

Appendix 2: Summary of motivations behind the declarations, with illustrative examples.

Motivation behind adoption	#	Illustrative example	
None	No explicit rationale	46	N/A
Political position (H3)	International policy	100	"In declaring a climate emergency council noted there is a significant body of international evidence from key bodies like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change" (Hutt, NZ).
	Following other cities	44	"The declaration places city with an international movement of more than 1000 governments declaring the emergency" (Recife, Brazil).
	Respond to or pressure higher level government	29	"Requests the Mayor to write to the NSW State and Federal Governments and local Members of parliament requesting them to declare a climate emergency and prioritise actions to address this emergency" (Tweed, Australia).
	Party politics	19	"The motion was put forward by a majority coalition of green and socialist parties, Ecolo, Groen, and Parti Socialiste" (Koekelberg, Belgium).
Local concerns (H2)	History of local government environmental commitments	71	"Blacktown City Council has been a leader in urban environmental planning for decades, so we are in a strong position to deliver a serious plan at a time when our national leaders are giving us little but uncertainty" (Blacktown, Australia).
	Awareness of climate risks	32	"Many of our housing and business areas and much of our infrastructure is exposed to the risk of sea level rise, flooding and storm damage" (Whangārei, New Zealand).
	Previous impacts	28	"Communities in South Yorkshire have been devastated by the recent floods, and the recovery effort will require sustained investment over the longer term" (Sheffield, UK).
	Links to other local concerns	16	"The City of Richmond recognizes community environmental justice, economic justice, and racial justice organizations and activists as partners in the Regional Just Transition" (Richmond, US).
Pressure from civil society and societal groups (H1)	Citizen pressure and/or environmental groups	65	"There are many environmental groups throughout Frankston suburbs, including ours that have been campaigning for greater action on climate change for a long time now" (Frankston, Australia).
	Pressure from a single NGO	35	"This emergency declaration was inspired by a presentation made by ecoCaledon, a local environmental non-profit organization with over 25 years' experience" (Caledon, Canada).
	Supporting school strikes	27	"Considering the various events for the climate of recent months ("Claim for the climate," "Youth for Climate," and "Rise for the climate") that mobilized impressive crowds nationally and internationally" (Sint-Jans-Molenbeek, Belgium).

Table 1: Summary of motivations to declare a climate emergency with illustrative examples.