

**Notice of motion, Cr Wood: Call for the resignation of the Chair to the Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council**

26 August 2014

**Motion**

1. That Council calls upon the Chair of the Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council, Mr Maurice Newman, to stand down from his influential position given his stated views on human induced climate change that dismiss global scientific consensus and call for the need to prepare for global cooling.

**Background**

2. In particular Council notes the Thursday 14 August opinion piece published in The Australian entitled *we're ill prepared if the iceman cometh* which detailed the need for the Australian community to start preparing for a global cooling climate.
3. While Council recognises Mr Newman's past service to the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the Australian Securities Exchange, we do not believe it is appropriate for him to represent the views of hundreds of Melbourne businesses to the highest public policy decision making office in Australia and to help shape business and economic policy at the national level.
4. We believe the Chair of the Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council should be filled by someone who respects the overwhelming consensus on climate science and does not promote the unsupported position that Australia should prepare for imminent global cooling. Mr Newman is entitled to his views, but it is not appropriate for him to stay in the influential advisory position he now holds.
5. While City of Melbourne doesn't often comment on issues outside our jurisdiction this recent press around Mr Newman's position has the potential to directly impact on Council policies, strategies and targets. Namely our climate adaptation strategy and our zero net emissions strategy. Rejecting the occurrence of human induced climate change also has the potential to harm Australia's international reputation and its attraction to global companies, particularly in the renewable energy sector. City of Melbourne has an excellent global reputation in sustainability which to date has resulted in our membership of the C40 Climate Leadership Group, winner of a C40 Climate Leadership Award for the built environment and selection in the first group of the 100 Resilient Cities Rockefeller Initiative.
6. City of Melbourne is proud to support a diverse range of businesses and these include cleantech, smart lighting, green building, renewable energy and a host of other 'green' businesses. The Chair of the Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council must prioritise the mainstream, orthodox views of Australian businesses. Yet it is clear from his consistently communicated stance on climate change that his views are well outside the business norm.

**Moved: Cr Arron Wood**