

PETITION- Cover Note

East Gippsland Climate Action Network is working towards having the East Gippsland Shire Council declare a climate emergency.

- Individuals members representing our group are delivering a **presentation** to Councillors at some time in the near future.
- We have launched a **letter-writing campaign** in which we hope many of our members will participate.
- We also aim to present a **petition** to the East Gippsland Shire Council as soon as possible.

Here is some background information that would be useful to have on hand for those signing the petition to access.

In their Take 2 Climate Pledge, East Gippsland Shire Council states, “We’re committed to tackling climate change.”

The latest [Victorian Climate Projections 2019](#) by CSIRO and DELWP, released in October 2019, indicates Gippsland faces a number of varying climate risks including:

- more frequent and intense heavy rainfalls causing flooding
- harsher bushfires
- more days of extreme heat
- more storms including hailstorms
- sea level rise combined with storm surges, causing flooding and other impacts ⁽¹⁾

By declaring a climate emergency Council will be helping to reduce climate risks such as these to East Gippsland’s **residents and visitors**. It will also help our local economy take advantage of opportunities as we move towards the future low-carbon economy.

(1) See East Gippsland Shire Council website for climate change information.

Our petition (over) asks you to sign to:

1. acknowledge that dangerous climate change is happening now, and accelerating,
2. demand action at a pace far beyond business and politics as usual to reduce climate risks, and
3. hereby petition East Gippsland Shire Council to:
 - a. take a stronger leadership role within the East Gippsland community for urgent action on climate change,
 - b. include in all reports to Council climate implications for Council's own operations and for the broader East Gippsland community, and
 - c. declare a climate emergency

