Change fuelled Extreme Weather in 2018 <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Climate-council-extreme-weather-report.pdf>.

WE MUST FIGHT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE.

We demand the University of Melbourne use their influence to give pressure on the federal government to meet our demands and to take concrete action IMMEDIATELY.

We demand the Australian Government IMMEDIATELY declare a CLIMATE EMERGENCY followed by concrete commitments, *including but not limited to:*

1. COMPLY with all the recommended mitigation and adaptation options set out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
2. STOP all old and new coal, oil and gas projects
3. TRANSITION to 100% renewable energy generation and exports by 2030
4. FUND a just transition by supporting and creating new jobs for all workers engaged in all the industries related to fossil fuels.

Record of Review

Date	Reason for Review	Created/Revised by
19 September 2019	Position approved	GSA Council