



# Greater Dandenong Sustainability Strategy

Towards an environmentally sustainable city  
2016–2030



CENTR DANDONG CITY COU



# Contents

<b>Foreword (Mayor) / Message (CEO)</b> .....	<b>02</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>03</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>06</b>
<b>Implementation</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Sustainability Facts</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Sustainability Themes</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Biodiversity and Open Space .....	22
Water and Stormwater .....	24
Waste and Resources .....	26
Transport and Movement .....	28
Climate and Energy .....	30
Buildings and Places .....	32
Environmental Pollution .....	34
Local and Sustainable Food .....	36
Local Community and Culture .....	38
Local Business and Economy .....	40
<b>Definitions</b> .....	<b>42</b>
<b>References</b> .....	<b>43</b>

# Foreword from the Mayor



If everyone in the world used the same amount of resources as we do in the City of Greater Dandenong, we would need three and a half planets to support our lifestyles. It's simply not sustainable to place this much pressure on the planet and the environment.

This pressure is a result of the decisions that each of us make in our day to day lives. Therefore we all have a role to play if we are to reduce the impact we are having.

Recognising this, our community is already taking action. The more obvious examples include the rainwater tanks and solar panels now commonly seen throughout our suburbs. While these are providing clear benefits for the environment,

they are also helping to reduce the impacts of rising energy and water bills for our residents and businesses.

Our community's concern for the environment was reflected in the Imagine 2030 Community Plan, which identified that the environment was high on resident's priority list. Recognising this, Council has made Greater Dandenong becoming an environmentally sustainable city a priority.

While Council can provide policy direction, take action across our operations and show leadership, for Greater Dandenong to become an environmentally sustainable city, we will need our community, our partners and stakeholders to all play their part as well.

I am excited to be leading Council as we embark on this journey to make life better for the people of Greater Dandenong. It is for this reason I am proud to support the 2016 – 2030 Sustainability Strategy, which provides the strategic framework for City of Greater Dandenong to become an environmentally sustainable city.

Mayor,  
Cr Heang (Meng) Tak

# Message from the CEO



The City of Greater Dandenong is a city of opportunity with a vibrant economy and one of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia. Much of what makes our city such a great place to work live and play is underpinned by the health of our environment and the value it brings to the municipality and its community.

If we are to sustain a healthy environment, community and environment, we need to be sustainable.

Council recognises that while it can make a significant contribution towards the City of Greater Dandenong becoming a sustainable city, it cannot do it alone. We will need to work with all those who live and work in Greater Dandenong, as well as our other partners and stakeholders.

This 2016 - 2030 Sustainability Strategy is a key document for the City of Greater Dandenong that provides the strategic framework to realise the vision of becoming one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.

Achieving this vision for the municipality will require significant cultural change across the municipality, and Council will be looked upon to provide leadership to its community. While I am proud that Council has already demonstrated leadership through projects such as the award winning Noble Park Aquatic Centre and Greater Dandenong Civic Centre, there is further work to be done. This will require a 'whole of organisation' approach to embed sustainability into Council's operations and our decision making.

In preparing the 2016 – 2030 Sustainability Strategy, we have sought the views and ideas from across the organisation as well as the community. The result is a strategy that reflects the views, needs and concerns of Council and our community and I am confident this Strategy will act as the catalyst for Greater Dandenong to become an environmentally sustainable city.

CEO  
John Bennie

# Executive Summary

## Our Vision – The City of Greater Dandenong is one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.

Achieving this vision to make the City of Greater Dandenong one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030 would help our community fully realise the opportunities that this city provides. Working together on a common purpose which we know is the right thing to do, can only instil a sense of pride in this community that will help break down barriers and open other opportunities.

Council and the community have already demonstrated a range of actions to reduce their impact on the environment and we know that residents view the Environment and Council Leadership as high priority issues<sup>1</sup>.

Realising the vision will require a ‘whole-of-organisation’ approach, where sustainability forms the basis for Council’s operations. This Strategy will help integrate sustainability into Council’s operations, its programs and its services, at both a corporate and community level.

This 2016 - 2030 Greater Dandenong Sustainability Strategy (hereafter the Strategy) provides the strategic framework to achieve this vision, by informing decisions, helping to shape plans and activities undertaken across the municipality and region.

***“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”***

– Our Common Future  
The Brundtland Report<sup>2</sup>



While Council has significant ability to influence sustainable outcomes, it cannot do it alone. Our community, stakeholders and partners will also need to act, and this Strategy will guide their activities to help create a sustainable Greater Dandenong.

To assist Council and the community to achieve this vision, the Strategy focused on 10 specific themes, with goals, objectives and targets identified for each of these themes. Where council has direct operational control, corporate objectives and targets have been identified. For those areas outside of Council’s direct control, community objectives and aspirational targets have been identified where Council can support the community.

The following table outlines the ten specific themes and their goals:

Themes:	Our Goals:
Biodiversity and Open Space	A Greener City
Water and Stormwater	A Water Sensitive City
Waste and Resources	A Waste Wise City
Transport and Movement	A Well Connected City
Climate and Energy	A Low Carbon City
Buildings and Places	A City Planned for the Future
Environmental Pollution	A Clean and Healthy City
Local and Sustainable Food	A City Connected by Food
Local Community and Culture	A Liveable City
Local Business and Economy	A City of Opportunity

Implementation of this strategy will be through the various council strategies, plans and policies that relate to each of these themes. Reporting of Council’s and the community’s progress towards the objectives and targets identified in this strategy will form the basis of future Annual Sustainability Reports. These reports provide transparency and convey Council’s commitment to achieving a sustainable municipality for the benefit of the community.

**OUR VISION:** The City of Greater Dandenong is one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.

**BIODIVERSITY AND OPEN SPACE**

*A Greener City*

**WATER AND STORMWATER**

*A Water Sensitive City*

**WASTE AND RESOURCES**

*A Waste Wise City*

**TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT**

*A Well Connected City*

**CLIMATE AND ENERGY**

*A Low Carbon City*

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVES**

- Identify, protect and enhance the ecological value of Council land within the municipality.
- Increase the quality, quantity and connectivity of open space owned by Council.
- Increase the quality and quantity of vegetation cover on Council land that contributes to a net gain throughout the municipality.

- Where appropriate, reduce Council's corporate mains water consumption.
- Where possible, minimise the impact of stormwater runoff and pollution.
- Where appropriate, increase the supply of alternative water sources.

- Reduce the amount of total waste sent to landfill by Council.
- Increase the amount of material that is recovered for re-use and recycling.
- Establish a resource efficiency program for goods and materials across Council.
- Review and update sustainable procurement policy for goods and materials across Council.

- Support Council staff to increase levels of active travel – such as walking and cycling.
- Support Council staff to increase use of low carbon and sustainable transport options.
- Reduce emissions and costs associated with the operation of fleet – Council and contractors.
- Improve connectivity and accessibility of the shared path network throughout the municipality.

- Reduce Council's CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from street lighting, buildings and facilities.
- Reduce the energy consumption of Council assets – includes buildings and street lights.
- Increase the percentage of energy consumed by Council obtained from renewable sources.
- Develop and implement a Climate Change Strategy for Council and the City of Greater Dandenong.

**COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES**

- Identify, protect and enhance the ecological value of land throughout the municipality.
- Support the increase in community access to open space through the Open Space Provision Goals.
- Work with key stakeholders to protect and enhance the ecological value of the Green Wedge area.
- New development within Greater Dandenong to address open space and biodiversity issues, where appropriate.
- Engage the community to increase their awareness of parks, plants and wildlife.

- With the support of key partners, help the community reduce mains water consumption.
- Advocate and work with key partners to help reduce the impact of stormwater runoff and pollution on catchments within the city.
- New development within the city to incorporate best practice water and stormwater measures.
- Engage the community to increase their awareness of water use and management.

- Work in partnership with our community to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.
- Work in partnership with the community to increase recycling rates.
- Work with the community to provide clean streets and waterways by reducing littering and dumped rubbish.
- New developments within the city to incorporate best practice waste and resource management.
- Increase community awareness on waste and recycling.

- Work with partners to increase community levels of active travel – such as walking and cycling.
- Work with partners to increase community use of low carbon and sustainable transport.
- With our partners, work towards providing with safe, connected and well serviced Public Transport within 400m walking distance.
- All new developments within the city to incorporate best practice sustainable transport outcomes.
- Increase community awareness on the benefits of sustainable transport options.

- Engage, advocate and empower the community to enable the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from built environment.
- Help the community reduce energy consumption within the built environment.
- Help the community increase use of renewable energy.
- Help the community to incorporate best practice energy initiatives through planning processes.
- Work with partners to increase community awareness on the benefits of energy efficiency and renewables.

**OUR VISION:** The City of Greater Dandenong is one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.

<b>BUILDINGS AND PLACES</b> <i>A City Planned for the Future</i>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION</b> <i>A Clean and Healthy City</i>	<b>LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD</b> <i>A City Connected by Food</i>	<b>LOCAL COMMUNITY AND CULTURE</b> <i>A Liveable City</i>	<b>LOCAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMY</b> <i>A City of Opportunity</i>
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**CORPORATE OBJECTIVES**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance energy and water efficiency of Council's existing buildings.</li> <li>New Council buildings designed, constructed and operated to meet best practice ESD standards.</li> <li>Measure the operational costs of Council buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise and manage sources of land pollution from Council's operations and facilities.</li> <li>Minimise and manage sources of water pollution from Council's operations and facilities. Stormwater quality and waterway health (focus area).</li> <li>Minimise sources of air pollution from Council's operations and facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a sustainable food procurement policy for Council.</li> <li>Reduce amount of food waste and packaging sent to landfill.</li> <li>Create an internal culture that promotes healthy diets and local / sustainable food options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish internal programs that help to create a culture of sustainability within Council.</li> <li>Investigate how best to incorporate key Corporate Social Responsibility principles into Council's Annual Sustainability Report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support staff with their professional development, especially around key sustainability issues.</li> <li>Investigate how best to incorporate FairTrade principles into Council's procurement policy and process.</li> </ul>
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**COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With support of key stakeholders, help the community reduce energy and water consumption in existing buildings.</li> <li>Work with the community to enhance the sense of place through Council's Placemaking Framework.</li> <li>Work with key partners to help increase the walkability of our suburbs.</li> <li>New developments within the city to incorporate best practice ESD standards.</li> <li>Engage and empower the community to help them improve the energy and water performance of their buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the community to reduce land pollution across the city. Land contamination and illegal dumping (focus area).</li> <li>Work with the community to improve stormwater quality and waterway health across the city.</li> <li>Work with the community to improve air quality across the city.</li> <li>New developments within the city to incorporate best practice pollution management.</li> <li>Engage and empower the community to increase their awareness and minimise associated pollution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the support of key stakeholders, support the community to increase their ability to grow their own fresh fruit and vegetables.</li> <li>Work with stakeholders to increase the percentage of residents that have access to healthy food within the municipality.</li> <li>Work with stakeholders to increase the affordability of fresh food within the municipality.</li> <li>Support the expansion and diversification of agricultural activity in the Green Wedge area.</li> <li>Promote healthy diets and local sustainable food options for the broader community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help create an environment that enhances the community's health and wellbeing.</li> <li>Help create an environment that promotes community participation, inclusion and equity and responds to our culture and diversity.</li> <li>Create an environment that helps improve community perceptions of safety.</li> <li>Help to protect vulnerable residents from extreme weather events.</li> <li>Work with others to help manage housing affordability and cost of living.</li> <li>Help increase community awareness on the benefits of sustainable living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and encourage the establishment, relocation or expansion of suitable green businesses within Greater Dandenong.</li> <li>Support all types of businesses throughout Greater Dandenong save money by reducing their energy and water consumption.</li> <li>Encourage manufacturing sector to address resource efficiency and 'people, profit, planet' across strategic planning and operational efficiency.</li> <li>Help education institutions, training providers and businesses to provide residents with skills for an innovative and sustainable future.</li> <li>Engage and empower the business community to help them benefit from adopting sustainable business practices.</li> </ul>
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# Introduction

## Our Vision – The City of Greater Dandenong is one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.

Imagine a sustainable city where a diverse culture supports a healthy and thriving community. Where there are sustainable buildings, which are attractive, affordable, and powered by renewable energy. Where there are well-connected places, which make it easy for residents to walk, cycle or catch public transport. Where there are a range of local and sustainable fresh food options for residents, workers and visitors. Where there are healthy waterways, open spaces and rich biodiversity levels, which are valued, protected and enhanced. Where there are a range of exciting new education and employment opportunities. And where there are local businesses recognised as world leaders in innovation, technology and sustainable practices.



## Why a sustainability strategy?

If everyone in the world lived like the average Australian we'd need nearly four planets worth of resources to sustain us<sup>3</sup>.

Most people in Australia, and Greater Dandenong, enjoy a high standard of life with good health, longevity, education and opportunity. During the 21st century, the industrial revolution, and the associated development, enabled western society to increase our standard of living, but at the same time placed an increasingly unsustainable demand on the planet's natural resources – i.e. the water we drink, the food we eat and the air we breathe.

In 2014, the Living Planet Report<sup>4</sup>, using the concept of ecological footprinting, highlighted that at the world's current consumption rates we would need 1.5 planets to sustain our lifestyle. It should be acknowledged that an individual's ecological footprint is very closely aligned to an individual's standard of living. Therefore it is currently recognised that as an individual's standard of living increases so too does their ecological footprint.

It is currently estimated that the average resident in Greater Dandenong needs the equivalent of 3.5 planets to sustain their lifestyle<sup>5</sup>.

It's clear that our planet cannot sustain our current resource consumption demands. As the global population grows, and more people strive for a higher standard of living, society puts the very environment that supports our economic prosperity and our wellbeing at risk. One of the greatest challenges associated with tackling these issues is finding a way for society to recognise the benefits associated with changing its current approach. While change is required to become more sustainable, it is not impossible, but we all have a role to play.



## What are the benefits for Greater Dandenong?

There are many benefits from becoming more sustainable. For residents, the benefits can include being healthier, saving money, learning new skills, developing greater connections with their community and improving their quality of life. For businesses, the benefits can include enhancing their brand, helping to increase productivity, lowering costs and helping to both retain and attract staff.

Unlike State and Federal Government, local government is considered to have a greater understanding of the needs of their local communities. While the community of Greater Dandenong has rich social and cultural diversity, there are also some recognised socio-economic challenges. These include having the lowest average income in metropolitan Melbourne and an extensive community with English as their second language. It is recognised that the community is particularly vulnerable to the impacts from climate change and other sustainability challenges.

Achieving this vision for a sustainable future is critical for the future of Greater Dandenong. Council has developed this Strategy so that it places people at the centre of its decision making processes.



Image courtesy Sutera Architects  
Photographer Peter Bennetts



## What is Council doing?

This Strategy is a key document for the City of Greater Dandenong that will be used to inform decisions, shape plans and undertake activities that help realise its vision for a sustainable future.

The Strategy establishes a high-level strategic framework that will help maximise the benefits of an integrated approach to sustainability. As a result, the framework provides the guidance required to enable the City of Dandenong to effectively enhance its sustainability credentials and become one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.

In Victoria, the Local Government Act (1989) requires councils to act in the long-term interest of its local community. This includes addressing the viability and sustainability of key economic, social and environmental issues. The Victorian Government also identifies local government's roles through other key legislation, such as the Planning and Environment Act (1987) and the Climate Change Act (2010).

The Strategy builds on the success of the *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2010, 'A Healthier Environment, A Healthier Community'* – that links key environmental commitments with performance indicators through the Annual Sustainability Report (formerly called the *'State of the Environment Report'*).

Examples of significant recent projects where Council is demonstrating leadership on sustainability to the community and the sector include:

- the new Greater Dandenong Civic Centre – which has achieved a certified 5 Star Green Star rating (Australian Excellence) for public buildings
- *Light up Dandenong* – a project to improve street lighting quality while also reducing their operation and maintenance costs through the installation of energy efficient lighting technology.

## Achieving the Vision

This Strategy identifies Council's desired long term sustainability vision. For this vision to be achieved, a cultural change will be required, both for the organisation and the community. This will require a change in our behaviours and practices that are resulting in the unsustainable use of the earth's resources.

This Strategy has been developed to provide the catalyst to trigger the cultural change required from Council and the community. It provides a clear vision for the future, a common purpose which we can all work towards, and help embed consideration of sustainability into our decision making processes.

To help achieve this vision, a strategic high level goal has been selected for the ten themes covered in this Strategy. To facilitate the achievement of these themes' high level goals, objectives have been developed that define Council's specific areas of focus. For each of these objectives, credible targets have been established that seek to strike a balance between what can be realistically achieved by both Council and the community, while setting the bar at a level that results in meaningful environmental outcomes. Specific corporate targets have been established where Council has the ability to directly manage its operations to provide outcomes of benefit to Council and the municipality. Specific aspirational community targets have been established where Council's ability to directly influence the outcomes is limited, but where the environmental, social or economic outcomes warrant action.

To monitor Council's progress towards this vision, Council will assess and benchmark itself against an internationally recognised benchmark for sustainability, such as One Planet Councils.

## Our journey so far

The City of Greater Dandenong has not embarked lightly on the development of this Strategy. To get to this point, extensive consultation has been undertaken, both internally and externally with the community. Council's Community Engagement Policy and Framework provided guidance for an extensive consultation process that informed the development of this Strategy. An initial round of consultation was undertaken in 2014 to inform the community that Council was developing a new sustainability strategy and to get their views.

This feedback, combined with extensive internal consultation within Council guided the development of the Draft Sustainability Strategy. A second round of consultation was undertaken in 2016 to present the Draft Sustainability Strategy and its vision for an environmentally sustainable city to the community and ensure that we had responded accordingly to the community's initial comments in 2014.

Combined, this involved meeting with more than 700 people, representing a broad cross section of the community, including residents, businesses, community groups and visitors.

### ENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

- Information packs located at Council's CGD Customer Service Centres
- Responses collected through the use of *SurveyMonkey*
- Promotion to the business community through Council's South East Business Network events
- Advertising through Local Papers
- Promotion through Council E-newsletters
- Promotion to and meeting with specific community groups
- Promotion through Sustainable Living Festival
- Community engaged through use of Council's CGD Website
- Community engaged through use of *OurSay*, *Facebook* and *Twitter*
- Mail-out and emails to the community via Council's environmental and sustainability education / events database
- 'Drop in Sessions' and static displays at both the Dandenong and Springvale Libraries
- Promotion at Council Events, such as World Wetlands Day and the Sustainability Festival.

### RESPONSES

#### Formal submissions received\*:

- 186 submissions – individuals and / or community groups.

\*Emails, interviews, *SurveyMonkey*, hard copies and *OurSay*.

#### Facebook Response:

- A reach of 49,324 views
- Liked by 471 people
- 110 comments



The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive, with praise for Council's approach in seeking the community's views on sustainability issues. The consultation showed that many members of the community are concerned about a variety of sustainability issues - including:

- Protect and improve the natural environment
- Minimise impacts from ongoing development
- Local Food and FairTrade issues
- Climate Change and Transport
- Leadership and need for action
- Increased community awareness and engagement.

Feedback from the consultation process has been incorporated into the development of this Strategy through its themes, goals objectives and targets.

## What is sustainability?

The concept of sustainability is a simple one and highlights the important role the environment plays in our lives – providing us with the water we drink, the food we eat and the air we breathe.

Sustainability seeks to enhance the wellbeing of society – by balancing a combination of community liveability, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity – over time. The world’s population of 7 billion is likely to increase to 9 billion by 2050<sup>6</sup>. The demand for natural resources is growing. Income gaps are widening. Sustainability calls for a decent standard of living for everyone today without compromising the needs of future generations<sup>7</sup>.

The Brundtland Commission provided an internationally recognised outline of what sustainability means through its definition for sustainable development<sup>8</sup>.

***“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”***

– Our Common Future – The Brundtland Report<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development’s Our Common Future Report, 1987



## Benefits of sustainable living

Living more sustainably, whether it be at home, while travelling, or at work, has a whole range of obvious benefits for the environment. There are also a range of personal benefits, such as; saving money through lower energy bills; improved health through being active; making greater connections with your community; and, growing your knowledge and skills. There is also the personal satisfaction and sense of achievement that comes from doing the right thing, working for a common good and inspiring others. Broader benefits include a cleaner and safer environment that provide attractive neighbourhoods, accessible transport options, and more time that we can share with our family and friends. It is benefits such as these that help provide an improved quality of life.

## The importance of a sustainable local environment



# Implementation

Becoming one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030 will require two substantial changes to the way that Council and its community address sustainability. The first will require Council to take an integrated 'whole-of-organisation' approach to sustainability with its own operations. The second will require Council to take a collaborative approach with its partners and key stakeholders by engaging and empowering them to tackle sustainability issues.

## Key stakeholders

Achieving Greater Dandenong's vision for an environmentally sustainable city will require collaboration from all stakeholders throughout the municipality. Council recognises that while everyone has a role to play, it must demonstrate leadership and empower others to act.

While the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders may vary, it is up to everyone to do their share if we are to become a more sustainable society with a healthier environment and a healthier community. To address these issues, action is required at all levels - from individuals, business, local communities and government.

Working closely with both the Council and the community are the City of Greater Dandenong's partners. Without them many of the sustainability goals and objectives

for the broader municipality cannot be achieved. The community recognised that while Council has an important role to protect and improve our local environment, it cannot be Council's role alone and that all members of the community have a role to play.

Key partners include, but are not limited to: Federal, State and Local Governments; essential service providers; transport providers; community service providers; businesses and industry; regional alliances; schools; and community groups, including local environmental community groups.

For the vision to be realised, our community will also need to play its part. Consultation with the community demonstrated that while the community viewed the environment as important, they identified that a range of barriers stopped action. By working to reduce these barriers, Council could assist the community to become more sustainable. The most common idea identified by the community was for more information and education programs on relevant environmental issues that would increase the awareness and build the capacity of the community to make informed decisions across their everyday actions benefitting the environment. This focus on community engagement and community awareness has been incorporated into the Strategy and will help the community come together through Council's events and programs to share their stories and help build a sustainable City of Greater Dandenong.



While Council currently undertakes a wide range of activities that aim to inform and educate our community, there is still further work to be done. Areas of focus include increased use of social media, as well as increasing our engagement with businesses, our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community members and those with low income levels.

To ensure that our community engagement is best practice, our approach will be guided by Council's Community Engagement Policy and Framework which provides for more comprehensive and broader community engagement.



## Relationship to key strategic documents

The City of Greater Dandenong established a vision for the future through the Imagine 2030 Community Plan and its strategic framework that provides direction and guidance to achieve the vision.

This broader vision seeks to integrate the way economic, social and environmental sustainability issues are addressed through three key priority areas – Opportunity, People and Place. Supporting this approach are six strategic objectives identified in the Council Plan 2013-2017 that lay the foundation for the Council and the community to work in collaboration to create a safe and vibrant city of opportunity.



### IMAGINE 2030 COMMUNITY PLAN

#### Opportunity

#### People

#### Place

### COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017

A thriving and resilient economy

A proactive council that listens and leads

A thriving and resilient economy

A proactive council that listens and leads

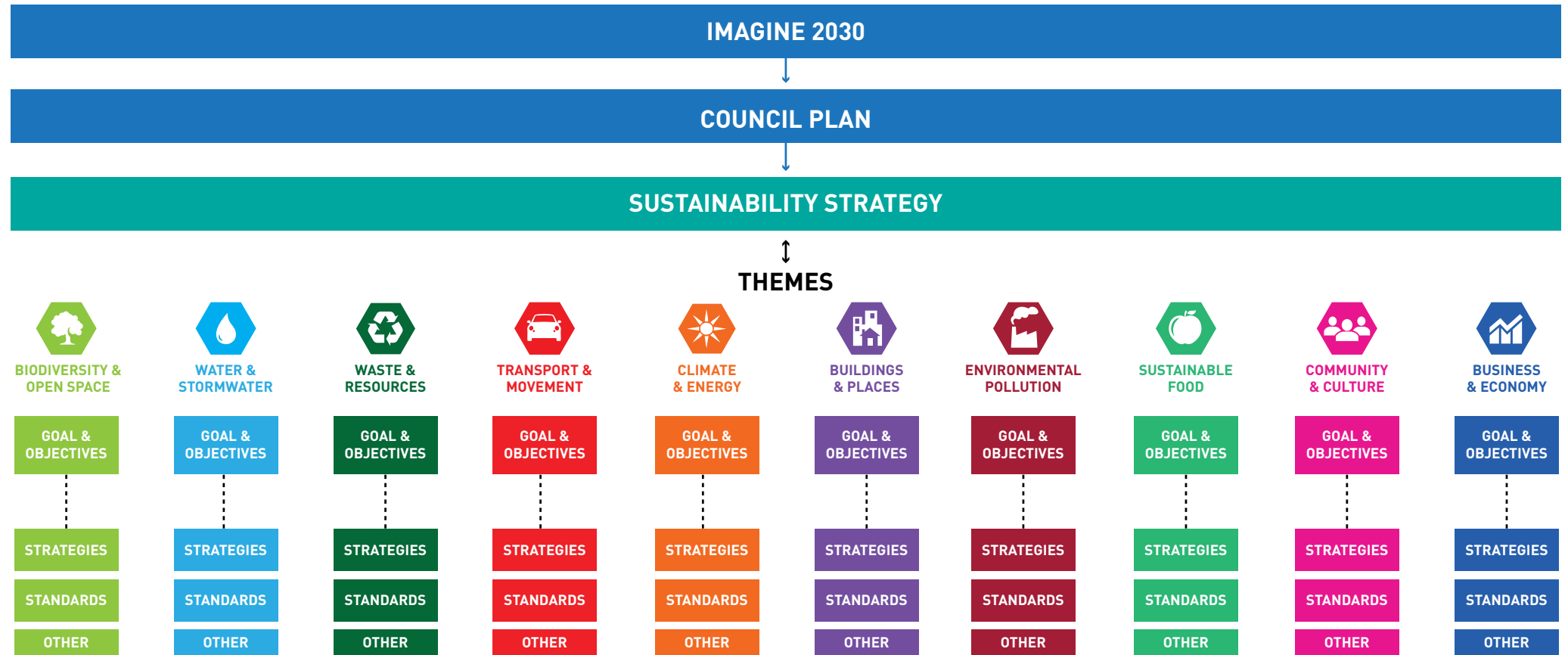
An environmentally sustainable city

A city planned for the future

# Sustainability framework

This Strategy provides a strategic framework for a 'Whole-of-organisation' approach that will help Council integrate sustainability into its operations, its projects, its programs and its services, at both a corporate and community level.

The diagram below shows the relationship between the Imagine 2030 Community Plan, the 2013-2017 Council Plan, this Strategy and various strategies, plans and policies that relate to each of the 10 key sustainability themes.



**Key strategic documents include:**

- Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme
- 2015 – 2020 Long-Term Financial Strategy
- 2015 – 2022 Asset Management Strategy
- 2014 Risk Assessment Strategy / Framework

- Annual Sustainability Report (formerly State of the Environment Report)
- 2013 – 2017 Community Wellbeing Plan
- 2015 – 2022 Community Safety Plan
- 2015 – 2019 Children’s Plan
- 2011 Economic Development Strategy
- 2015 – 2018 Regional Food Strategy

- Green Wedge Management Plan (2014)
- 2009 Open Space Strategy
- 2015 – 2020 Waste and Litter Strategy
- 2008 Sustainable Water Use Plan
- 2016 Sustainable Stormwater Strategy
- 2005 Integrated Transport Plan
- 2015 – 2023 Walking Strategy

- 2014 Housing Strategy
- 2015 Community Development Framework
- 2015 Arts and Cultural Heritage Strategy and Action Plan
- 2015 Community Hubs Framework
- 2015 - Language and Communication Framework and Action Plan

## Annual Sustainability Report

A Sustainability Report will be prepared each year to:

- monitor Council's and the community's progress towards this Strategy's objectives and targets
- identify Council's future actions that will help achieve these objectives and targets
- report on Council's progress against those actions identified in the previous year's Sustainability Report.

This report will primarily be a web based interactive report.

## Monitoring and reporting

Publicly releasing an environmental report conveys transparency and an organisation's commitment to the environment and the measures being taken to manage environmental responsibilities.

Council has for many years been publicly releasing annual environment reports that collate and analyse information to enable an assessment of environmental trends. This information is then used to inform policies and practices for improving the state of the environment. The progress towards the objectives and targets identified in this Strategy will be the basis for future Annual Sustainability Reports prepared by Council. These reports also provide the opportunity to both acknowledge Council's and the community's achievements, as well as highlight those areas we are doing well, and not so well.

Indicators reported in these annual reports need to be carefully selected to provide information relevant to Council's stated goals and objectives. In most situations, no single indicator is likely to be adequate, so a range of indicators will need to be used. Indicators will be updated on a regular basis in response to the availability of relevant data.

Where there is no or limited data around a key priority, target or objective identified within this Strategy, Council will determine how to collect relevant data to plug that gap. This will enable Council to establish suitable baselines, and then monitor and report on the performance against this baseline.

## Annual Action Plan

The Annual Sustainability Report will each year include a summary of relevant actions from Council's various business units that will assist with the achievement of this Strategy's objectives. This will consist of:

- those actions that Council plans to undertake in the next year or two
- Council's progress against the actions identified in the previous years Sustainability Report.

This approach ensures a rolling action plan that remains relevant by responding to influences such as:

- the environmental trends being monitored through the Annual Sustainability Report
- changes in Council's priorities and programs
- Council's annual budget processes
- community expectations
- changes in policies and programs from other key stakeholders, in particular the Federal and Victorian Governments.

## Annual budget

Council's ability to realise the Council Plan's strategic objective of an environmentally sustainable city will be significantly affected by the availability of resources which are dedicated to its implementation. The budget and resource implications for this Strategy will be subject to Council's approval on an annual basis. A budget and resource submission for implementation of key priorities and actions identified in this Strategy will be reviewed as part of the Council's annual budget process.

## Governance

The City of Greater Dandenong will put in place a rigorous governance and evaluation framework to track and assess progress against this Strategy.

For Council to achieve the goals and objectives outlined in this report, there will need to be significant cross organisational support. To facilitate this, it is proposed that Council establishes an internal Sustainability Strategy Working Group, with representatives from across the organisation, which will oversee the implementation of this Strategy.

In response to the feedback received during the initial community consultation undertaken to develop this Strategy, an external Community Sustainability Reference Group will be established in 2016 - 2017 to assist Council's effort to deliver on this Strategy. This reference group will be established in accordance with Council's Community Reference Groups Guidelines.

## Review of this Strategy

This Strategy will be reviewed every 5 years to ensure it maintains its relevance and continues to drive Greater Dandenong to become a sustainable city by 2030. The monitoring of the progress towards the Strategy's goals and objectives through the Annual Sustainability Report will enable the 2021 review to incorporate Targets for 2025 and 2030.

As not every objective in this Strategy has an established baseline, where appropriate, some indicators and targets may be updated as further information becomes available and relevant policies are developed prior to the 2021 review.



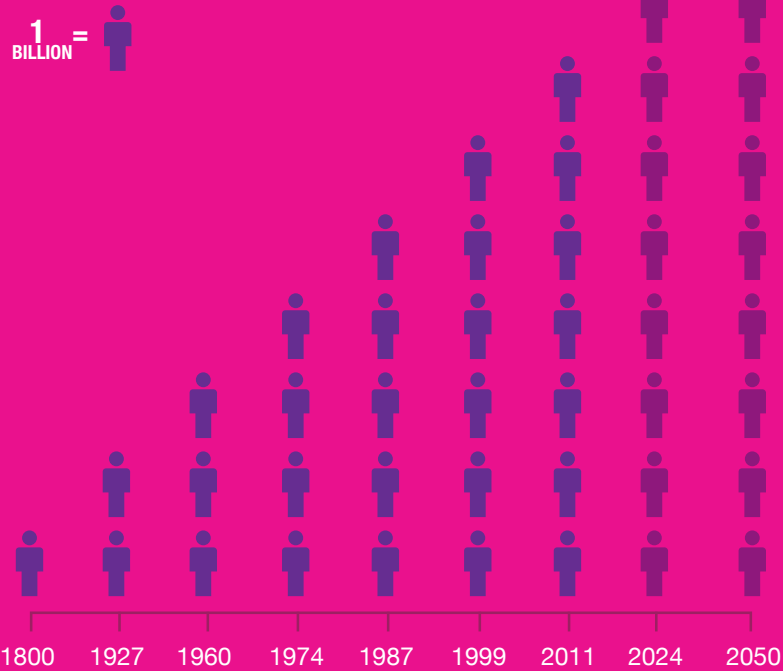
# Sustainability Facts

There are a number of key sustainability challenges common to communities around the world. These challenges include population growth, urbanisation, and loss of biodiversity, managing water resources, waste management, resource consumption, pollution, energy use, carbon emissions and climate change.



## World

The growth of the world's population over the last two hundred years is unsustainable.



Source: United Nations Population Fund

## POPULATION GROWTH

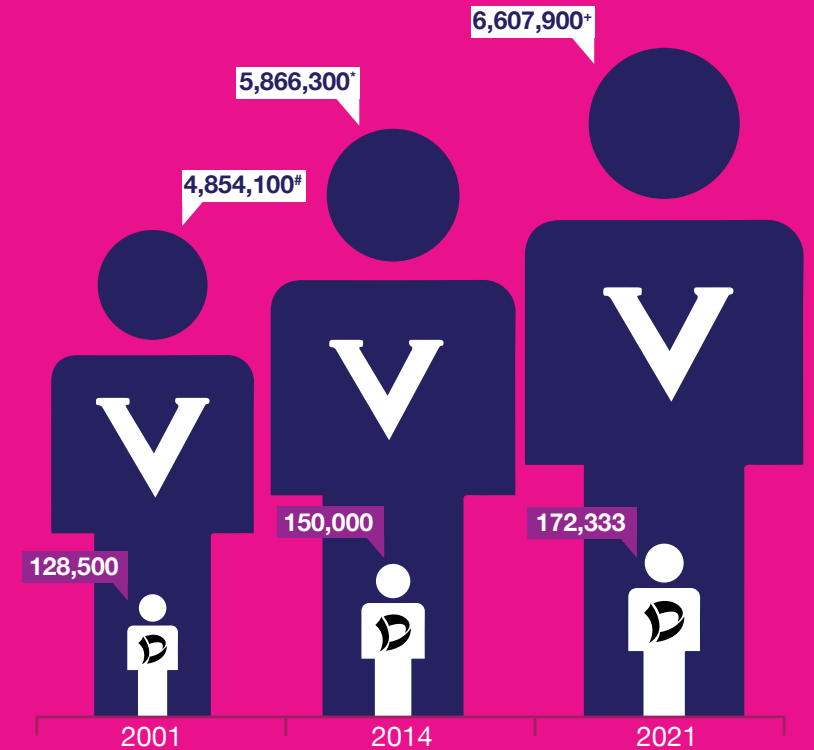
### Across the region

Greater Metropolitan Melbourne's population is projected to increase from over 4.8 Million in 2001 to over 6.6 Million by 2021\*. Over the same period, Greater Dandenong's population is expected to increase from 128,500 to over 172,000<sup>^</sup>. The expected growth will result in new houses required to accommodate this growth. In addition, Greater Dandenong's location and importance as a regional employment hub will also place additional pressure on its infrastructure and the environment.

\* Source: VICTORIA IN FUTURE 2014 Population and household projections to 2051, Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure.

<sup>^</sup> Source: <http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/18464/statistical-data-for-victorian-communities>

### Victoria vs Dandenong Population Growth



<sup>#</sup> Source: ABS <sup>\*</sup> Source: ABS

<sup>+</sup> VICTORIA IN FUTURE 2014 Population and household projections to 2051, DTPLI

## RESOURCE USE

Our consumption of natural resources can be measured using ecological footprinting that assess the number of global hectares of land required to support our consumption and wastes. This can be translated into the number of planets required to support our lifestyle, if everyone on earth lived the same lifestyle.



### Australia

The average Australian has an ecological footprint of 6.87 gha (global hectares) per year – the equivalent of a 4 planet lifestyle<sup>\*</sup>.



### Greater Dandenong

Residents in the City of Greater Dandenong have an average ecological footprint of 6.02 gha equal to a 3.5 planet lifestyle<sup>\*</sup>.

<sup>\*</sup> Source: ACF Consumption Atlas

# WASTE

## Victoria

Victorians generated 11.1 million tonnes of waste in 2013-14 and this is estimated to increase to around 21 million tonnes per year by 2044<sup>®</sup>.

**Every three months, the Victorian economy produces enough waste to fill the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) completely – from the playing field to the top of the stands<sup>^</sup>.**

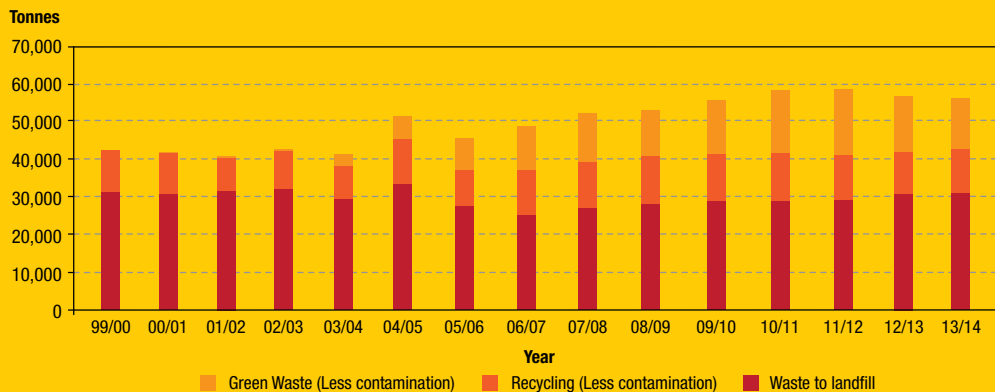


<sup>®</sup>Source: Victoria's Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Investment Prospectus, Victorian State Government, 2015.

<sup>^</sup>Source: Environment Victoria website - <http://environmentvictoria.org.au/content/why-waste-matters>

## Greater Dandenong

Residents of Greater Dandenong have worked with Council to reduce household garbage being sent to landfill, with diversion rates increasing from 22% in 1999-2000 to around 45% in 2013-2014. Even though Greater Dandenong's population has grown over this period, the amount of household garbage sent to landfill is still lower in 2013-2014 than it was in 1999-2000.

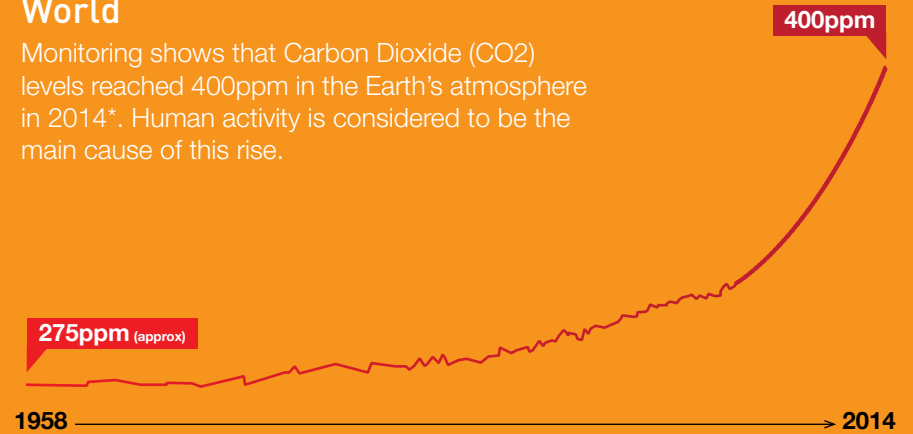


Towards an environmentally sustainable city 2016-2030

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## World

Monitoring shows that Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels reached 400ppm in the Earth's atmosphere in 2014\*. Human activity is considered to be the main cause of this rise.



\*Source: The Keeling Curve, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, The University of California, San Diego.

The 5th Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, states that humanity must act now to limit the impact of climate change and reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. PwC's 2012 *Low Carbon Economy Index Annual Report*, which focuses on economic performance, confirmed that if we are to avoid the impact and cost of a 2°C increase in global temperatures, we must reduce our emissions by 5% per year for the next 38 years. If we do not act we face a future of climate instability, increased temperature, reduced average rainfall and extreme weather events.



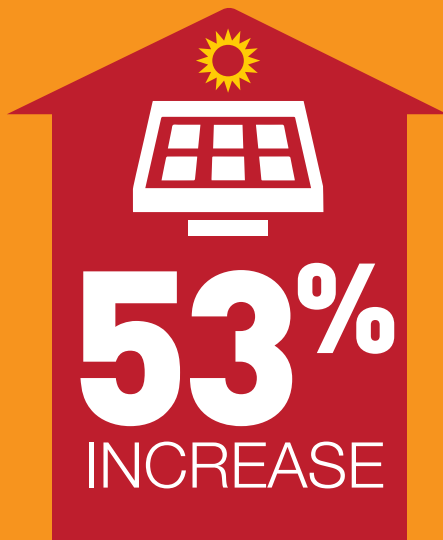
**5%**  
emissions

Required reduction per year for the next 38 years

## Uptake of Solar Panels in Greater Dandenong\*

Dec 2013 – 11,979 Kilowatt of solar panels

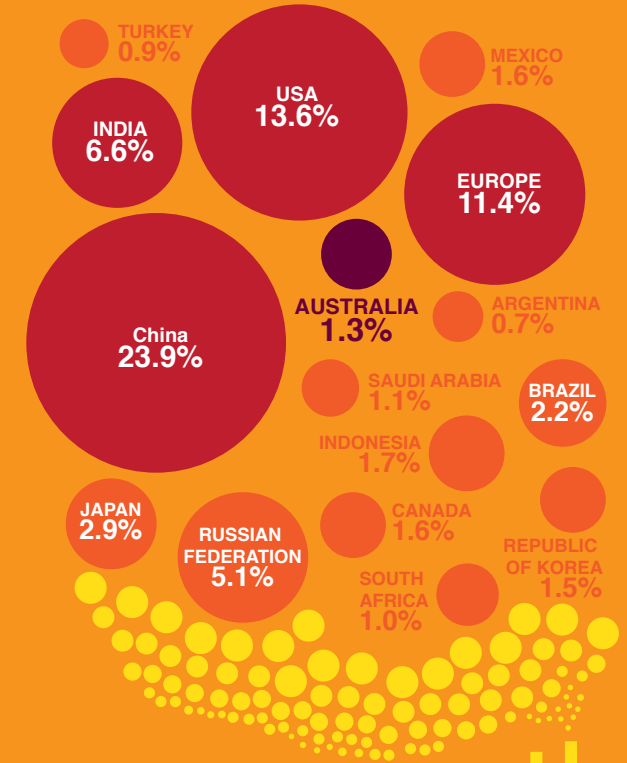
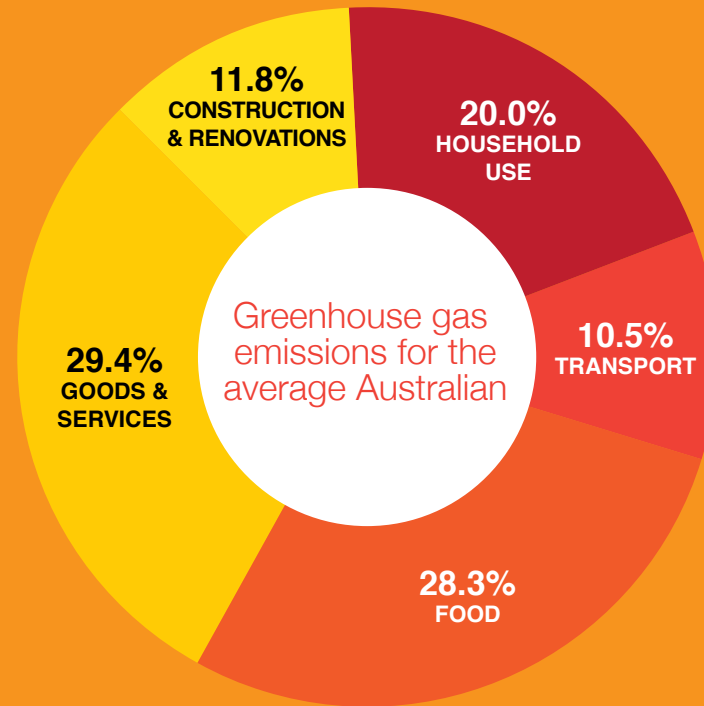
July 2015 – 18,361 Kilowatt of solar panels in Greater Dandenong



\* Source: Clean Energy Regulator small-scale renewable energy installation data.

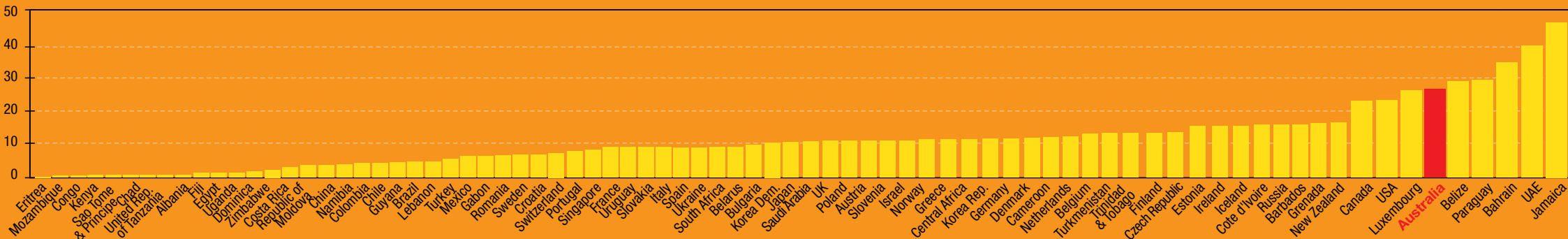
## CLIMATE CHANGE

The Australian government estimated in 2013-2014 that the average Australian emits 24.1t CO<sub>2</sub>e a year.



Even though Australia's contribution to global emissions is only about 1.3%, it is in the top 20 countries\*.

\*Source: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government 2016.



When compared with the rest of the world, there are only a handful of countries that have higher greenhouse gas emissions per person\*.

\* Source: United Nations

## BIODIVERSITY

### Victoria

In Victoria, since European settlement, approximately half of the native vegetation across the State has been cleared for farming and urban development, with 80 per cent of original cover cleared from private land<sup>®</sup>.

In Greater Dandenong, even with the extensive green wedge area to the south, very little of the original native vegetation remains.

<sup>®</sup>Victoria's native vegetation permitted clearing regulations. Consultation paper, Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2012.

**54%**

of Victoria's native vegetation is gone due to clearing.



**46%**  
of Victoria's native vegetation left.

### Value of Ecological services

Biodiversity underpins the health of the planet and has a direct impact on our lives. We are currently using 25% more natural resources than the planet can sustain. In Greater Dandenong, even with the green wedge area to the south, very little of the original native vegetation remains. According to a 2014 update<sup>^</sup> to a report commissioned by the US Government, the monetary value of goods and services provided by nature was estimated to be about \$125 trillion per year (\$US) – that's \$125,000,000,000,000.00 provided by plants and wildlife. These services are critical to human well-being and to the functioning of the economy. For instance, the value of insect pollinators alone on world agricultural production is estimated to be over \$200 billion.

**\$125,000,000,000,000.00**

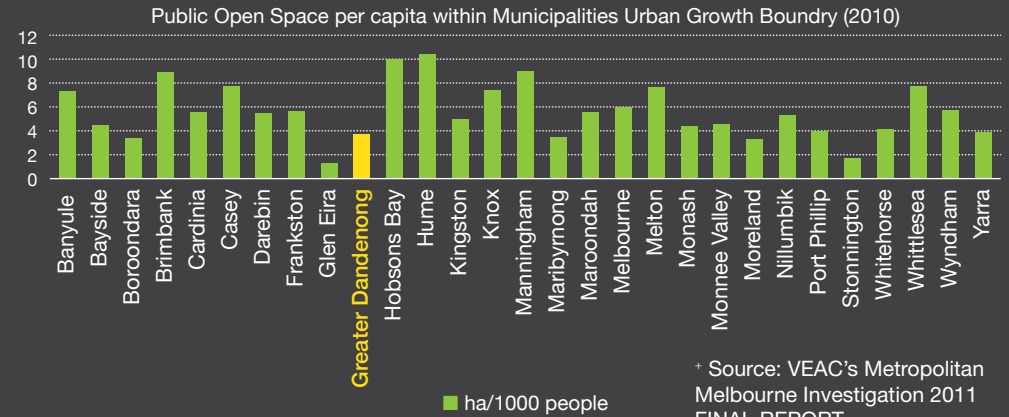
<sup>^</sup> Source: Changes in the global value of ecosystem services Robert Costanza, et.al. Global Environmental Change 26 (2014) 152–158

Towards an environmentally sustainable city 2016–2030

## OPEN SPACE

### Greater Melbourne

A recent assessment of public open space across Greater Melbourne identified<sup>+</sup> significant variation in public open space per person for each local government area.

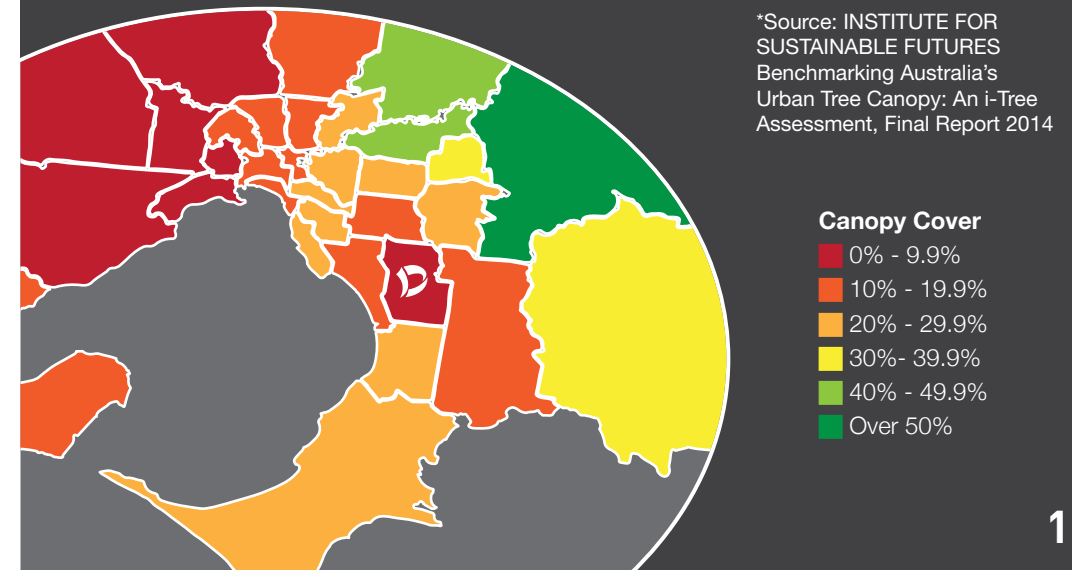


<sup>+</sup> Source: VEAC's Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation 2011 FINAL REPORT

### Canopy Cover











An assessment of the canopy cover across Greater Melbourne indicates that Greater Dandenong has the lowest canopy cover this side of the city<sup>\*</sup>.

To help address this, the community has helped Council at tree planting days to plant over 18,000 native local plants in public open spaces each year.



# Sustainability Themes

## Summary

Theme	Goal description
 <b>Biodiversity and Open Space</b>	Imagine a Greener City that places a value on its natural assets, protects existing levels of biodiversity and works hard to enhance biodiversity levels for the future.
 <b>Water and Stormwater</b>	Imagine a city where water is managed efficiently and effectively to: provide a secure source of clean drinking water; reduce flood risk and damage; ensure healthy waterways; as well as support healthy local parks and environments.
 <b>Waste and Resources</b>	Imagine a Waste Wise City with clean public places where resources are used efficiently, resulting in lower costs, less waste and a healthy local environment.
 <b>Transport and Movement</b>	Imagine a Well Connected City that is easy, safe and affordable to walk and cycle around, is well connected to public transport and has a clear hierarchy for the effective movement of vehicles.
 <b>Climate and Energy</b>	Imagine a Low Carbon City that is run from renewable energy, has a minimal carbon footprint, causes minimal damage to the planet and is affordable, attractive, liveable and sustainable.
 <b>Buildings and Places</b>	Imagine a City that's been planned, designed and built to accommodate the community's future needs, a city that's been created to reflect a sense of place that's unique to the community, a city that performs environmentally, socially and economically.
 <b>Environmental Pollution</b>	Imagine a Clean and Healthy City with clean air, water and land, which support a healthy local environment and protects the community from pollution-related health problems.
 <b>Local and Sustainable Food</b>	To create a city connected by food where people have healthy balanced diets, have the ability to grow their own fruit and vegetables, and have access to local and seasonal fresh food which is locally grown and processed.
 <b>Local Community and Culture</b>	Imagine a Liveable City with a healthy and thriving community, where its members enjoy optimal health in an environment that actively promotes productive, rewarding and socially inclusive lives.
 <b>Local Business and Economy</b>	Imagine a city where people of all ages and backgrounds can reach their potential, gain the skills and education they need for success, and be part of a prosperous economy where all trade, manufacturing and business actively flourish.

## Key priorities

While this strategy outlines high level targets rather than focussing on individual actions, the list below details some of Council's key short-term priorities that will help meet our long-term corporate and community sustainability objectives.

## Key corporate priorities

- Complete the Public Street Lighting Program that is projected to save at least 48,338 tonnes of CO2e over 20 years
- Develop a Council Sustainable Buildings Policy
- Assess and benchmark against One Planet Councils standard (or equivalent)
- Investigate how Council might become recognised as a FairTrade Council
- Continue to deliver an Annual Sustainability Report
- Continue to identify, map, protect and enhance the ecological value of Council owned land
- Deliver key recommendations from the Integrated Water Management Background Report

## Key community priorities

- Establish a Community Sustainability Reference Group
- Investigate options for establishing a Community Environment Centre located in the South East Region
- Continue to deliver the Annual Sustainability Festival and Awards
- Maintain membership and continue to partner with Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE)
- Formally adopt the SDAPP (Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process) Fact Sheets and BESS (Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard) Assessment Tool
- Incorporate a Local ESD Planning Policy into the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme
- Maintain membership and continue to partner the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA).
- Strengthen existing partnership with South East Business Network, Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce and Committee for Dandenong

Council acknowledges that many of these priorities and objectives are cross-referencing and will be linked across several themes. For example improving the health of residents is addressed in not only the Local Community and Culture Theme, but is addressed in the Transport and Movement Theme, as well as the Local and Sustainable Food Theme.



# BIODIVERSITY AND OPEN SPACE

**OUR GOAL:  
A GREENER CITY**

**Imagine a greener city that places a value on its natural assets, protects existing levels of biodiversity and works hard to enhance biodiversity levels for the future.**

Open space provides a significant contribution towards the liveability and sustainability of the urban environment, both at the local and regional scale, by providing a range of environmental, social and economic benefits. High quality public realm has been demonstrated to be important for both mental and physical health. Access to such public open spaces not only increase walking rates, but are said to be restorative, reduce mental fatigue and help improve overall welling being<sup>29</sup>.

Biodiversity, meanwhile, provide us with the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat. According to a 2014 update to a report commissioned by the US Government, the monetary value of goods and service provided by the natural environment was estimated to be about \$125 trillion per year – that's \$125,000,000,000,000 provided by plants and wildlife<sup>30</sup>.

## What is Council currently doing?

In 2009, Council managed approximately 580 Hectares (Ha) of public open space across the municipality, ranging from small pocket parks to large regionally significant parks such as the Dandenong Wetlands. This equated to around 4.4Ha per 1,000 residents with the majority of residents within 500m of a park at least 5,000m<sup>2</sup> in size<sup>31</sup>. Council has been working to enhance the quantity and quality of our open space network to meet the recreational and social needs of the Greater Dandenong community through a range of actions – examples include:

- The implementation of the 2009 Greater Dandenong Open Space Strategy
- The addition of further open space areas, primarily as a result of the development of new residential estates such as Keysborough South.

While much of original native vegetation across Greater Dandenong has been cleared, there are still significant areas of scattered trees and patches of remnant plants throughout the municipality. As detailed native plant and wildlife surveys have only been taken on a site-by-site basis, the overall extent across the municipality is not well documented. As a result there is a reliance on the State Government's GIS mapping and desktop modelling. This modelling is known to have it limitations and does not accurately reflect the ecological value captured via detailed surveys. This in turn affects Council's ability to protect native vegetation proposed to be removed through a planning permit process.

Fortunately significant patches of remnant vegetation are protected within Council's reserves. Council regularly undertakes a range of measures to protect and enhance remnant native plants and wildlife within the municipality and raise awareness within the community – examples include:

- An extensive environmental education program that informs the local community and encourages their participation in local environmental activities
- Regular assessments of the quality and extent of remnant vegetation within its bushland and general reserves that inform management plans
- The adoption of the 2014 Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan to measure, protect and enhance the areas ecological values

In addition, Council has established open space and biodiversity objectives and targets that will improve the extent and quality of open space across the municipality, as well as protect and enhance local biodiversity, inform and engage our community on the value of our local parks, plants and wildlife and achieve a healthier community and environment.







CORPORATE OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>BO-1.1</b>	<b>Ecological Value</b> Identify, protect and enhance the ecological value (EV) of Council land within the municipality.	Habitat Hectare + EV	Refer to Annual Sustainability Report	Ecological Reports	Identify and protect EV of Council land
<b>BO-1.2</b>	<b>Open Space</b> Increase the quality, quantity and connectivity of open space owned by Council.	Hectares of open space per 1000 residents	4.4 Ha per 1000 residents (2009)	Open Space Strategy	4.5 Ha per 1000 residents
<b>BO-1.3</b>	<b>Vegetation</b> Increase the quality and quantity of vegetation cover on Council land that contributes to a net gain throughout the municipality.	Canopy cover + Planting of trees / plants	Establish Baseline* + 19,000 p.a.	Parks Unit	Maintain Planting Numbers
COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>BO-2.1</b>	<b>Ecological Value</b> Identify, protect and enhance the ecological value of land throughout the municipality.	Monitor and Report	Establish Baseline*	Various sources	Identify and Protect EV of Land in CGD
<b>BO-2.2</b>	<b>Open Space</b> Support the increase in community access to open space through the Open Space Provision Goals.	% of residents within 500m	Establish Baseline*	Open Space Strategy	Increase % of residents within 500m
<b>BO-2.3</b>	<b>Green Wedge</b> Work with key stakeholders to protect and enhance the ecological value of the Green Wedge area.	EV of Land in Green Wedge	Refer to 2015 CGD Green Wedge Mgt. Plan (GWMP)	GWMP	Complete the Flora and Fauna Assessment for GWMP
<b>BO-2.4</b>	<b>Planning</b> New development within Greater Dandenong to address open space and biodiversity issues, where appropriate.	No. of Sustainability / Environmental Referrals	30% of Applications (2014)	Planning Application Data	50% of Applications
<b>BO-2.5</b>	<b>Awareness</b> Engage with the community, residents and businesses, to increase their awareness on the value of parks, plants and wildlife.	No. of Programs / Participants	Existing Educational Programs	Parks Unit	Maintain Engagement Levels
EXISTING KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS		FUTURE KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2014 Green Wedge Management Plan</li> <li>• 2009 Open Space Strategy</li> <li>• 2003 Leafy Legacy (Street Tree Strategy)</li> <li>• Reserve Management Plans (Internal)</li> <li>• Park Masterplans</li> <li>• Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review, update and implement the Open Space Strategy for Council and the City of Greater Dandenong</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice open space and biodiversity management as part of all relevant Council Strategies and Action Plans</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice open space and biodiversity requirements into the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme</li> <li>• Continue to develop and implement Biodiversity Management Plans for areas of Council land identified as having significant ecological value</li> <li>• Review, update and implement Leafy Legacy Strategy</li> <li>• Engage and strengthen the community's awareness on the ecological value of the parks, plants and wildlife in Greater Dandenong.</li> </ul>			

\*Establish Baseline - Where there is no baseline or limited data a baseline will be established.

# WATER AND STORMWATER

**OUR GOAL:**  
A WATER SENSITIVE CITY



**Imagine a city where water is managed efficiently and effectively to: provide a secure source of clean drinking water; reduced flood risk and damage; healthy waterways; as well as support healthy local parks and environments.**

The standard industry approach to water management has been to manage water supply, sewerage and stormwater separately. Recent droughts and floods have led to a rethink of these water management practices by governments, water authorities and industry, which are now working together to achieve a more integrated approach to the management of water resources.

The main watercourse that flows through the municipality of Greater Dandenong is the Dandenong Creek and its tributaries, the Mile Yarraman and Eumemmerring Creeks. Much of the middle and lower reaches of the Dandenong Creek is characterised by significant urban development.

## What is Council currently doing?

Council used 219ML of mains potable water in 2013–2014, an increase from the 194ML used in 2012–2013, but still considerably lower than the 394ML recorded in 1999–2000. This has been achieved through a range of actions undertaken by Council to reduce its main water use – examples include:

- The conversion of all of the sporting fields managed by Council to grasses that use up to 70% less water than traditional grass species
- The ongoing installation of rainwater tanks at Council's facilities, including a 700,000 litre rainwater tank at the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC).

Average water use for residential properties across South East Water's region was 408 litres per day during 2013–2014<sup>32</sup>. Across the City of Greater Dandenong,

households used on average approximately 405L per day in 2013–2014, down from 437L per day in 2007–2008<sup>33</sup>. While Council has a limited ability to directly influence the community's water use, it has undertaken a range of measures to raise awareness within the community and advocate on its behalf – examples include:

- Raising awareness via Council's website, publications, events and planning, as well as demonstrating leadership through Council's projects
- Actively lobbying for access across the municipality to recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant – 1,345 properties connected at start of 2015<sup>34</sup>.

Within Greater Dandenong the water quality of the local waterways is generally poor<sup>35</sup>, with the focus being on reducing the impact of stormwater flooding. Working in partnership with Melbourne Water and other stakeholders, Council is taking an integrated approach to improve water quality – examples include:

- Increasing uptake of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles in new developments across the city
- Modelling impacts of flooding and climate change in an urban environment as part of the Financial Risks Adaptation Planning project with SECCCA<sup>1</sup>
- Monitoring and minimising impacts of pollution in the Dandenong South Industrial Precinct with partners such as the EPA<sup>2</sup> Victoria and Melbourne Water.

A key project that captures the integrated water management approach adopted by Council is the stormwater harvesting project at Tatterson Park. When completed it has the potential to provide up to 20ML per year of water for irrigation, reduce stormwater runoff impacts and improve water quality.

Council has established integrated water and stormwater objectives and targets that will help protect and enhance our waterways, help reduce impacts of stormwater, both pollution and runoff, and help reduce unnecessary mains water consumption.

<sup>1</sup> SECCCA – South East Councils Climate Change Alliance

<sup>2</sup> EPA - Environment Protection Authority



CORPORATE OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>WS-1.1</b>	<b>Mains Water</b> Where appropriate, reduce Council's corporate mains water consumption.	Megalitres (ML)	394 ML 1999-2000**	Utility Tracker	Reduce Mains Water use by 50%
<b>WS-1.2</b>	<b>Stormwater</b> Where possible, minimise the impact of stormwater runoff and pollution.	No. of Projects = Best Practice	Establish Baseline*	Various Council Reports	Increase No. of Best Practice Projects
<b>WS-1.3</b>	<b>Alternative Water</b> Where appropriate, increase the supply of alternative water sources.	Litres	Establish Baseline*	Utility Tracker	Replace 10% of Mains Water

COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>WS-2.1</b>	<b>Mains Water</b> With the support of key partners, help the community, both residents and businesses, reduce mains water consumption.	Average Litres per day L/d	437L/d per house 1863L/d per business (2007-2008)	South East Water	Aspire for a 10% reduction
<b>WS-2.2</b>	<b>Stormwater</b> Advocate and work with key partners to help reduce the impact of stormwater runoff and pollution on catchments within the city.	% of CGD Catchment = Best Practice	Establish Baseline*	Council's Geographical Information System (GIS)	Increase % of CGD Catchment = Best Practice
<b>WS-2.3</b>	<b>Planning</b> New development within the city to incorporate best practice water and stormwater measures.	No. of Sustainability Referrals	30% of Applications (2014)	Planning Application Data	50% of Applications
<b>WS-2.4</b>	<b>Awareness</b> Engage the community, both residents and businesses, to increase their awareness of water use and management.	No. of Programs / Participants	Existing Educational Programs	Council's Annual Sustainability Report	Increase No. of Participants

EXISTING KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS	FUTURE KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 Sustainable Stormwater Strategy</li> <li>• 2015 – 2022 Asset Management Strategy</li> <li>• 2014 Green Wedge Management Plan</li> <li>• 2012 Flood Emergency Management Plan (Internal)</li> <li>• 2008 Sustainable Water Use Plan</li> <li>• 2014 Integrated Water Management Background Report (Internal)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement recommendations from the Integrated Water Management Background Report, where appropriate</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice for water resource management into Council's Asset Management Strategies and Action Plans</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice for water resource management into Council's Strategies and Action Plans, where appropriate</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice for water resource management into the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme</li> <li>• Engage and strengthen the community's awareness on best practice for mains water efficiency and stormwater management.</li> </ul>

\*Establish Baseline -Where there is no baseline or limited data a baseline will be established.

\*\*WS-1.1 - Baseline established prior to drought conditions and is based on ICLEI water campaign framework

# WASTE AND RESOURCES

**OUR GOAL:**  
A WASTE WISE CITY



**Imagine a city with clean public places where resources are used efficiently, resulting in lower costs, less waste and healthy local environments.**

Australians' are reported to be one of the highest generators of waste in the world per capita<sup>36</sup>, with the average Victorian generating over two tonnes per year<sup>37</sup>. The amount of waste we generate continues to grow, with our relatively affluent lifestyles and a population growth both significant factors. The generation and management of this waste has substantial environmental and social impacts.

## What is Council currently doing?

In 2014, an audit of the Civic Centre Offices and Operations Centre showed that 28.4 tonnes of total waste was generated by Council Staff, of which 54% was sent to landfill and 46% was recycled or composted. In 2015, Council reduced total waste generated to 12.8 tonnes, of which 37% went to landfill. Council has achieved these substantial reductions through a range of actions aimed at reducing waste to landfill, increasing recycling rates and improving resource efficiency – examples include:

- achieving Silver Accreditation as part of Sustainability Victoria's Waste Wise Council program
- recycling of operational waste handled through Council's Operation Centre, including green waste, steel and batteries.

Council's household kerbside waste collection service resulted in on average 11.7kg of waste per household being sent to landfill each week during 2013-2014. While Council's ability to directly influence the community's generation of waste is limited, Council has undertaken a range of measures to raise community awareness of the need to reduce waste to landfill and increase recycling rates – examples include:

- working with schools, kindergartens and migrant communities and facilitating events such as the

*Detox Your Home* service and *Garage Sale Trail* and the *Great Bin Swap* – to reduce household waste to landfill through: smaller garbage bins; and, standard bin colours for state-wide education programs

- in 2014, achieving approximately 30 per cent of relevant planning applications for new developments to demonstrate best practice waste and resource management.

Council regularly works with Victorian Government departments and waste authorities to facilitate an integrated approach to waste management – examples include:

- advocacy for improved product stewardship programs and the increased uptake of new technology through state-wide and regional waste strategic plans
- participating in the initial project advisory panel to develop *Get it Right on Bin Night* - a state-wide program to increase household recycling rates.

A key focus area of Council's is to reduce littering and roadside dumping, resulting in the development of a variety of programs such as *Dob-In-A-Dumper* and the *Roadside Litter Education Program*, with the latter judged winner in the Litter Prevention Category at the 2015 *Keep Australia Beautiful Awards*. Council officers investigated 3,259 reports of littering and dumped rubbish and issued 317 fines in 2014. Council also facilitates *Clean-Up-Australia* events in Greater Dandenong. Council has established waste and resource use objectives and targets that will reduce the use of natural resources, reduce waste to landfill, increase reuse and recycling of materials and reduce litter.



CORPORATE OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>WR-1.1 Waste to Landfill</b>	Reduce the amount of total waste sent to landfill from Dandenong Civic Centre Offices and Operations Centre.	% of Total Waste sent to Landfill	54% of Total Waste sent to Landfill (2014 Audit)	Annual Audit	35% of Total Waste sent to Landfill
<b>WR-1.2 Recycling and Reuse</b>	Increase the amount of material that is recovered for re-use and recycling.	% Diverted from Landfill – Recyclables / Organics	42.7% Recycled and 3.5% Composted (2014 Audit)	Annual Audit	65% Diverted from Landfill – Recyclables / Organics
<b>WR-1.3 Resource Efficiency</b>	Establish a resource efficiency program for goods and materials across Council.	NA	Existing Procurement Program	Procurement Unit	Establish Program
<b>WR-1.4 Sustainable Procurement</b>	Review and update sustainable procurement policy for goods and materials across Council.	NA	Existing Procurement Policy	Procurement Unit	Update Existing Policy

COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>WR-2.1 Waste to Landfill</b>	Work in partnership with our community to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	Kg / Household / Week	11.7 Kg / Household garbage/ Week 2013-2014	Waste & Litter Strategy	Aspire for a 10% reduction
<b>WR-2.2 Recycling and Re-use</b>	Work in partnership with the community to increase recycling rates across the city.	Kg / Household / Week	6.62 Kg / Household recyclables / Week	Waste & Litter Strategy	Aspire for a 10% increase
<b>WR-2.3 Litter Prevention</b>	Work with the community to provide clean streets and waterways by reducing littering and dumped rubbish.	No. of Merit requests	3,259 Merit requests in 2014	Merit requests	Reduce No. of Merit requests
<b>WR-2.4 Planning</b>	New developments within the city to incorporate best practice waste and resource management.	No. Sustainability Referrals	30% of Applications (2014)	Planning Application Data	50% of Applications
<b>WR-2.5 Awareness</b>	Increase community awareness on waste and resources and the benefits of smart consumption, re-use and recycling.	No. of Programs / Participants	Waste Education Plan and Awareness Programs	Waste and Litter Strategy	Increase No. of Participants

EXISTING KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS	FUTURE KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2015 – 2020 Waste and Litter Strategy</li> <li>• Annual Litter Action Plan (Internal)</li> <li>• Annual Waste Education Plan (Internal)</li> <li>• Current Procurement Policy</li> <li>• Existing Local Laws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the Waste and Litter Strategy for Council and the Municipality</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice waste and resource management as part of all relevant Council Strategies and Action Plans</li> <li>• Review and update existing procurement policy to increase sustainability outcomes</li> <li>• Apply best practice waste and resources model to the management and operation of all Council buildings, facilities and events</li> <li>• Continue to provide best practice waste services to the community</li> <li>• Continue to support the activities of the Litter Action Task Force.</li> </ul>

# TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT

**OUR GOAL:**  
A WELL CONNECTED CITY



**Imagine a well connected city that is easy, safe and affordable to walk and cycle around, is well connected to public transport and has a clear hierarchy for the effective movement of vehicles.**

Transport is central to our modern way of life. It connects us with our families, friends and community as well as to resources, employment and services. An effective transport system is critical to the liveability of any city. In addition, active transportation modes, such as walking and cycling, improve social and health outcomes.

Travel options within Greater Dandenong are, like the majority of Melbourne, reliant on the use of the private motor vehicle. Across Metropolitan Melbourne, freight and passenger transport compete for limited road space, resulting in congestion and increased travel times. In 2015, a comprehensive audit by Infrastructure Australia on Melbourne's road network identified that unless congestion is addressed delays will cost over \$9 billion a year by 2031<sup>38</sup>. The report recommends public transport be expanded to help reduce road congestion, and that investment must be linked to higher density development around key activity centre.

Local government is increasingly recognised as having a role to play, at both a local and regional level, by advocating, planning, facilitating and in some cases even providing transport solutions.

## What is Council currently doing?

Greater Dandenong is recognised as a regional transport hub and Council has long accepted that it has a key role to play in the provision of integrated transport solutions. Across its operations, Council's fleet vehicles were responsible for 1,444 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent gases (t-CO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2014, a decrease from 2007's 1,448 t-CO<sub>2</sub>e, despite the increase in the number of fleet vehicles. This has been achieved through a range

of actions undertaken by Council to reduce its fleet emissions – examples include:

- the development of a Green Travel Plan as required as part of the Green Star rating requirements for the 5 star Green Star rated Civic Building.
- the ongoing selection of low emission vehicles, including the trialling of electric vehicles.

Census data reports that Greater Dandenong residents' use of cars for journeys to work, either as driver or passenger, fell from 87.2 per cent in 2006 to 84.7 per cent in 2011. Journeys to work increased from 1.9 per cent for walking and 0.5 per cent for cycling in the 2006 census to 2.1 per cent and 0.8 per cent respectively in the 2011 census. While Council has a limited ability to directly influence the community's method of transport, it has undertaken a range of measures to facilitate improved transport options and raise community awareness – examples include:

- increasing the shared path network across the municipality from 136km in 2010 to 181km in 2015
- supporting the Springvale Rail Grade Separation project – with a predicted cost benefit ratio for the community that returns \$1.86 for every \$1 invested
- implementing Council's award winning Wayfinding Signage Strategy for the Springvale Activity Centre
- advocating for improved transportation solutions for the region, through forums such as the Eastern Transport Coalition.

Council has established integrated transport and movement objectives and targets that will help facilitate easy, safe and affordable transport options for the community, improved health and social outcomes as well as reduced emissions.



CORPORATE OBJECTIVES	METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>TM-1.1 Active Transport</b> Support Council staff to increase levels of active travel – such as walking and cycling.	% Council Staff (mode of travel to work)	0% Walk 0.7% Cycle 93% Cars (2011)	CGD Staff Survey	Increase Active Transport Modes by 20%
<b>TM-1.2 Low Carbon Transport</b> Support Council staff to increase use of low carbon and sustainable transport options.	% Council Staff (mode of travel to work)	4.5% Train 1% Bus 93% Cars (2011)	CGD Staff Survey	Increase Low Carbon Transport modes by 10%
<b>TM-1.3 Fleet Operations</b> Reduce emissions and costs associated with the operation of fleet – Council and contractors.	tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent emissions (t-CO2e)	1,448 t-CO2e (2007)	Utility Tracker	Reduce by 5%
<b>TM-1.4 Walking and Cycling networks</b> Improve connectivity and accessibility of the walking and cycling networks throughout the municipality.	Infrastructure provided	136 km shared path 1200 km footpath 61 km on road cycle route 50 bicycle parking facilities (2010)	Geographic Information System	Increase Size of Network

COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES	METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>TM-2.1 Active Transport</b> Work with partners to encourage the community to increase their use of active travel – such as walking and cycling.	% of population (Journey to Work data)	1.9% Walk 0.5% Cycle 87.2% Cars (2006)	Census data	Aspire for a 20% increase
<b>TM-2.2 Low Carbon Transport</b> Work with partners to encourage the community to increase their use of low carbon and sustainable transport – such as public transport and electric vehicles.	% of population (Journey to Work data)	8.5% Train 3.2% Bus 87.2% Cars (2006)	Census data	Aspire for a 10% increase
<b>TM-2.3 Access to Public Transport</b> With our partners, work towards providing safe, connected and well serviced Public Transport options for the community within a walking distance of 400m.	% of population 400m radius / distance	Establish Baseline*	Geographic Information System	Increase % of population
<b>TM-2.4 Planning</b> Where appropriate new developments within the city to incorporate best practice sustainable transport outcomes.	No. of Sustainability Referrals	30%. of Applications (2014)	Planning Application Data	50% of Applications
<b>TM-2.5 Awareness</b> Increase community awareness on the benefits of sustainable transport options.	No. of Programs / Participants	Establish Baseline*	Community Services	Increase No. of Participants

EXISTING KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS	FUTURE KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2005 Integrated Transport Strategy</li> <li>• 2015 – 2023 Walking Strategy</li> <li>• Staff Green Travel Scheme (Internal)</li> <li>• Annual Shared Paths Network Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and implementation of the 2005 Integrated Transport Strategy</li> <li>• Develop and implement Council’s Cycling Strategy</li> <li>• Develop and implement Council’s Neighbourhood Centres Strategy</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice for transport management into Council’s Asset Management Strategies and Action Plans</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice integrated transport management into Council’s Strategies and Action Plans (where appropriate)</li> <li>• Implement and promote the Green Travel Plan for Council staff</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice integrated transport management into the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.</li> </ul>

\*Establish Baseline -Where there is no baseline or limited data a baseline will be established.

# CLIMATE AND ENERGY

**OUR GOAL:**  
A LOW CARBON CITY



**Imagine a low carbon city that is run from renewable energy, has a minimal carbon footprint, causes minimal damage to the planet and is affordable, attractive, liveable and sustainable.**

It's clear that the Earth's climate is changing. In Australia, average air temperatures have increased by around 0.9 degrees Celsius since 1910, and each decade has been warmer than the previous decade since the 1950s<sup>39</sup>. Human induced greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions are considered to be the dominant cause of the observed global warming since the mid-20th century.

Economists, such as Stern<sup>40</sup> and Garnaut<sup>41</sup>, highlighted that without action the impacts of climate change are estimated to annually cost at least 5 per cent of global GDP. This includes costs associated with the projected significant increase in the frequency and impact of extreme weather conditions and events, such as heat waves, droughts and floods<sup>42</sup>. Climate Change will impact many of the basic elements of life, such as access to water, food production, health and well-being, use of land and biodiversity levels. In addition, these impacts will not be evenly distributed, with the poorest countries and people suffering the most.

Reducing the risks associated with climate change requires society to not only reduce existing GHG emissions, but prepare and adapt to its future impacts.

## What is Council currently doing?

The City of Greater Dandenong has long recognised the need to contribute to global efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Emissions from Council's street lighting, buildings and facilities totalled 14,579 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent gases (t CO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2014, a 3 per cent fall from the 14,880 t CO<sub>2</sub>e for 2007. This has been achieved through a range of actions undertaken by Council to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions – examples include:

- development of sustainable buildings, such as the new Greater Dandenong Civic Centre, an accredited 5 star Green Star rated building

- *Lighting up Dandenong* – a \$3M project to install new street lighting technology that significantly reduces both CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions and operating costs.

While information on the community's energy use is limited, Victorian Government data<sup>43</sup> indicates the average Greater Dandenong household consumed 14.2kWh of electricity and 140MJ of gas per day in 2007. Available information on the uptake of solar panels across Greater Dandenong shows that by July 2015, the rated output of registered solar panels was 18,361kW, a 53 per cent increase on the 11,979 kW registered at the end of 2013<sup>44</sup>. While Council has a limited ability to directly influence the community's energy use, it has undertaken a range of measures to raise awareness within the community and advocate on its behalf – examples include:

- raising awareness via Council's website, publications and events, as well as demonstrating leadership through Council infrastructure projects
- working towards 30 per cent of relevant planning applications for new developments to demonstrate best practice energy efficiency measures
- collaborating with Council and other stakeholders to improve the environmental performance of new buildings that require planning permits.

As global mitigation action is occurring too slowly, there is an increasing need for adaptation to the impacts that we will face. Working with a range of stakeholders, Council is taking action to increase the community's resilience to a changing climate – examples include:

- modelling impacts of flooding and climate change in an urban environment as part of the *Financial Risks Adaptation Planning* project with SECCCA
- implementation of Council's *Heatwave Plan* to help minimise the impacts on our community, particularly the aged and frail, from heatwave events.

Council has established climate change and energy related objectives and targets that will help reduce Council and the community's greenhouse gas emissions as well as reduce energy bills, improve the sustainability of buildings, increase the uptake of renewable energy and increase resilience to the impacts from a changing climate.





CORPORATE OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>CE-1.1 Carbon Emissions</b>	Reduce Council's CO2e emissions from street lighting, buildings and facilities.	tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent emissions (t-CO2e)	14,880 t-CO2e (2007)	Utility Tracker	At least a 20% reduction by 2020 <sup>#</sup>
<b>CE-1.2 Energy Efficiency</b>	Reduce the energy consumption of Council assets – includes buildings and street lights.	Gigajoules (GJ) Kilowatt (kW)	Gas 6,370 GJ (2007) Elec. 4,544,471 kWh (2007)	Utility Tracker	At least a 20% reduction by 2020 <sup>#</sup>
<b>CE-1.3 Low Carbon and Renewable Energy</b>	Increase the percentage of energy consumed by Council obtained from renewable sources.	% of renewable energy	Establish Baseline*	Utility Tracker	Increase % of renewable energy <sup>^</sup>
<b>CE-1.4 Climate Change</b>	Develop and implement a Climate Change Strategy for Council and the City of Greater Dandenong.	Not Applicable	Existing Risk Management Work	Corporate Services	New Climate Change Strategy

COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>CE-2.1 Carbon Emissions</b>	Engage, advocate and empower the community to enable the reduction of CO2e emissions from built environment.	t-CO2e per person per year	15.9% of 18.93 (2009)	ACF Consumption Atlas	Aspire for a 10% reduction
<b>CE-2.2 Energy Efficiency</b>	Help the community reduce energy consumption within the built environment.	kWh & MJ (per household, per day)	Elec. 14.2 kWh Gas 140 MJ (2007)	Victorian Government	Aspire for a 10% reduction
<b>CE-2.3 Renewable Energy</b>	Help the community increase use of renewable energy.	Community Solar kilowatt (kW) Capacity	11,979 kW Capacity in CGD (Dec 2013)	Clean Energy Regulator	Increase Community Solar kW Capacity
<b>CE-2.4 Planning</b>	Help the community to incorporate best practice energy initiatives through planning processes.	No. of Sustainability Referrals	30% of Applications (2014)	Planning Application Data	50% of Planning Applications
<b>CE-2.5 Awareness</b>	Work with partners to increase community awareness on the benefits of energy efficiency and renewables.	No. of Programs / Participants	Existing Educational Programs	Annual Sustainability Report	Increase No. of Participants

EXISTING KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS	FUTURE KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 Sustainable Stormwater Strategy</li> <li>• 2012 Municipal Emergency Response Plan</li> <li>• Heatwave Plan</li> <li>• 2015 – 2022 Asset Management Strategy</li> <li>• 2014 Risk Management Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a Climate Change Strategy that adopts a Risk Management approach for Council and the Municipality</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice for energy management into Council's Asset Management Strategies and Action Plans</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice for energy management into Council's Strategies and Action Plans, where appropriate</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice requirements for energy efficiency and renewables into the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme</li> <li>• Showcase sustainable development options and set a benchmark for sustainability credentials</li> <li>• Engage and strengthen the community's awareness and ability to take action in regards to renewables, energy efficiency, carbon emissions and climate change issues.</li> </ul>

\*Establish Baseline -Where there is no baseline or limited data a baseline will be established. ^Renewable Energy Target to be developed following establishment of baseline.

<sup>#</sup>Greater Dandenong target will be reviewed as part of Climate Change Strategy development to align with Federal and Victorian Government targets.

# BUILDINGS AND PLACES

**OUR GOAL:**  
A CITY PLANNED  
FOR THE FUTURE



Imagine a city that's been planned, designed and built to accommodate the community's future needs, a city that's been created to reflect a sense of place that's unique to the community, a city that performs environmentally, socially and economically.

Whether it's where we live or work, most of our lives are spent in and around buildings. The quality of our homes, buildings, towns and cities impacts our health, wellbeing, environment and economy. Well designed buildings and people friendly places, are attractive and useable, and promote more active lifestyles, which can help reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases such as obesity and diabetes<sup>45</sup>.

The construction and operation of our buildings has a significant impact on our natural resources<sup>46</sup>. They consume 32% of the world's resources, including 12% of the water we consume and the generation of around 40% of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions<sup>47</sup>. Buildings that are sustainably designed, constructed and operated may achieve substantial financial savings and have significant social and environmental benefits, when compared to conventional buildings<sup>48</sup>. Evidence also demonstrates that occupant health and well-being is generally increased in green buildings. For businesses, improved indoor environment quality can result in higher staff productivity rates due to fewer sick days and positive morale<sup>49</sup>.

## What is Council currently doing?

Billing data on electricity and gas usage from the operation of Council's buildings and facilities indicated the emission of 5,784 t-CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2014 compared with 6,397 t-CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2007, and the consumption of 37ML of mains water in 2013-2014 compared with 37ML in 2006-2007. Council has used information from its State of the Environment Report to initiate a range of actions that reduce energy and water use from existing building stock, while establishing policies and guidelines to help meet best practice ESD standards – examples include:

- Development of sustainable buildings, such as the new Greater Dandenong Civic Centre, an accredited 5 star Green Star rated building
  - Retrofitting of buildings to reduce energy and water use, through measures such as the installation of rainwater tanks and efficient lighting technology.
- Actions such as these have also reduced the impact of the ongoing rise in utility charges:
- Even though Council's water use remained stable at 37ML, charges more than doubled: \$66,425 in 2006 – 2007 compared with \$153,969 in 2013-2014
  - Even with a 10 per cent reduction in emissions from energy use bills across Council's buildings, charges increased from \$625,640 in 2007 to \$849,550 for 2014.

Available data indicates that Greater Dandenong's community water and energy use is reducing over time. Average water use per household per day of 437L in 2007-2008 fell to 405L in 2013-14<sup>50</sup>. The average Greater Dandenong household's energy use of approximately 55kWh in 2004 reduced to around 52kWh in 2007<sup>51</sup>. While Council has a limited ability to directly influence these issues it regularly advocates on behalf of residents and businesses, continues to engage the community to help raise awareness and has undertaken a range of measures to that will help reduce energy and water consumption – examples include:

- improving the sustainability of new residential and non residential buildings through the SDAPP<sup>1</sup> program and the planning application process
- increasing community awareness through events and activities such as the annual Sustainability Festival Awards.

Council has established objectives and targets that will help reduce energy and water consumption, help reduce carbon emissions, and make our households and businesses more sustainable. These measures will also help reduce ongoing operational costs and help increase the health and wellbeing of both residents and workers.

<sup>1</sup> SDAPP (Sustainable Design in the Planning Process) has been developed by an association of Victorian councils with a focus on improving the sustainability of buildings.



CORPORATE OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>BP-1.1 ESD – Existing Buildings</b>	Enhance energy and water efficiency of Council buildings.	Emissions (t-CO <sub>2</sub> e), Mains Water Use (Megalitres – ML)	6,397 t-CO <sub>2</sub> e/yr (2007) 37 ML/yr (2006-2007)	Utility Tracker	Reduce both Emissions and Mains Water Use by 20%
<b>BP-1.2 ESD – New Buildings</b>	New Council buildings designed, constructed and operated to meet best practice Ecologically Sustainable Design (ESD) standards.	% of Buildings Built to Best Practice	Establish Buildings Policy	Annual Sustainability Report	All New Buildings
<b>BP-1.3 Economic Performance</b>	Measure the operational costs of Council buildings.	\$	Energy \$625,640 Water \$66,425 (2006-2007)	Utility Tracker	Reduce Operational Costs

COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>BP-2.1 Existing Buildings</b>	With support of key stakeholders, help the community reduce energy and water consumption in existing buildings.	Water (Litres – L) + Energy (kilowatt – kWh)	437L per house (2007-2008) 55 kWh per house (2004)	United Energy & South East Water	Aspire to reduce by up to 10%
<b>BP-2.2 Places</b>	Work with the community to enhance the sense of place through Council's Placemaking Framework.	Placescore	Existing Placescores	Placemaking Framework	Increase Placescores and No. of Placescores
<b>BP-2.3 Walkability</b>	Work with key partners to help increase the walkability of our suburbs.	'Walkscore' walkability measure	Average Walkscore (2011)	Walkscore + CGD	Increase Average Walkscore
<b>BP-2.4 Planning</b>	New developments within the city to incorporate best practice Ecologically Sustainable Design (ESD) standards.	No. of Sustainability Referrals	30% of Applications (2014)	Planning Application Data	50% of Applications
<b>BP-2.5 Awareness</b>	Engage and empower the community to help them improve the energy and water performance of their buildings.	No. of Programs / Participants	Existing Educational Programs	Annual Sustainability Report	Increase No. of Participants

EXISTING KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS	FUTURE KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme (Ongoing)</li> <li>2015 Buildings and Facilities Asset Management Plan</li> <li>2014 Integrated Water Management Background Report (Internal)</li> <li>2015 – 2023 Walking Strategy</li> <li>2015 Placemaking Framework</li> <li>2014 - 2024 Housing Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best practice urban design and development, and activation to create liveable neighbourhoods and workplaces.</li> <li>Provide ongoing leadership through sustainable buildings and places that demonstrate high sustainability standards</li> <li>Update and implement Council's Buildings and Facilities Asset Management Plan</li> <li>Strengthen and incorporate an Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme</li> <li>Engage with local residents and businesses to increase their awareness of opportunities to reduce their energy and water bills.</li> </ul>

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

**OUR GOAL:**  
A CLEAN AND HEALTHY CITY



**Imagine a clean and healthy city with clean air, water and land, which support a healthy local environment and protects the community from pollution-related health problems.**

There are numerous environmental pollutants that have the potential to have a significant impact on our environment, on our community, and as a result on our economy, locally in Greater Dandenong, nationally across Australia and internationally throughout the globe.

The impact on the Australian economy of air pollution alone is estimated to be in the billions of dollars per year<sup>52</sup>. Urban air pollution can have significant direct adverse impacts on human health – including respiratory diseases, asthma, heart disease, personal irritations and learning difficulties in children<sup>53</sup>, and affect many people each year across Australia. A reduction in air pollution would deliver long-term benefits from the population's improved health and reduce the real and substantial health costs<sup>54</sup>.

Society has benefited immensely from predictable and stable environmental conditions for nearly 10,000 years. The planetary boundaries framework (developed by the Stockholm Resilience Centre<sup>55</sup>) identifies the environmental processes that help regulate the stability of the planet. It identifies a set of boundaries that establish a safe operating space for humanity. Since the industrial revolution we have seen a significant increase in emissions and pollutants that are starting to push the limits of these planetary boundaries. Examples of pollutants include the rise in ozone depleting gases and other greenhouse gas emissions.

## What is Council currently doing?

The City of Greater Dandenong has one of the largest business and employment centres in Victoria. As a major economic hub Greater Dandenong has a commitment to promoting economic growth and prosperity, but this objective is pursued through responsible practices that

do not detrimentally harm our local environment. Council has put in place a range of key initiatives to address pollution issues – examples include:

- the Tatterson Park stormwater harvesting project – when completed, will help protect local waterways as well as provide an alternate source of water
- the Procurement Policy includes criteria related to sustainability and the protection of the environment
- the Litter Action Task Force proactively identifies pollution sources and implements solutions to help reduce and prevent impacts.

The Victorian Government authorities, such as Melbourne Water and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), have key roles in monitoring, reporting and managing air, water and land pollution across the region and state. Council is working in partnership with agencies, such as Melbourne Water and the EPA, and applying an integrated approach to identify and tackle sources of pollution within the municipality – examples include:

- *Connecting Planning and Land Use Controls with Source Pollution Monitoring* - a program that aims to monitor stormwater pollutants in industrial areas
- The placement and enforcement of planning permit conditions that help minimise air, water and land pollution from new development projects.

While Council has a limited ability to directly influence pollution levels across the municipality, it has undertaken a range of measures to raise community and minimise local pollutants – examples include:

- Roadside Litter Prevention Program – Recognised as Category Winner at 2015 Keep Australia Beautiful Awards
- Awareness Programs such as *Dob in a Dumper* and *Clean up Australia Day*.

Council has established environmental objectives and targets that will help reduce the level of pollutants generated within the municipality, protecting the local environment and the health of the local community.



CORPORATE OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>EP-1.1 Land Use Pollution</b>	Minimise and manage sources of land pollution from Council's operations and facilities.	Monitor and Report	Establish Baseline*	To Be Determined (TBD)	Monitor and Report**
<b>EP-1.2 Water Pollution</b>	Minimise and manage sources of water pollution from Council's operations and facilities. *Stormwater quality and waterway health (focus area)	Monitor and Report	Establish Baseline*	TBD	Monitor and Report**
<b>EP-1.3 Air Pollution</b>	Minimise sources of air pollution from Council's operations and facilities.	Monitor and Report	Establish Baseline*	TBD	Monitor and Report**

COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>EP-2.1 Land Use Pollution</b>	Work with the community to reduce land pollution across the city. *Land contamination and illegal dumping (focus area)	No of Incidents / Map of Contaminated Land	Establish Baseline*	MERIT / Land Contamination Register	Update MERIT & Council's GIS
<b>EP-2.2 Water Pollution</b>	Work with the community to improve stormwater quality and waterway health across the city.	Waterway Index / Healthy River Index	Rating of POOR (2014)	Property & Rating / MERIT	Monitor and Report**
<b>EP-2.3 Air Pollution</b>	Work with the community to improve air quality across the city.	Air Quality Index	Rating of FAIR (Oct 2015)	Property & Rating / MERIT / GIS	Monitor and Report**
<b>EP-2.4 Planning</b>	New developments within the city to incorporate best practice pollution management.	No. of Sustainability Referrals	30% of Applications (2014)	Planning Application Data	50% of Applications
<b>EP-2.5 Awareness</b>	Engage and empower the community, both residents and businesses, to increase their awareness and minimise associated pollution.	No. of Programs / Participants	Establish Baseline*	Existing Environment Programs	Monitor and Report**

EXISTING KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS	FUTURE KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2015 - 2020 Waste and Litter Strategy</li> <li>• Annual Litter Action Plan (Internal)</li> <li>• Annual Waste Education Plan (Internal)</li> <li>• Current Procurement Policy</li> <li>• Current Local Laws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the Waste and Litter Strategy for Council and the Municipality</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice waste and resource management as part of all relevant Council Strategies and Action Plans.</li> <li>• Apply best practice waste and resources model to the management and operation of all Council buildings and facilities.</li> <li>• Continue to provide best practice waste services to the community</li> <li>• Continue to support the activities of the Litter Action Task Force.</li> <li>• Continue to advocate for the earliest possible closure of the Lyndhurst landfill site.</li> </ul>

\*Establish Baseline -Where there is no baseline or limited data a baseline will be established.

\*\*Monitor and Report - Council is reviewing its reporting program to determine how best to report on environmental pollution issues.

# LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD

**OUR GOAL:**  
A CITY CONNECTED BY FOOD



**To create a city connected by food where people have healthy balanced diets, have the ability to grow their own fruit and vegetables, and have access to local and seasonal fresh food which is locally grown and processed.**

Greater Dandenong is home to over 1000 registered food businesses. This includes over 80 food manufacturers and 750 food retailers. The restaurants alone are estimated to serve around 50,000 meals per week. The local food sector exports \$686M per annum and employs over 6,900 people, many of whom are residents of Greater Dandenong<sup>56</sup>.

As identified in the 2014 Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP), agriculture represents an important land use in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, particularly for agricultural purposes, such as horticulture and livestock production.

Recognising the benefits, the GWMP identifies a range of actions that support the expansion and diversification of agricultural activity in the area.

However, the production and consumption of food accounts for 28% of the average Australian's total greenhouse gas emissions and 48% of the average Australian's total ecological footprint<sup>57</sup>.

Climate change and obesity are both consequences of our current way of life. There is a clear link between these two conditions. As our reliance on the car as a mode of transportation increases, we reduce our use of active transport modes, such as walking and cycling. This reliance on the car, not only results in an increase in CO2 emissions, but leads to an expansion of our waistline due to a reduction in energy expended – Professor Stephen Boyden, Australian National University

Over 60% of adults and 25% of children in Australia are either overweight or obese. In Victoria, less than 10% of the population gets the recommended daily fruit and vegetable intake. Access to fresh, healthy, local and sustainable food options is often limited in lower income neighbourhoods. As a result fast foods become common habit with the average adult eating out more than four times per week<sup>58</sup>.

## What is Council currently doing?

The City's reputation as a destination for affordable fresh and multi-cultural food continues to find an audience, and is the platform for making Greater Dandenong 'A City Connected by Food'. Much of this reputation has been achieved by work being delivered through the Regional Food Strategy<sup>59</sup> that commits Council to a range of objectives and actions based on the following pillars:

- Food Industry (Business and Production)
- World Food (Culture and Supply)
- Food Health (Access and Community)

As identified in the 2014 Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP), agriculture represents an important land use in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, particularly for agricultural purposes, such as horticulture and livestock production.

Recognising the benefits, the GWMP identifies a range of actions that support the expansion and diversification of agricultural activity in the area.

In addition over the last few years Council has undertaken or supported a range of programs focussed on encouraging Greater Dandenong residents to grow their own food. These include:

- the planting of a variety of fruit trees into nature strips and an urban orchard in the public open spaces of the Meridian Estate in Dandenong South.
- edible garden projects by Council's Park's team resulting in a variety of seasonal herbs and vegetables being planted in public open spaces such as Dandenong Park
- supporting the 25 community and school gardens across the municipality.

Council has established objectives and targets that will not only help promote the production, processing and consumption of local and sustainable food, but highlights the benefits of a healthy diet to the local community. This approach will help reduce the environmental impacts, showcase local businesses and increase the health and wellbeing of residents, workers and visitors to Greater Dandenong.



CORPORATE OBJECTIVES	METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>LF-1.1 Procurement</b> Develop and implement a sustainable food procurement policy for Council.	Not Applicable	Existing Policy	Procurement Unit	Update Policy
<b>LF-1.2 Waste</b> Reduce amount of food waste and packaging sent to landfill.	Tonnes of Food Waste	Establish Baseline*	Annual Waste Audit	Monitor and Report**
<b>LF-1.3 Awareness</b> Create an internal culture that promotes healthy diets and local / sustainable food options.	% of Staff Surveyed and No. of Programs	Establish Baseline*	Corporate Service	50% of Staff Surveyed

COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES	METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>LF-2.1 Production</b> With the support of key stakeholders, support the community to increase their ability to grow their own fresh fruit and vegetables.	% of Residents	Establish Baseline*	GIS - Food Nodes (Healthy Food Connect)	Aspire for a 25% increase
<b>LF-2.2 Access</b> Work with stakeholders to increase the percentage of residents that have access to healthy food within the municipality.	% of residents within 500m	Establish Baseline*	GIS - Food Nodes (Healthy Food Connect)	Aspire for a 25% increase
<b>LF-2.3 Affordability</b> Work with stakeholders to increase the affordability of fresh food within the municipality.	% of income spent on food	Family Annual Average 30% (2013)	Healthy Food Access Report	Complete local food mapping
<b>LF-2.4 Green Wedge</b> Support the expansion and diversification of agricultural activity in the Green Wedge (GW) area.	Agricultural Activity in GW	32 businesses + ~1,037 hectares (2011)	Green Wedge Mgt. Plan	Monitor and Report**
<b>LF-2.5 Planning</b> New developments within the City to incorporate best practice food production and access requirements.	No. of Sustainability Referrals	30% of Applications (2014)	Planning Application Data	50% of Applications
<b>LF-2.6 Awareness</b> Promote healthy diets and local sustainable food options for the broader community.	No. of Programs / Participants	Establish Baseline	Healthy Together Program	Monitor and Report**

EXISTING KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS	FUTURE KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2015 – 2018 Regional Food Strategy</li> <li>• Healthy Together Program</li> <li>• Healthy Food Connect Report (2014)</li> <li>• Healthy Food Access Report (2007)</li> <li>• 2014 Green Wedge Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement key objectives and actions in the Regional Food Strategy</li> <li>• Implement key objectives and actions in the Green Wedge Management Plan</li> <li>• Incorporate Local and Sustainable Food principles into the existing Council Food Policy</li> <li>• Incorporate best practice sustainable food outcomes into relevant Council Strategies and Action Plans</li> <li>• Investigate the options to incorporate measures to address local and sustainable food through the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme</li> <li>• Engage and strengthen the community's awareness on benefits of healthy diets, their ability to grow their own fresh fruit and vegetables, and help them reduce the amount of food waste.</li> </ul>

\*Establish Baseline -Where there is no baseline or limited data a baseline will be established.

\*\*Monitor and Report - Council is reviewing its reporting program to determine how best to report on sustainability food issues.

# LOCAL COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

**OUR GOAL:  
A LIVEABLE CITY**



**Imagine a liveable city with a healthy and thriving community, where its members enjoy optimal health in an environment that actively promotes productive, rewarding and socially inclusive lives<sup>60</sup>.**

In 2011, the median weekly gross income among Greater Dandenong residents was \$395, the lowest level in Melbourne and only 67% of the metropolitan average of \$590<sup>61</sup>. Nearly 80% of Greater Dandenong's population of 147,000<sup>62</sup> live in a family setting. In addition, Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse municipality in Victoria, with 60% of the population born overseas, from over 150 different nationalities<sup>63</sup>.

The demographic profile, including the diversity of cultures within Greater Dandenong has a number of implications on the health and wellbeing of the community, especially in relation to how Council addresses and balances social and environmental issues.

With a lower socio-economic profile, local residents are more likely to have exposure to a range of factors that may lead to them being at greater risk of experiencing physical and mental health issues. The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute<sup>64</sup> found that people who live in damp, cold or mouldy environs are at greater risk of respiratory conditions and more likely to suffer from mental health issues. This is a specific issue that many residents in Greater Dandenong may be exposed to, especially when issues such as housing affordability are taken into account.

## What is Council doing?

The Imagine 2030 Community Plan<sup>65</sup> provides Council with insight into a vision that the community, both residents and businesses, have for the future of the City of Greater Dandenong. This has helped Council establish a foundation for the creation of the 2013-2017 Council

Plan and the key priorities that focus on people, place and opportunity. The documents that support Council's key priorities and this theme's areas of focus, as well as how it plans to address many of these issues include:

- Community Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
- Diversity, Access and Equity Policy 2015
- Community Engagement Policy 2013

The 2013-2017 Community Wellbeing Plan is a statutory requirement for every Council within Victoria, and is the core foundation for many of the key measures implemented by Council. As part of this plan Greater Dandenong has adopted the Social Model of Health as a framework to help it understand and address complex social, economic and environment issues in the municipality.

The 2015 Diversity, Access and Equity Policy and the 2013 Community Engagement Policy are other key documents used to help shape and influence the future direction of various services and programs that Council, its partners and its key stakeholders deliver.

While Council has a limited ability to directly shape key community issues such as health and wellbeing, it has undertaken a range of initiatives to help increase community awareness examples include:

- The annual Sustainability Festival and Awards held at the Dandenong Market
- Awareness Programs – such as the Waste and the Biodiversity Educationals Program

To integrate sustainability within each of these initiatives, Council has established a range of objectives for the Local Community and Culture Theme. These objectives will support the creation of an environment that will help to increase general community awareness on sustainability, as well promote community wellbeing, cultural diversity, community safety and resilience to climate change.





CORPORATE OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>CC-1.1 Culture</b>	Establish internal programs that help to create a culture of sustainability within Council.	No. of Programs and Participants	Establish Baseline*	Staff Survey	Monitor and Report**
<b>CC-1.2 Social Responsibility</b>	Investigate how best to incorporate key Corporate Social Responsibility principles into Council's Annual Sustainability Report.	Monitor and Report	Establish Baseline*	Relevant Business Units	Monitor and Report**
COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>CC-2.1 Health and Wellbeing</b>	Use the Social Model of Health as a framework to help create an environment that enhances the health and wellbeing of residents and workers.	Community Wellbeing Indicators	Health and Wellbeing Profile	Community Wellbeing Plan	Monitor and Report**
<b>CC-2.2 Culture and Diversity</b>	Work with partners and key stakeholders to help create an environment that helps to promote community participation, inclusion and equity, as well as recognising, responding and celebrating the arts, culture and diversity of Greater Dandenong.	Diversity of Groups in Greater Dandenong	Cultural Diversity Profile of Greater Dandenong	CGD Social Statistics	Monitor and Report**
<b>CC-2.3 Crime and Safety</b>	Work with partners and key stakeholders to help create an environment that will improve community perceptions of safety, and reduce the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour.	Crime Rates and Participation Rates	Community Wellbeing Indicators	Community Safety Plan	Monitor and Report**
<b>CC-2.4 Climate Adaptation</b>	Work with partners and key stakeholders to help protect vulnerable residents from extreme weather events through the implementation of key strategies and programs.	Frequency and Impact of Extreme Events	Establish Baseline*	Heatwave Plan and Risk Framework	Monitor and Report**
<b>CC-2.5 Affordability</b>	Work with partners and key stakeholders to help manage the housing affordability and the associated cost of living.	Cost of Living Index + Housing Affordability	Establish Baseline*	Housing Strategy + CGD Social Statistics	Monitor and Report**
<b>CC-2.6 Awareness</b>	Work with partners and key stakeholders to help increase the awareness of the general community on the benefits of sustainable living.	No of Programs / Participants	Existing Educational Programs	Relevant Business Units	Monitor and Report**
EXISTING KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS		FUTURE KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2013 - 2017 Community Wellbeing Plan</li> <li>• 2015 Community Development Framework</li> <li>• 2015 Community Hubs Framework</li> <li>• Community Engagement Planning Framework (2013)</li> <li>• Asylum Seeker and Refugee Communities Action Plan</li> <li>• Imagine 2030 Community Plan (2010)</li> <li>• Arts and Cultural Heritage Strategy (2016)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to integrate sustainability initiatives into the updated version of the Community Wellbeing Plan</li> <li>• Engage and strengthen the community's awareness on the benefits of key health and wellbeing initiatives linked to the Sustainability Strategy</li> <li>• Engage and strengthen the community's awareness on the benefits of sustainability through activities like the Sustainability Festival and Awards</li> <li>• Implement measures to improve the environmental sustainability of Council's festivals and events</li> <li>• Identify further opportunities and forums to increase focus on sustainability across the region, such as through collaboration with other councils, community organisations and schools</li> <li>• Investigate options for establishing a Community Environment Centre located in the South East Region.</li> </ul>			

\*Establish Baseline -Where there is no baseline or limited data a baseline will be established. \*\*Monitor and Report - Council is reviewing its reporting program to determine how best to report on relevant community issues.

# LOCAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

OUR GOAL:  
A CITY OF OPPORTUNITY



Imagine a city where people of all ages and backgrounds can reach their potential, gain the skills and education they need for success, and be part of a resilient, sustainable and prosperous economy where trade, manufacturing and business flourish.

The UK Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) conducted an extensive international study into how local government deals with economic growth within their municipalities. It established that community wellbeing is closely linked to economic resilience – where a healthy balance is created between the commercial, public and social economies with an emphasis on environmental sustainability<sup>66</sup>.

There are a range of economic challenges for Council and the local community within Greater Dandenong. The municipality has the lowest gross average income within Victoria - \$395 per week. In addition Greater Dandenong has one of the largest migrant populations in Australia with over 150 different nationalities, a large percentage (60%) of whom were born overseas. Interestingly, while Greater Dandenong has the lowest gross average income in Victoria, its Gross Regional Product (GRP) is valued at \$75,000 per capita, which is 31% more than Victoria's Gross State Product of \$57,000 per capita.

A recent prospectus<sup>67</sup> created by the Greater Dandenong Business Team highlighted the importance of the role that the municipality plays as an economic hub for Melbourne and Victoria. 30% of jobs within Greater Dandenong are in the manufacturing sector, with the broader region generating 42% of Victoria's manufacturing output. There is a population catchment of over 1.3 million people that live within a 20km radius of Central Dandenong, emphasising the economic importance of its location and reinforcing its position as the capital of the south east region.

## What is Council currently doing?

Central to this status as capital of the south east region, Revitalising Central Dandenong is an ambitious place making program focused on a diverse range of highly visible public realm improvements within central Dandenong. The initiative has benefits from the State Government's

investment of \$290 million and is forecast to attract close to \$1.2 billion of private investment in the area over the next 15 to 20 years. It has also established the foundation for Greater Dandenong's approach to placemaking, especially in the Springvale and Noble Park Activity Centres.

Extensive community engagement and consultation, as part of the Imagine 2030 Community Plan<sup>68</sup>, highlighted the importance that people placed on economic prosperity and security. The 2013-2017 Council Plan priorities and key area of focus – A City of Opportunity - reflects Council's commitment to enhancing economic prosperity through sustainable development.

Council's commitment to economic resilience and sustainable development is being implemented through a range of strategies, programs and initiatives – examples include:

- **Local Economic and Employment Development Strategy:** *Achieving Greater Dandenong's Potential* is Council's local economic and employment development strategy. It articulates a vision for Greater Dandenong as a place where people can reach their potential, gain skills and an education, and be part of a prosperous economy where all trade, manufacturing and business activity flourishes.
- **Regional Food Strategy:** Greater Dandenong has created a strategy that is locally relevant, pragmatic, scalable and implementable. It outlines a series of recommendations that will help create the right conditions for economic growth and ensure the long-term access to affordable healthy food produced within the Greater Dandenong food system.
- **Placemaking Framework:** Greater Dandenong is committed to creating great places for its people. This has been demonstrated through the Placemaking Program in central Dandenong led by Council in partnership with Places Victoria. The Placemaking Framework will assist Council apply this approach in Noble Park and Springvale in the future.

To integrate sustainability within each of these initiatives, Council has established a range of objectives for the Local Business and Economy Theme. These objectives will help attract investment in green enterprise, help support locally based sustainable businesses, and help provide green employment and skill development opportunities for residents.



CORPORATE OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>BE-1.1 Professional Development</b>	Support staff with their professional development, especially around key sustainability issues.	Programs and Participants	Establish Baseline*	Corporate Service	Monitor and Report**
<b>BE-1.2 Fair Trade</b>	Investigate how best to incorporate Fair Trade Principles into Council's procurement policy and processes.	Monitor and Report	Establish Baseline*	Responsible Business Units	Monitor and Report**
COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES		METRIC	BASELINE	SOURCE	BY 2020
<b>BE-2.1 Green Investment</b>	Work in partnership to support and encourage the establishment, relocation or expansion of suitable green businesses within Greater Dandenong.	No. of Green Businesses in Greater Dandenong	Establish Baseline*	Greater Dandenong Business	Monitor and Report**
<b>BE-2.2 Operation and Efficiency</b>	Work in partnership to support all types of businesses throughout Greater Dandenong save money by reducing their energy and water consumption.	No. of businesses engaged to increase energy and water efficiency	Establish Baseline*	South East Business Network + Economic Development Unit	Monitor and Report**
<b>BE-2.3 Manufacturing and Resources</b>	Work in partnership to encourage manufacturing sector to address resource efficiency and 'people, profit, planet' in both strategic planning and operational efficiency.	No. of programs and / or networks delivered	Establish Baseline*	South East Business Network + Annual Report	Monitor and Report**
<b>BE-2.4 Education and Skills</b>	Work in partnership with education institutions, training providers, social enterprises and other businesses to help provide residents with skills for an innovative and sustainable future.	No. of training courses provided within Greater Dandenong	Establish Baseline*	Greater Dandenong Business + Community Services	Monitor and Report**
<b>BE-2.5 Awareness</b>	Engage and empower the business community to help them benefit from adopting sustainable business practices.	No of programs and / or networks delivered	Establish Baseline*	Greater Dandenong Business + Community Services	Monitor and Report**
EXISTING KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS		FUTURE KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011 Achieving Greater Dandenong's Potential – A Local Economic and Employment Development Strategy for our City</li> <li>• 2015 – 2018 Regional Food Strategy</li> <li>• 2015 Activities Centres Placemaking Framework</li> <li>• Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme</li> <li>• 2016 – 2020 Digital Strategy</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the 2011 Achieving Greater Dandenong's Potential – A Local Economic and Employment Development Strategy for our City</li> <li>• Incorporate key Economic Development and Business priorities into the relevant Council's Strategies and Action Plans</li> <li>• Incorporate key Economic Development and Business priorities into the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme (where appropriate)</li> <li>• Engage and strengthen the community's awareness on benefits of key economic initiatives linked to the Sustainability Strategy</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to increase the sustainability of local businesses through programs that increase energy efficiency and increase uptake of renewable energy sources, such as the use of Environmental Upgrade Agreements.</li> </ul>			

\*Establish Baseline -Where there is no baseline or limited data a baseline will be established.

\*\*Monitor and Report - Council is reviewing its reporting program to determine how best to report on relevant economic issues.

# Definitions

**Biodiversity** – the term given to the variety of life on Earth. It is the variety within and between all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems within which they live and interact.

**Establish Baseline** – Where there is no baseline or limited data a baseline will be established.

**Ecological Value** – generally considered the level of benefits that the air, water, minerals, biota, and all other factors that make up natural ecosystems provide to support native life forms. Ecological values benefit all biodiversity, including humans.

**Ecological Footprint** – the measure of the impact a person or community has on the environment, expressed as the total amount of land required to provide the natural resources consumed, absorb the wastes emitted and provide space for the infrastructure required.

**Ecologically Sustainable Design (ESD)** – The use of design principles and approaches that lessen the ecological impact of buildings, to save resources, reduce waste and create a healthier environment for the occupants.

**Empower** – To enable or give someone the power to do something that makes them stronger and more confident to control their life.

**Empowerment** – the sharing of information, resources, opportunity and motivation with people so that they can show initiative and make decisions to solve problems and improve performance.

**Fair Trade** – a social movement with the goal of achieving better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world through their trade of goods to developed countries. It enables farmers and workers in the developing countries to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

**Monitor and Report** – Council is reviewing its reporting program to determine how best to report on relevant sustainability issues.

**Natural resources** – naturally occurring materials or substances which we can use and modify in ways that are beneficial to us.

**One Planet Councils** – allows Australian local councils to assess their sustainability policies and activities against a simple concept: do we consume more or less than our share of one planet's worth of resources?

**Resilience** – the ability to readily recover from stresses or difficulties.

**Standard of living** – A level of wealth and material comfort in daily life as measured by the goods, services, and luxuries available to an individual, group, or nation. Standard of living is closely related to quality of life.

**South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)** – a collaboration of eight councils in Victoria's south-east making a regional response to climate change. The eight Councils involved are: Bass Coast; Baw Baw; Bayside; Cardinia; Casey; Greater Dandenong; Kingston; and Mornington Peninsula.

**Sustainable** – the ability to continue a defined behaviour indefinitely, by avoiding harmful effects on the natural environment.

**Sustainable Design in the Planning Process (SDAPP)** – a framework developed by an association of Victorian councils with a focus on improving the sustainability of buildings. This is achieved by applying Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles to the built environment through the statutory planning system.

**Walkability** – a measure of how friendly an area is to walking for pedestrians. This is based on key factors such as the quality of footpaths, traffic conditions, connectivity of street networks, population density levels and the presence of jobs and shops. Improved Walkability levels provide health, environmental, and economic benefits and therefore is an important concept in sustainable urban design.

**Walkscore** – an online tool that provides a measure of the walkability of a property, suburb or city. The methodology is based on the number of a typical consumer destinations within walking distance of a dwelling, and other factors such as the population density and road networks. Scores range from 0 (car dependant) to 100 (most walkable).

**Vision** – the ability to think about or plan the future with imagination or wisdom.

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# Disclaimer

The information contained in this Sustainability Strategy is provided in good faith and has been derived from sources believed to be reliable and accurate. The City of Greater Dandenong does not guarantee the document is without flaw of any kind and therefore no warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of this information is given and no responsibility is accepted by the City of Greater Dandenong or its employees for any loss or damage arising from reliance on the information provided.

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