



Our Bright Green Future

Our Bright Green Future

Strategy and Action Plan | 2026-2036



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters, now known as the City of Greater Dandenong.

We honour their enduring connection to Country, their Cultural knowledge, and their sustainable stewardship of these lands and waterways over thousands of generations.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, recognising their vital role in preserving and protecting the sacred lands and waterways of their ancestors, their places, Traditional Cultural practices and stories. We also acknowledge the Bunurong Land Council as the Registered Aboriginal Party, responsible for caring for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage of this area.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we value the opportunity to learn from and work alongside Bunurong peoples, as Traditional Custodians.

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Mayor's Message

It is my genuine pleasure to present the Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026-36 to the Greater Dandenong community.

I am so proud of this document, which will guide the important work we do together towards a green city committed to a sustainable future.

This is a priority strategy and the next step in our response to the climate emergency. To ensure clear, measurable and relevant goals, it captures previous strategic objectives in sustainability and outlines our actions clearly, in one place.

These efforts will build on the steps we've already taken as a council, to reduce our emissions, revegetate and protect our reserves, clean our waterways and embed sustainability into our daily operations.

We have reduced our emissions by around 80% since 2019, we're exceeding tree planting targets and making great strides in biodiversity – like the return of Krefft's gliders, which were extinct in Greater Dandenong.

Please join us as we continue our journey towards a bright green future for Greater Dandenong.

**Greater Dandenong Mayor
Councillor Sophie Tan**

Introduction

Climate change is no longer a distant issue. It is shaping our lives, our health, our finances, and the places we call home.

In the City of Greater Dandenong, we are seeing these impacts worsen every year through increasing demands on our natural resources, more frequent extreme weather events, and rising cost of living placing growing pressure on our community's ability to adapt.

Council has a long history of commitment to climate action through sustainability initiatives and environmental stewardship. Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2020 and has been laying the foundations for long-term sustainability action.

The climate and ecological crises bring an urgent need to strengthen our journey of sustainability and climate action.

Our Bright Green Future builds on that progress and expectations from the community by establishing a clear direction that represents Council's next step in responding to the declared climate and ecological emergency.

The Council Plan 2025-29 sets a new Integrated Planning Framework to guide the development of Council's key documents.

To align with this Framework, Council has consolidated our previous sustainability related strategies into one. This approach reduces duplication, sets one direction, and ensures our actions are clear, measurable, and relevant. By focusing our efforts, we can take timely and decisive action to deliver stronger outcomes for both the community and the environment.

Our Bright Green Future vision is for the City of Greater Dandenong to be:

A green city committed to a sustainable future.

The purpose of *Our Bright Green Future* is to build upon Council's commitment, lead our community's sustainability action and foster environmental stewardship. It provides the direction needed to bring this vision to life through practical action, Council leadership, and community collaboration.

This Strategy is both a roadmap and an invitation. A roadmap because it sets out the measurable steps we will take to cut emissions, adapt to the climate emergency, deliver better community health and wellbeing outcomes, and protect our natural assets.

An invitation because it calls on everyone in our community to care for the environment, and to be part of the solution. Together, we can shape a bright, green, sustainable future.



Integrated Planning Framework

Council’s Integrated Planning Framework (IPF) outlines Council’s planning in the long, medium, and short term.

The *Local Government Act 2020 (Act)* requires all Councils to adopt an integrated approach to planning, monitoring, and performance reporting to achieve the best outcomes for the community and consistency in planning. The Act also requires Councils to mitigate and plan for climate change risks in its decision making.

The IPF (Figure 1) guides the creation of strategies and plans, ensuring their alignment with both strategic and operational priorities.

Our Bright Green Future (the Strategy) is a ‘Priority Strategy’ for Council. This means it provides strategic guidance on a critical focus area for Council. It enables Council to achieve its long-term vision and objectives and service commitments with sustainability recognised as a critical part of decision making.

A Priority Strategy includes an Action Plan that aligns with Council’s Long Term Financial Plan and 10-year Asset Plan. The Strategy links directly to the Community Vision that:

- *Our community is healthy, vibrant, innovative, and creative; and*
- *Our city is committed to environmental sustainability.*

The Strategy responds to the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2025-29, and adopts one objective as its vision:

- *a green city committed to a sustainable future.*

It addresses the key health and wellbeing aspirations of our community by:

- *increasing community resilience and the health co-benefits of adapting to the impacts of climate change.*

Through the Greater Dandenong People’s Panel, we heard that our community want:

- *A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.*

The Strategy addresses this by committing to sustainability initiatives that lead innovation, deliver direct benefits to community, including our business sector, and strengthen Council’s and the community’s resilience to the climate emergency.

Integrated Planning Framework

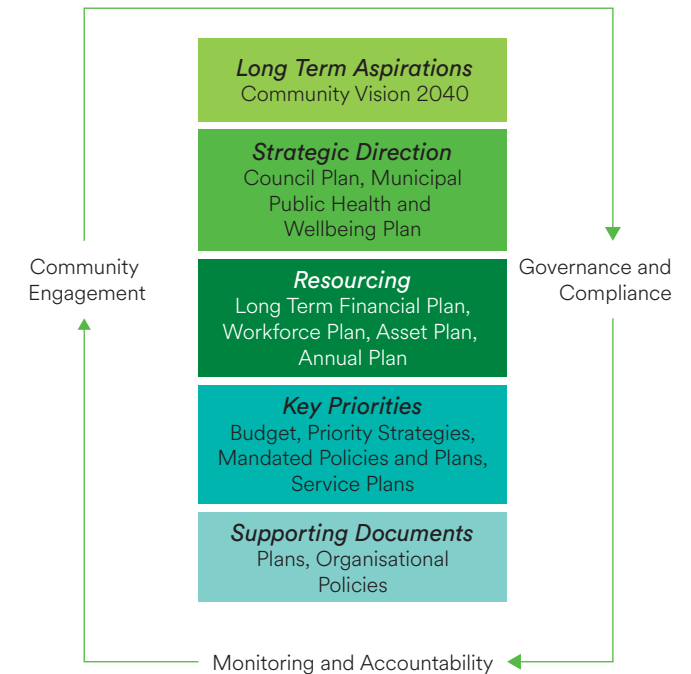


Figure 1: Integrated Planning Framework

Consolidating Council's Sustainability Response

Since Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2020, a lot has happened. With the adoption of a new Council Plan, Council has reaffirmed its commitment to being a green city with a sustainable future.

This means we consider the environment and climate change in every decision we make to deliver a sustainable and resilient future for our community and our natural environment.

To align with the new Integrated Planning Framework (IPF), Council has consolidated its previous eight sustainability-related strategies into one (see Figure 2). This approach delivers a consistent direction for Council's commitment and enables it to better lead and mobilise our communities' response, to overall environmental sustainability. The Action Plan shifts from an operational to strategic focus to align with the IPF, reduces duplication and ensures our actions are clear, measurable, and relevant.

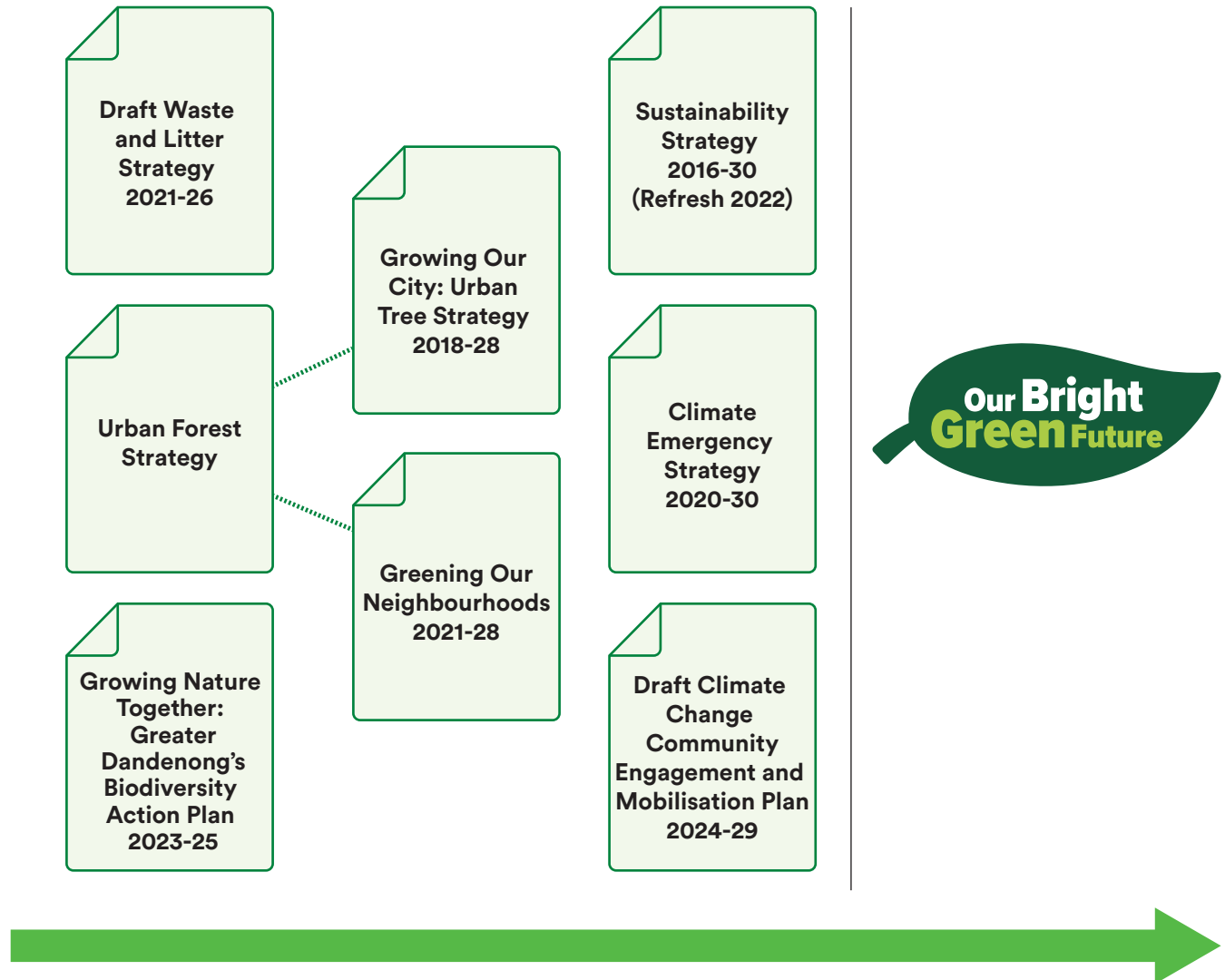


Figure 2: Existing and draft sustainability related strategies consolidated to inform Our Bright Green Future

Table 1: Summary of previous sustainability related strategies subject to consolidation.

Previous Strategy	Description
Sustainability Strategy 2016-30	Provides the strategic framework to achieve our vision of being one of the most sustainable cities in Australia, by informing decision-making and helping to shape the plans and activities undertaken across the municipality and region. This was done by setting strategic organisational and community priorities with clear objectives across holistic social, economic and environmental categories.
Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-30	To guide Council to become a resilient, net zero carbon city with an active community prepared for the challenges of a changing climate. This Strategy was Council’s declaration of the climate emergency and commitment to embedding sustainable practice across the whole organisation.
Growing Nature Together: Greater Dandenong’s Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-25	To provide guidance on how to care for nature and how Council will manage, protect and improve biodiversity in the municipality. It is also a call to action for every resident to play their role locally.
Urban Forest Strategy 2021-28	To provide a holistic approach to delivering a healthy, green and resilient urban forest. It is an overarching document to link Greening our City and Greening our Neighbourhoods. Both strategies guide Council’s approach to achieving 15 percent canopy cover by 2028.
Greening Our City – Urban Tree Strategy 2018-28	Considers the status, issues and opportunities for Council managed trees. It sets a strategic planting plan to ensure trees are planted in locations of greatest need and following a set of best practice technical and management guidelines.
Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy 2021-28	Considers trees on privately-owned land, and the role the City of Greater Dandenong community plays in protecting and enhancing canopy cover. It describes the immense social, economic and environmental benefits greening our neighbourhoods can bring.
Draft Waste and Litter Strategy 2021-26	This draft strategy has not been adopted by Council. The draft strategy guides Council’s approach to sustainable waste management. It seeks to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, increase community awareness and uptake of resource recovery and waste minimisation, and create clean and litter-free public places.
Draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan 2024-29 (CEMP)	This draft plan has not been adopted by Council. A draft framework, guiding Council’s efforts to enhance community engagement and mobilise effective action on climate change. It aimed to increase awareness, engage and support, and empower and encourage community members to take action.

Table 1 outlines the purpose of these strategies. With the guidance of these previous adopted strategies, Council has:

- Switched our electricity to renewable energy.
- Delivered greater biodiversity outcomes, environmental protection and enhancement.
- Greatly improved our energy and resource efficiency.
- Improved the look and feel of our streets through urban greening.
- Increased canopy cover across the municipality.
- Supported community action through Council's climate change grant stream
- Delivered programs and campaigns to inform, educate and empower our community to act on climate change.

Since the adoption of Council's first Environmental Sustainability Strategy in 2010, Council has strengthened its understanding and implementation of sustainability approaches and reporting. In this time, there have been significant advances in technology and changes to policy for Local Government. Council has been establishing baseline data and refining objectives to develop a deeper understanding of what can be quantified and what data is accessible.

We have identified challenges with the previous objectives and action plans, including many overlapping, duplicated and business as usual actions. These were taking attention away from objectives and actions that drove strategic action, could be quantified and lead to meaningful change. This has led to challenges reporting meaningful results and progress, despite the significant sustainability progress and achievements Council has made to date.

This Strategy represents a consolidated and strengthened version of Council's existing and draft commitments. Combining the previous strategies supports Council to undertake targeted work and report on key actions that progress Council towards its targets.



Climate Change in Greater Dandenong

Climate change is already affecting the people, environment and infrastructure of the City of Greater Dandenong, and these impacts are not experienced equally across the community.

Increasingly hot weather, more frequent extreme events, black outs, heatwaves, and environmental degradation are placing growing pressure on community health, local ecosystems and essential services. These pressures are intensified in Greater Dandenong due to existing social and economic inequities, including higher levels of disadvantage, poorer housing quality, and inequitable access to cooling, green spaces and transport.

While climate change affects everyone, it disproportionately impacts vulnerable community members, including older people, children, people with disabilities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, low-income households and those experiencing social isolation.

Many residents face structural barriers that reduce their capacity to prepare for, respond to or recover from worsening climate-related risks.

In response to these escalating and disproportionately distributed risks, Greater Dandenong City Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2020. This declaration recognises both the immediate threat climate change poses to community wellbeing and the significant decline in biodiversity locally and across Australia. By declaring a climate and ecological emergency Council acknowledges its responsibility to prioritise those most at risk.

Extreme heat, prolonged dry periods and severe weather are damaging trees, waterways, transport networks, homes and energy systems.

These impacts disrupt services, impact resource supply, increase living costs and place additional strain on households already experiencing financial stress, insecure housing or limited access to support.

Climate change is therefore not only an environmental issue, but a growing social and economic challenge that risks widening existing inequalities if not addressed through inclusive and targeted action.

With temperatures rising and climate change impacts already being experienced and expected to worsen, urgent and equitable action is required. Addressing the climate emergency is essential to protect the health and wellbeing of our community, especially our most vulnerable residents.



By reducing vulnerability, we aim to ensure all members of the community can access a safe, liveable and thriving future for Greater Dandenong. Council is committed to leading climate action that strengthens resilience and supports those most

affected by climate change. As seen in Figures 3 and 4, the effects of climate change are affecting our local environment and health outcomes.

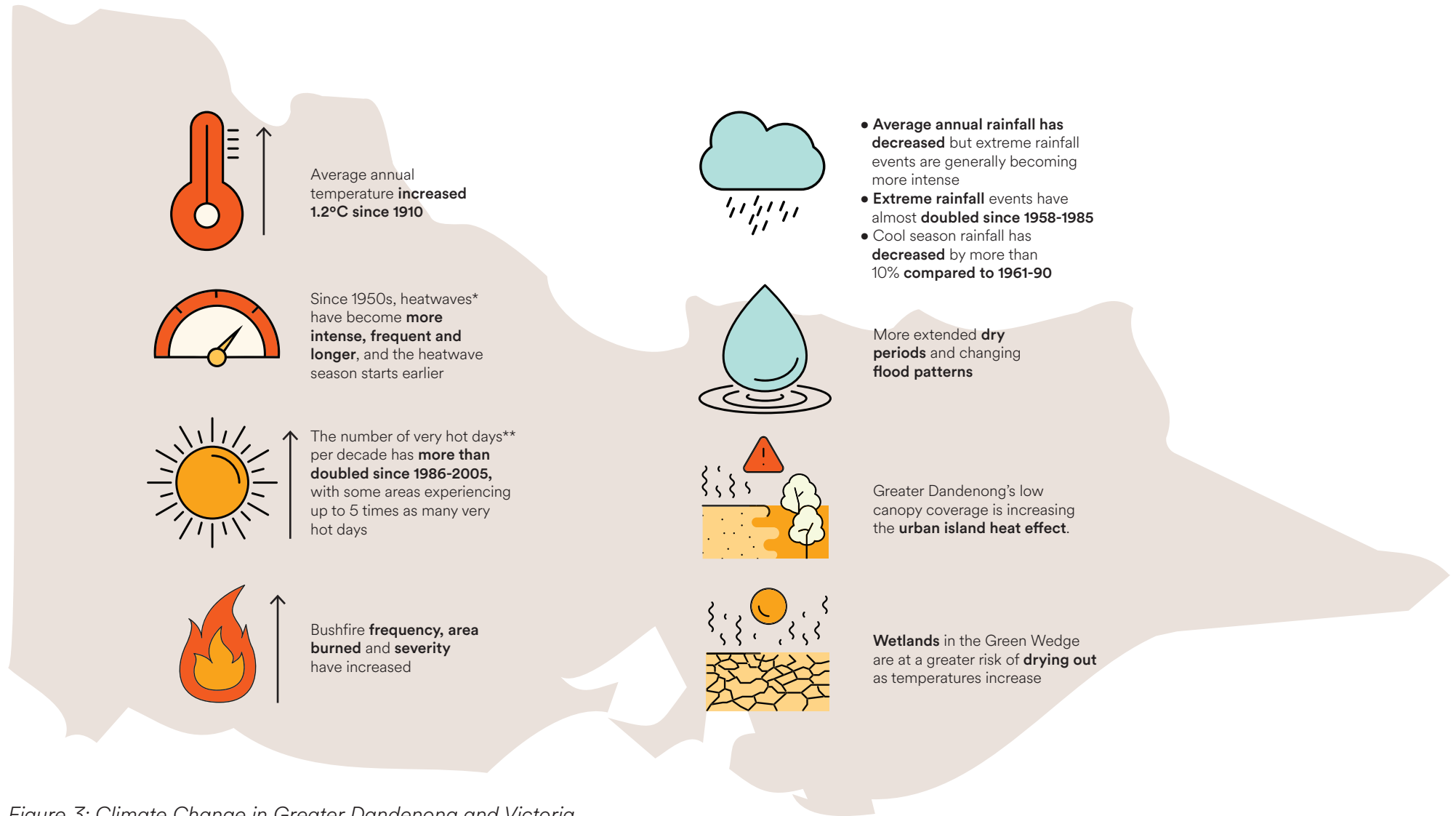


Figure 3: Climate Change in Greater Dandenong and Victoria

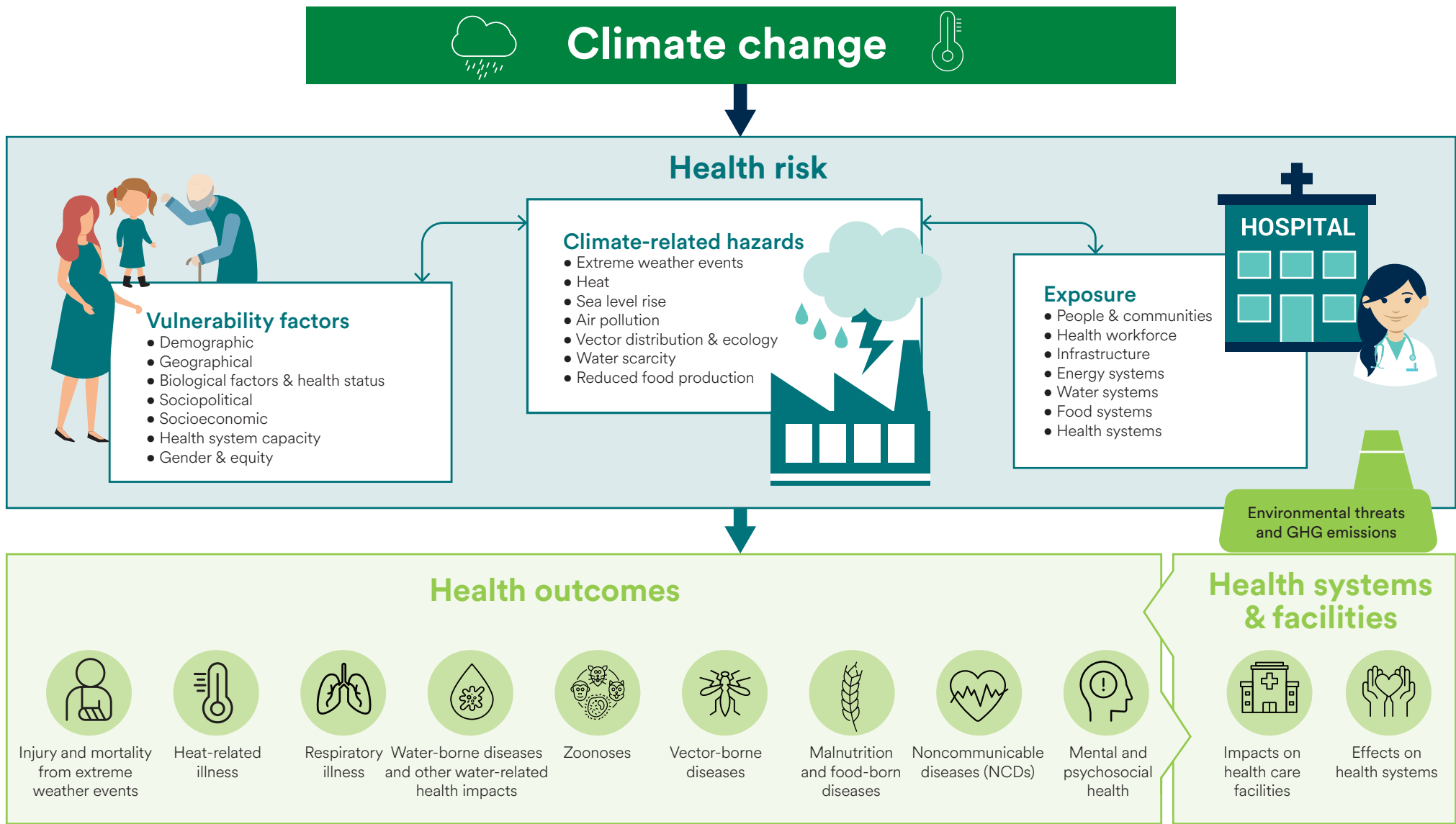


Figure 4: Climate Change Health Impacts adapted from World Health Organisation

Community Snapshot

The Traditional Custodians of Greater Dandenong are the Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation

61% of residents born overseas

17% of our community are children aged between 0-14 years

49% of residents are taking action to adapt to climate change

The most culturally diverse municipality in Victoria

The Manufacturing industry is the largest employer in Greater Dandenong and has a \$30.5 billion estimated output

Home to one of three state significant areas - Dandenong South Industrial Area

69% of residents (more than twice the Victorian figure of 29%) speak languages other than English in their homes, including Vietnamese, Khmer, Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek, Punjabi, Sinhalese, Arabic and Dari.

167,000 residents in 2026. Predicted to grow over the next decade to 190,000

95% of respondents to a 2025 survey think it is important that Greater Dandenong City Council act on climate change

One of the most socio-economically disadvantaged municipalities in Victoria, which affects residents' capacity to adapt to climate change

Challenges

Working towards a sustainable future is not without challenges, especially during uncertain times.

This section outlines some of the challenges that Council and our community are facing or will face as climate-related impacts increase.

Table 2: Challenge snapshot for Council and the community

Challenge snapshot	Detailed description
Heightened climate risk in a disadvantaged community	Our community are at a greater risk to the short and long-term effects of a changing climate. As one of the most socio-economically disadvantaged municipalities in Victoria, our community are struggling to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable people	We know that climate change has a disproportionate impact on vulnerable people. More extreme weather events, increasing temperatures, lack of cool spaces, and poorly insulated housing are all impacts that will be felt more by vulnerable people. This can lead to increased impacts on health and wellbeing, financial stability, equitable access, and social cohesion.
Increased risk for people with disabilities and health conditions	Many in our community living with disabilities or health conditions are at a greater risk of illness, serious injury or death during extreme weather events.
Climate change and cost-of-living pressures	The climate emergency is strongly connected to the cost-of-living crisis felt by our community. Our community are feeling the pressure of the cost-of-living crisis. Locally, young people in Greater Dandenong highlighted cost of living and climate change as key concerns in the 2024 Youth Survey. For many, this means the pressure of paying bills and putting food on the table limits the capacity to adapt to long-term environmental issues like climate change.
Long-term behaviour change	Shifting behaviours within our community is a long-term commitment. It takes time to build new habits and pass on knowledge. This requires patience, consistent communication, and community trust.
Uncertainty around rebate schemes	Uncertainty and ease-of-access to rebates and schemes for residents and businesses also poses a challenge to access funding support where needed.
Rising operating costs for local businesses	Rising costs of energy, insurance and goods and services are impacting operational budgets, especially for small and medium businesses. This makes it harder for businesses to invest in sustainable upgrades or transition to renewable energy sources, or infrastructure and equipment that operate with lower emissions.

Challenge snapshot	Detailed description
Resource scarcity and supply chain disruption	Resource scarcity is impacting businesses through supply chain disruptions and higher costs; this is particularly evident during periods of extreme weather.
Climate risk to business operations and assets	Businesses are experiencing increased risk from climate change related impacts such as flooding and heatwaves causing damage to infrastructure and equipment, supply chain disruptions and higher insurance premiums.
Economic and regulatory uncertainty	Evolving regulatory frameworks and uncertainty in global markets and trade, including supply chain disruptions and inflation act as a disincentive and make it harder for businesses to plan long-term investments in sustainability and climate resilience.
Increased demand on Council services	Increased frequency of extreme weather events and emergencies are putting greater strain on Council services. This extends from our Community Care team providing in home care and support for our elderly, young families, and unwell residents, to our libraries and aquatic centres providing cool spaces during heat waves.
Limitations in planning controls	Recent changes to planning laws are limiting Council's ability to require environmentally sustainable design of higher quality in new developments.
Challenges in transitioning from fossil fuels	Transitioning from fossil fuels presents ongoing financial and technological challenges for hard-to-abate sectors. This includes Council's fleet of operational and heavy-duty machinery, such as road sweepers, cricket rollers and trucks.
Insufficient government funding support	Limited grant and funding support from State and Federal Governments makes it difficult to complete Council's transition to net zero and strengthen our action.
Climate impacts on Council assets and infrastructure	Council is experiencing impacts to important assets like roads, trees, water, stormwater drains, and community facilities from extreme weather, rising temperatures and insufficient resource supply. In some instances, this has led to service disruptions, increased costs and pressure on existing assets.
Time lag in urban cooling benefits	While Council is continuing efforts to grow and support our urban forest, the canopy and greening benefits delivered by trees to cool our neighbourhoods is often not realised for ten (10) or more years.

Opportunities

Despite the challenges, implementing sustainability initiatives presents exciting and meaningful opportunities for the people of Greater Dandenong.

By taking strong and targeted sustainability action, we can enjoy benefits that go beyond just environmental protection. Such opportunities are detailed in the table below.

Table 3: Opportunities snapshot for Council and the community

Opportunities snapshot	Detailed description
Improved climate adaptation and wellbeing	Improving the community’s ability to adapt to the effects of climate change leads to better health and wellbeing outcomes. For example staying cool and safe during a heatwave by seeking shelter in cool spaces, or protecting and insulating your home from heat.
Urban canopy improving liveability	Council is working to increase canopy cover. Shaded streets provide cooler and safer streets for active transport to improve physical fitness and mental wellbeing.
Strength in community diversity	Our diversity brings a wealth of knowledge, lived experience and care and connection to the environment.
Equitable access to climate action	Council can harness the strengths of our local community by reducing barriers for our community to participate, such as language and access. Ensuring equitable access can enhance our community’s capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate related risks.
Community-led climate action benefits	Climate action by residents contributes to the wider community through social cohesion, improved health and wellbeing and economic benefits for individuals and local businesses.
Resilient infrastructure and services	Embedding sustainability and climate risk considerations into infrastructure planning and decision-making will strengthen resilience to climate related impacts. Proactive action reduces the likelihood and severity of damage, lowers long-term financial costs, and minimises service disruptions, helping to ensure continuity of essential community services.
Empowerment through sustainability action	Being involved in sustainability action empowers people, giving them a platform to actively influence their future which can assist in combating climate anxiety. It also offers valuable skills and experiences, fostering a sense of purpose and responsibility.

Opportunities snapshot	Detailed description
Local action delivering healthier places	Direct local action by Council and the community delivers cleaner, cooler and more pleasant spaces, improved physical and mental health, and reduced isolation and loneliness.
Health benefits of low carbon transport	Increased use of low carbon forms of transport will reduce carbon emissions, congestion on the road and air pollution. This can lead to cleaner air and better health, especially for children, the elderly, and those living with disabilities and health conditions conditions.
Cooling and resilience through greening	Greening and incorporating water sensitive urban design into our neighbourhoods provide cooling benefits, improve biodiversity, increase the community's resilience to extreme heat events, fosters connection to nature and can increase carbon storage levels.
Sustainable practices supporting local jobs	Supporting local businesses to adopt sustainable practices will reduce costs, reduce emissions, help support local jobs and maintain a thriving, resilient local economy.
Industrial innovation and emissions reduction	Supporting local businesses, particularly our industrial sector to prepare for and innovate new sustainable technologies and approaches can significantly contribute to reducing the overall carbon footprint of the municipality.
Leadership opportunity in low-carbon manufacturing	Greater Dandenong is a leader in manufacturing, and home to one of the State's Significant Industrial Precincts, the Dandenong South Industrial Area. The sector is the region's largest employer and has a \$30.5 billion estimated output. This gives Greater Dandenong a unique opportunity to lead in renewable technology, low-carbon manufacturing, and sustainable practices that have lasting benefits to our local economy, as well as Victoria and Australia.
Waste reduction and pollution prevention	Reducing waste will help reduce pollution entering our environment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help ensure efficient use of our natural resources.
Benefits of a circular economy	Shifting to a more circular economy will help redefine waste as a resource, leading to opportunities in resource recovery, reduction of embodied carbon and less waste going to landfill.

What has Council done?

Some key highlights include:

Increased canopy cover from 9.9 percent in 2018 to **14.6** percent in 2025.

Since the inception of the Re-Use, Recycle drop off days in 2017, almost 600 tonnes of waste (60%) have been collected for recycling, re-use or safe disposal.

The Perry Road Upgrade – Stages 1 and 2 and Road Program has proudly incorporated over 10,000 tonnes of recycled materials. This will continue through Stage 3 of the Perry Road Upgrade and Road Program for the 2025/26 financial year.

Founding supporter for the implementation of Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) requirements in developments. Led by CASBE, this saw an improvement to ESD requirements in Victorian Planning regulations.

Council developed a climate change self-assessment tool, which is used to address climate resilience in assets and infrastructure project funding bids. This first-of-a-kind tool won the innovation category at the Cities Power Partnership Awards in 2021.

Council is implementing innovative design and development with recent major building projects on track to achieve 5 and 6 Green Star Ratings. These include the Keysborough Community Hub, Springvale Town Hall and Dandenong Wellbeing Hub.

Since 2012, Council's fleet has added **60 electric vehicles** and other equipment. This represents 10 percent of the fleet.

Reduced operational emissions by approximately **80%** since 2019.

Council is leading the shift to renewable energy by partnering and joining the Victorian Energy Collaboration's (VECO) Power Purchasing Agreement. This means all electricity used in Council buildings and streetlights is sourced from renewable energy. This agreement has allowed Council to avoid approximately 10,000 tonnes of emissions each year.

Planted 2,389 new street trees and over 20,000 tube stock in 2024-25.

Continued community education and mobilisation through the annual Sustainability Festival since 2014.

Progressing Sustainability

Climate change and sustainability action are closely linked but have distinct differences.

Climate change refers to the long-term changes in weather patterns caused mainly by human activities like burning fossil fuels. Sustainability is about making choices that protect the environment, build our community's resilience, and ensure resources are available for future generations.

Climate change is a global problem felt locally. Sustainability is action we can all take in our communities, like saving energy, reducing waste, and caring for nature, which all contribute to a greener and more equitable future.

With the effects of climate change already being felt by our community and environment, the focus must be on how we respond. This is where sustainability comes in. Sustainability defines the practical steps we can all take at home, in our community, and as a Council.

The encouraging news is that many proven sustainable solutions are already available, with ongoing research continuing to improve best practices.

Investing in sustainable solutions like solar panels and electric hot water and air conditioning systems, can deliver greater long-term financial benefits than keeping the inefficient, high-pollution systems running.

Council has a long history of sustainability action with our first Environmental Sustainability Strategy adopted in 2010. With this established history, we remain committed to action by implementing these solutions, embracing innovation through new builds such as the Keysborough Community Hub and the inclusion of electric trucks into our operational fleet. Our focus is on taking meaningful action today using what we know works, while embracing new technologies and approaches that can strengthen our long-term response.

The Strategy guides this by setting out a clear, measurable and relevant approach. For our community, taking action may look different. The initial investment for sustainable infrastructure is still a challenge for many in the community. That's why Council is committed to leading and supporting our community in making changes, no matter how small to live more sustainably. Choosing to do more with less, draught-proof your home, bin it right, or encouraging wildlife back into your garden are all valuable ways to progress towards a bright green future.



Taking an integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation

Implementing sustainability initiatives is often a direct response to the risks posed by climate change. Responses to climate change risks are broadly defined as either:

- Mitigation – Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that cause climate change; or,
- Adaptation – Responding to and preparing for the risks of climate change.

There is often overlap between what may be considered as a climate change mitigation or adaptation action. For example, increasing insulation in a building to reduce energy usage and associated carbon emissions (a mitigation action) will also help increase the thermal comfort for the building's occupants, increasing their resilience to climate change impacts of higher temperatures and heatwave events on their health (an adaptation outcome). Rather than developing separate adaptation and mitigation strategies, the development of this Strategy has taken a best practice approach.

By considering adaptation and mitigation in an integrated way we maximise efficiencies and minimise risks. Council will continue to work hard to implement sustainability across all themes described in the Strategy. Each of the themes in this Strategy outline how Council will continue to build upon the work that has been achieved and to implement the next steps in our adaptation pathway.



Council's carbon emissions inventory

Figure 5 demonstrates Council's operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for 2024/25.

These results are based on the available energy bill data that Council is responsible for. This includes leisure and aquatic centres. The total emissions for 2024/25 were estimated to be 3,827 t-CO₂-e*, as shown in Figure 6.

Fleet emissions include gasoline, diesel and LPG internal combustion engines. This ranges from garbage trucks and cricket rollers all the way to hedge trimmers.

Council expects there will be limitations to transitioning our fleet network due to the limited availability of electric heavy-duty vehicles and machinery, and significant financial cost of upgrading our buildings and facilities, including the cost to upgrade the required electrical capacity to cater for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. 'Buildings gas emissions' in Figure 5 includes over 500 of Council's sites and facilities across the municipality.

'Leisure centre gas emissions' in Figure 5 includes the four leisure centres owned by the Council, including Oasis, Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC), Springers Leisure Centre and Dandenong Basketball Stadium. These account for approximately half of all emissions. These are large, complex buildings and transitioning them to fully electric operations require substantial upgrades to electrical supply and building infrastructure. Due to their age, and size, the transition is a significant investment, but one that this Strategy recognises as an essential step to achieve net zero.

Water emissions have been calculated based on the water used to maintain our open spaces, sports fields and trees.

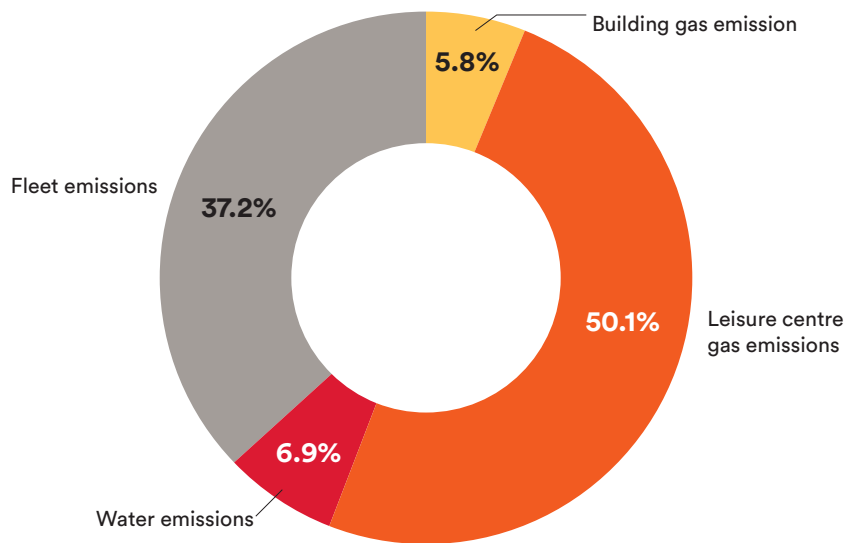


Figure 5: Operational emissions (t-CO₂-e) by category for 2024/25

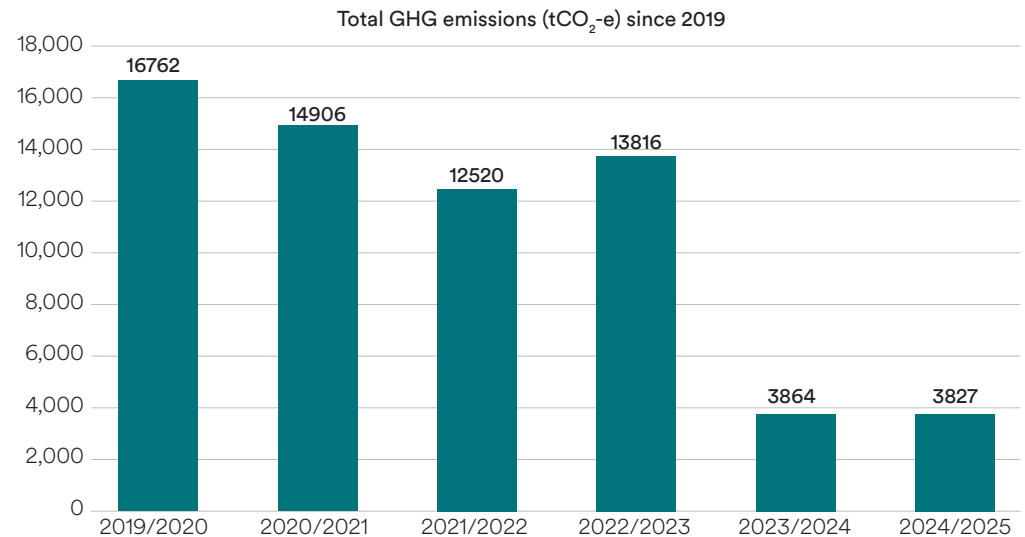


Figure 6: Total GHG emissions (t-CO₂-e) since 2019

*Carbon dioxide equivalent or CO₂-e is a standardised unit of measurement to measure greenhouse gas emissions. This is measured in tonnes (t).

Relevant Legislation



The Federal and Victorian Governments' legislation that help shape local government sustainability response include:

- Climate Action Act 2017
- Climate Change Adaption Plan 2017
- Local Government Act of Victoria 2020
- Corporations Act 2001
- Sustainability Victoria Act 2005
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Emergency Management Act 2013
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- Wildlife Act 1975
- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
- Fisheries Act 1995
- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021



The Council policies implemented to address sustainability and are supported by this strategy include:

- Community Vision 2040
- Council Plan and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29
- Emergency Management Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Procurement Policy
- Single Use Plastic Policy
- Asset Management Plan 2025-35

Roles and Responsibilities

This section highlights some key stakeholders and what their 'piece' entails. When compared to the Federal and State governments, local Councils have relatively limited levers of control and resources.

However, we all have a role to play in responding to and actioning sustainability initiatives. By taking a leadership role and mobilising our community, we can collectively make a significant difference.



Global Commitments

Climate change is a global problem, requiring global action to lead a more sustainable future through international collaboration and agreement. In 2015, the Paris Agreement was adopted and aimed to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping the global temperature rise to below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5°C. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report found based on recent projections it is likely warming will exceed 1.5° C, making it harder to limit warming below 2° C. The policy measures to meet mitigation reductions set by these agreements are implemented at the national or regional level.



Federal Government

The Commonwealth Government has committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050 and is responsible for setting Australia's national policy direction on climate action and sustainability. This includes establishing an interim national emissions reduction target of 62 percent reduction by 2030, mandating corporate climate related disclosures, and regulating emissions through evolving Federal reporting frameworks. The Australian Government also leads national environmental protection through major legislative reforms, and sets minimum building standards, national waste and packaging targets, and other regulatory mechanisms that shape long term sustainability outcomes.

In 2025, the Australian Government released the National Adaptation Plan (the Plan), informed by the findings of the National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA). The Plan provides coordinated national guidance on climate adaptation, clarifying responsibilities, priority risks, and pathways for building resilience across sectors and communities. Council's approach aligns with, and in some areas exceeds these national directions by supporting targeted, evidence based collaborative adaptation actions at the local level. This leadership is reflected in Council's commitment to achieving net zero operational emissions by 2035, as set out in the Action Plan.



State Government

The Victorian State Government is responsible for managing Victoria's environmental, social and economic sustainability. The State Government has set a net zero target of 2045. To support this the State Government provide access to schemes and rebates for energy upgrades that can be accessed by the community. State policy has influenced Council's action and recent changes to legislation have been made to reduce emissions generated by the community. These include:

- Victoria's Gas Road Map
- Victorian Biodiversity Strategy 2017-2037
- Bans on single use plastic
- Recycling Victoria Policy and 10-year action plan to build circular economy
- Victoria's Housing Statement: The Decade Ahead 2024-34
- Statewide Housing Targets



Council's role

Local governments are widely recognised for leading sustainability action around the world. With local governments' strong connections to their communities and their local knowledge, they play a critical role in helping their communities reduce carbon emissions, adapt to climate change and protect and enhance the local environment. This includes ensuring local initiatives are responsive to

local needs and priorities. The Council Plan 2025-29 demonstrates Council has many roles in achieving its objectives. Table 4 demonstrates Council's role in different capacities to achieve its vision of being a green city committed to a sustainable future.

Council has an obligation under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020, and Climate Action Act 2017 to prepare for and respond to climate change risks for the health and wellbeing of our community

and the longevity of our economy. Council takes this responsibility seriously and will drive and lead action, but real change requires everyone. From residents, businesses, schools, community groups and government partners, we can all work collaboratively towards our common sustainability objectives. Every action, no matter how small, helps build momentum. The Our Bright Green Future Action Plan has been developed to support Council's action.

Table 4: The roles of Council

Role	Definition of Role
Inform	Increase awareness of sustainability among Councillors, Council staff, and community members. To engage and encourage the community, including businesses to take meaningful action towards a sustainable future. This is achieved through the annual Sustainability Festival, various engagement and educational programs, and Council's e-newsletter Our Bright Green Future.
Empower	Council plays a leading role in supporting the community to implement sustainability initiatives. By demonstrating leadership, raising awareness, and taking visible action, Council helps create the conditions for meaningful local action. Council is committed to empowering everyone to contribute to reducing emissions, while ensuring equitable access to available resources. This means providing all community members, regardless of their background, income, ability, or location with the support and opportunities needed to prepare for, adapt to, and recover from the impacts of climate change, with a strong focus on supporting those most vulnerable.
Intervene	<p>While Council's ability to intervene on private land is somewhat limited, it can influence local planning decisions for private developments and activities on Council land. This includes implementing environmentally sustainable design requirements in the planning scheme and a local law for tree protection.</p> <p>Council has direct control over its operations and processes. It can intervene by upgrading facilities to fully electric, or renewable sources, embedding sustainability considerations into Council processes including procurement and design, and implementing innovative best practice technologies and methods that reduce and avoid emissions. Council can also implement its Single Use Plastic Policy to minimise plastic use at events and activities held on Council owned or managed land.</p> <p>Council applies best practice standards to its own operations and design outcomes for our built environment and advocates for stronger policies for private developments. This is evident through the sustainable buildings Council has built as described in this Strategy.</p>
Partner	Council has strong partnerships with a variety of external agencies, community groups and government departments. These partnerships support short- and long-term mitigation and adaptation measures. For instance, Council partners with Melbourne Water and South East Water to deliver better managed waterways and infrastructure to handle increased floods and stormwater runoff. Council supports and partners with businesses, community groups, sporting clubs, and individuals to deliver sustainability related projects, including through the Community Grants program. Council will continue to partner with State and Federal Government where possible to deliver infrastructure upgrades and environmental programs that enhance our sustainability action and climate resilience.
Advocate	Council has a key role to play in advocating for its community. As a local government, Council hold strong connections and knowledge to the local area and community. This enables Council to advocate to State and Federal Government, as well as external agencies for greater action on sustainability and environmental initiatives. This includes advocating for stronger environmental commitments, greater support for businesses and residents to become more sustainable, grants for funding, improved environmentally sustainable design measures in the planning and building regulations, and greater action on climate change to improve the health and wellbeing of all.
Monitor	Council will continue to monitor its progress on all actions and its progress to net zero. This includes our impact on the environment and our operational emissions. Council will also monitor legislation, technology advancements and industry best practice to ensure we mitigate our impact and are prepared for the lasting impacts of a changing climate.

Community's Role

Greater Dandenong is shaped by deep cultural heritage, resilience, and a growing commitment to sustainability action. As Australia's most culturally diverse municipality, our community bring a wealth of knowledge, lived experience, and care for the environment. We know our community cares about sustainability.

Climate change is consistently one of the top issues highlighted by our community. The 2024-25 Community Satisfaction Survey highlighted there is a very strong level of concern about climate change. Our community have told us they want cleaner air, safer homes, more trees and green space, and strong leadership from Council to empower and mobilise action.

This is why it's important that Council empowers every person, family and business to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint and prepare for threats of climate change like extreme heat, storms, and floods. Even if our individual actions seem small, when combined, they have the power to create lasting change. Council's role is to help make this easier by planning for the future, supporting community-led action, and making it possible for people to live and work more sustainably.

Real change happens when people take action in their own lives. Whether it's sealing cracks and gaps in doors to save energy at home, planting trees or shrubs in the garden, walking, riding or using public transport, or joining community programs, everyone has something to contribute. Together, we are building a more sustainable, climate-resilient and healthy city for current and future generations.

Here are some great examples of what our community has been doing to contribute towards and demonstrate commitment to a sustainable future.

- In 2026 CERES partnered with Council to deliver a Student Leadership Summit for local schools which empowers students to lead their school in making meaningful change to reduce their impact on the environment.
- Participants in Gardens for Wildlife continues to engage residents to plant native and indigenous plants in their gardens to attract wildlife including birds and pollinators.
- In 2025 the Greater Dandenong Environment Group revegetated nature strips in Dandenong North to enhance the ecological diversity of the area and encourage pollinators back to the neighbourhood.
- Dandenong Market partnered with Council to implement a Borrow-a-bag initiative aimed at reducing plastic waste.
- Dandenong Cricket Club at Shepley Oval recently took part in the Cricket4Climate initiative and had solar panels and a battery installed at the Shepley Oval club rooms to reduce their emissions and electricity bills.
- Noble Park Junior Football Club are reducing their plastic waste by switching to cans at the canteen and raising money for the club through the Container Deposit Scheme.
- University of Melbourne partnered with Council to deliver a long-term planting program installing Woody Meadows in Greater Dandenong. These meadows form part of a network across Australia of diverse plantings to promote flowering and dense canopies to exclude weeds and encourage biodiversity.

- Council has partnered with local indigenous nurseries, Melbourne Water, Federation University, Maroondah City Council and Knox City Council to create three (3) Climate Future Plots in Greater Dandenong. A climate future plot is a diverse planting of shrubs and trees from hotter and drier climate regions to help inform our future planting programs.
- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation partnered with Council and Kingston City Council to protect and enhance Coomoora Reserve through Bush to Bay: Linking Landscapes on Bunurong Country.
- UGLY Vodka were awarded the 2025 Dandenong Chamber of Commerce Innovation, Environmental and Sustainability Award and Business Excellence Award. UGLY Vodka transforms food waste into premium spirits, showcasing innovation in circular economy practices and sustainability.
- Rethink Recycling were awarded the 2025 Greater Dandenong Australia Day Sustainability Award. Rethink Recycling promote responsible recycling, sustainability education, and advancing the circular economy in the local community.
- Heat Health Awareness workshops promoted heatwave awareness and preparation to increase resilience amongst our vulnerable community members. This saw a collaboration between different agencies and community organisations and was led by the Council.
- The City of Greater Dandenong Sustainability Festival. Running since 2014, this festival has seen fantastic engagement from local community organisations, businesses, schools and community members.
- 'Bring Your Bill' days have been held across Dandenong and Noble Park since 2024. The day provides much needed support and energy billing relief information for community members and is led by South East Community Links (SECL).



Themes

The Strategy has been organised into ten themes, represented in Table 5. Each theme has an objective and clear, measurable, and relevant actions.

Table 5: Themes and Objectives

Theme	Objectives
Advocacy	A City that advocates for a sustainable future
Community Mobilisation and Resilience	A City prepared for a changing future
Circular Economy and Waste	A Circular City: Reducing our waste and redefining our resources
Transport and Active Travel	A City well connected through active and low carbon transport
Biodiversity	A City that cares for and connects with nature
Trees and Greening	A healthy, green, and resilient City
Water and Waterways	A City with well-managed water, clean and healthy waterways
Energy and Transition to Zero Emissions	A net zero, efficient City that prioritises low carbon and renewable energy
Sustainable Design, Assets, and Infrastructure	A City that leads by example through a resilient built environment and assets that are planned for the future
Sustainability across Greater Dandenong	A Council and Community committed to a bright green future

Advocacy

Objective: A City that advocates for a sustainable future

Some key highlights include:



Council's first ever Heatwave Preparedness forum ran in 2023. The forum engaged with multiple local government, community and State government organisations on heat vulnerability and response planning for the community for future heatwaves. This is supported by Council's Emergency Management Plan and associated sub-plans.



Collaborated with over 24 other councils to lodge a planning scheme amendment to the Victorian Government seeking to introduce planning policy that elevates sustainability targets to promote net zero, climate resilient new development.



Supported the development of the Planning for a Safe Climate advocacy project in 2021 that reported on the current state of the Victorian Planning Scheme and its ability to respond to climate change. A number of recommendations were provided, leading to amendments to Victoria's Planning and Environment Act in 2024 addressing greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilience in decision making.

Advocacy is a vital pillar of Council's sustainability work. While Council can influence sustainability outcomes, it cannot tackle them alone. Many of the environmental challenges we face, like climate change, biodiversity loss, and access to renewable energy, require change at all levels.

Working collaboratively

We must work alongside and influence State and Federal governments, regional planning bodies, infrastructure agencies, private industry and our local community to deliver the scale of change needed. Advocacy enables Council to champion the needs and priorities of Greater Dandenong within these broader systems. It ensures our community's voice is heard when decisions are being made that affect our environment, liveability and long-term resilience. Through advocacy, we can secure stronger policy settings, improved access to funding, and greater alignment between local priorities and regional and national action.

This is especially important in a fast-growing, diverse city like Greater Dandenong, where many sustainability issues are complex and interlinked. The way we manage our natural assets, design our neighbourhoods, plan our infrastructure, and power our homes and businesses all has an impact on environmental and social wellbeing outcomes.

For example, achieving cleaner air, cooler streets and healthier waterways requires coordinated action across land use planning, transport, energy, waste and urban design. These are areas where strong advocacy to State and Federal Governments, as well as external agencies such as Melbourne Water can influence direction and unlock opportunities.



Advocating for the community

Council has a responsibility to advocate on behalf of its community to ensure equitable outcomes for those most at risk, including our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Advocacy enables Council to push for sustainability leadership and accountability that reflect our objectives, like reducing emissions, protecting green spaces, and supporting a circular economy. In doing so, we not only advocate on behalf of our residents, but we also advocate with them, strengthening partnerships and collective efforts across the municipality.

Council's advocacy efforts are grounded in evidence, collaboration, and a long-term vision. This Strategy aligns with Council's Advocacy Priorities and aims to present a clear case for why sustainability matters to our environment, health, economy and society. Council will advocate for investment in infrastructure and stronger policy that supports our community's mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

As local government, Council is uniquely placed to observe how the effects of climate change impact our community, our environment and our economy.

Council recognises and is experiencing the impacts of a changing climate such as extreme weather, poor air quality, heat stress, and increased flooding. Council also witnesses the benefits of nature in our neighbourhoods, and the enthusiasm of our community to create positive change.

Advocacy bridges the gap between these local insights and the decisions being made. Advocacy is how Council ensures Greater Dandenong is best placed to achieve lasting, large-scale sustainable outcomes tailored for our community.



Community Mobilisation and Resilience

Objective: A City prepared for a changing future

Some key highlights include:



Purchased Council's first electric educational van for community engagement and promotion of electric vehicles.



Plastic Free July social media campaign to educate the community about plastic use and waste reduction principles.



Partnered with Mornington Peninsula Shire, Jesuit Social Services, and the Australian Urban Observatory and the Centre for Just Places to implement the Health and Wellbeing Municipal Scan to inform the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 which included analysis of climate change and health issues.



Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2024- 2027 was developed collaboratively with local emergency services and agencies to outline Council's risks and role in emergency management. This includes extreme weather events (e.g. storms, fires, flooding and heatwaves) accelerated by climate change. The plan includes Sub-Plans for heatwaves, floods and subsequent community impacts.

Community's role in climate action

Our community is at a heightened risk of climate related impacts. We understand that the risks of a changing climate disproportionately affect our vulnerable residents, placing them in a more vulnerable state. To combat this, we recognise our role as a Council is to support and mobilise community action to mitigate and adapt to climate change and prioritise the health and wellbeing of our community.

Strengthening community resilience in Greater Dandenong through social connection, healthy ecosystems and inclusive approaches support health, wellbeing, safety and access to services. People, place and environment are deeply interconnected, and community action is essential as climate-related risks worsen.

All members of the community are affected and have a role in climate action, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, children and young people, older residents, people with disabilities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, first-generation immigrants, households, local businesses and community service organisations. Neighbourhood-level action helps reduce isolation, strengthen social cohesion and support equitable health and resilience outcomes.

Emergency preparedness will be approached as a shared responsibility. Council will work with community members, and service providers to support person-centred emergency planning that reflects lived experience and community strengths.

Accessible and tailored information will be supported to enable people with vulnerabilities including those living with disabilities to develop and share emergency plans with their support networks. While efforts to strengthen social connectedness across multicultural communities will help reduce isolation and improve collective readiness.

Council's role in mobilising community action

Council will work to mobilise community climate action by fostering environmental stewardship and climate awareness. To do this, Council will embed resilience, equity and inclusion across its programs, services and decision-making, ensuring all community members can access information, resources and opportunities to participate.

Partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, including the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, will guide climate and environmental planning through the inclusion of cultural values, knowledge and priorities. Council will also deepen engagement with multicultural communities, young people, people with disabilities, older residents, businesses and community service organisations to better understand community needs, diverse experience and remove barriers to participation.

Council will work with community organisations to build leadership and local capacity, support culturally responsive engagement and improve access to sustainability and climate information through translation and community-based delivery. Schools will be supported as trusted community hubs for education of our future generations.

Young people will be actively engaged in Council programs and supported to participate in projects that address environmental sustainability and climate impacts, strengthening intergenerational learning and long-term community resilience. Council will also support businesses and community service organisations to build resilience, collaborate and remain connected during disruptions.

Through collaboration, inclusive engagement and strong partnerships, Council will help ensure communities remain informed, connected and supported.

Guidance on adaptation measures

Adaptation prioritises protecting community health, social wellbeing and equitable access to services as climate impacts intensify. Adaptation activities are a shared responsibility across Council, community, businesses, service providers and Traditional Custodians.

Key directions include:

- reviewing and strengthening climate hazard preparedness and emergency management planning for more frequent and extreme weather events, with greater community involvement
- supporting person-centred emergency planning that reflects lived experience, cultural context and community strengths
- providing accessible and translated information to support people with disabilities, older residents, multicultural communities, young people and those with limited support networks

- strengthening social connectedness and neighbourhood networks to reduce isolation and improve readiness
- integrating Traditional knowledge and Caring for Country into adaptation planning with the Bunurong Peoples
- supporting green spaces, waterways and neighbourhood environments as protective assets for cooling, biodiversity, mental health and community connection

These measures will support equitable health and resilience outcomes for all members of the Greater Dandenong community as climate risks continue to grow.



Circular Economy and Waste

Objective: A Circular City: Reducing our waste and redefining our resources

Some key highlights include:



2023 Finalist – Tidy Towns and Cities Sustainability Award for the “Keep it Clean” Community Education and Engagement Campaign: This campaign focused on raising awareness and promoting community action to tackle dumped rubbish in the municipality.



Since its inception in 2017, over 600 tonnes of waste have been collected for recycling, re-use or safe disposal.



68 Community Education Sessions held in 2024-25. Held at venues like Noble Park Community House, Dandenong Market, and Chisholm Institute. These sessions covered a range of topics such as recycling right at home, understanding circular economy, and waste education.



52 School Program Sessions in 2024-25 that focused on topics like waste minimisation, recycle right at school and at home, and setting up recycling and composting programs at schools.

Council recognises the role we play in efficient waste management to support our growing community and to protect our environment. Waste recovery and recycling is a key part of sustainable waste management that provides environmental and economic benefits for our community and mitigates climate change. The State and Federal Government has set ambitious targets to reduce waste going to landfill, redefine the way we use our resources, and progress towards a circular economy. There are two guiding principles that lay the foundation of waste policy in Australia. These are:

- Circular Economy
- Waste Hierarchy

Council has adopted these principles to ensure our waste management practices align with National Waste Policy, State Government Recycling Victoria Policy, and other State and Federal policies, strategies, plans and legislations to improve resource recovery.

Waste hierarchy

The waste hierarchy states that waste should be managed in order of preference: avoid and reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, treat and dispose of as a last resort. Figure 7 shows the waste management hierarchy.

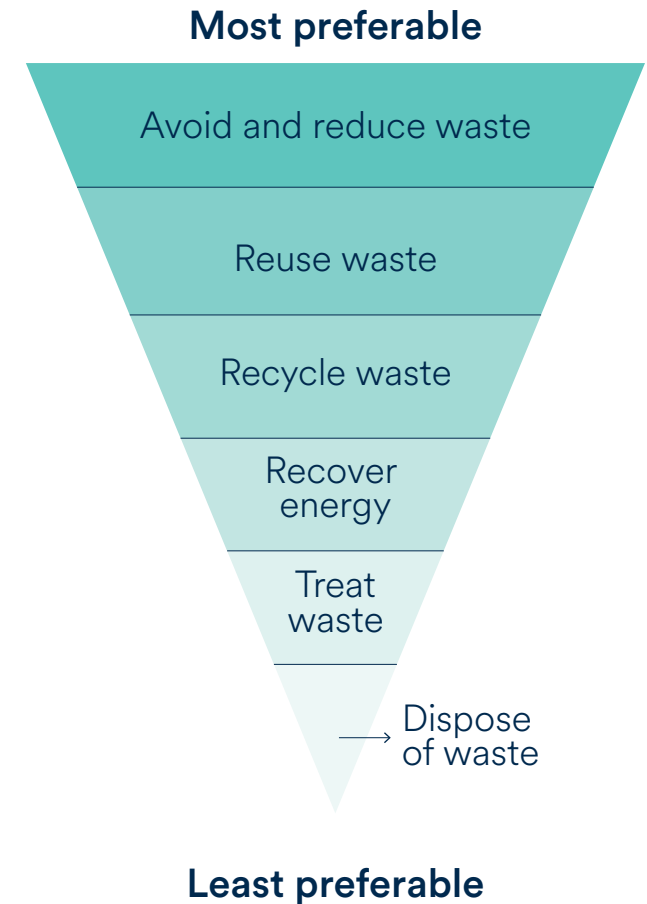


Figure 7: Waste Management Hierarchy

Circular Economy

A circular economy is one where resources are valued, used efficiently and only discarded when their component materials have no further use. This principle embeds the avoid, reduce and reuse methods of the waste hierarchy. A circular economy changes the way we manage waste, by valuing resources, instead of the current model of 'take—make—throw'. A circular economy removes waste and pollution, keeps materials in use as long as possible, and returns materials to the economy through efficient recycling processes (Figure 8).

Council aims to deliver a circular city with low waste by embedding the principles above into everyday operations and ensuring efficient use of resources.

Council is conscious of the environmental, economic, and social impacts of waste and resource recovery systems and seeks to identify best practice waste management solutions for our community. This extends to strengthened community waste education programs, investigating alternative solutions to waste management and identifying ways to reduce illegally dumped rubbish.

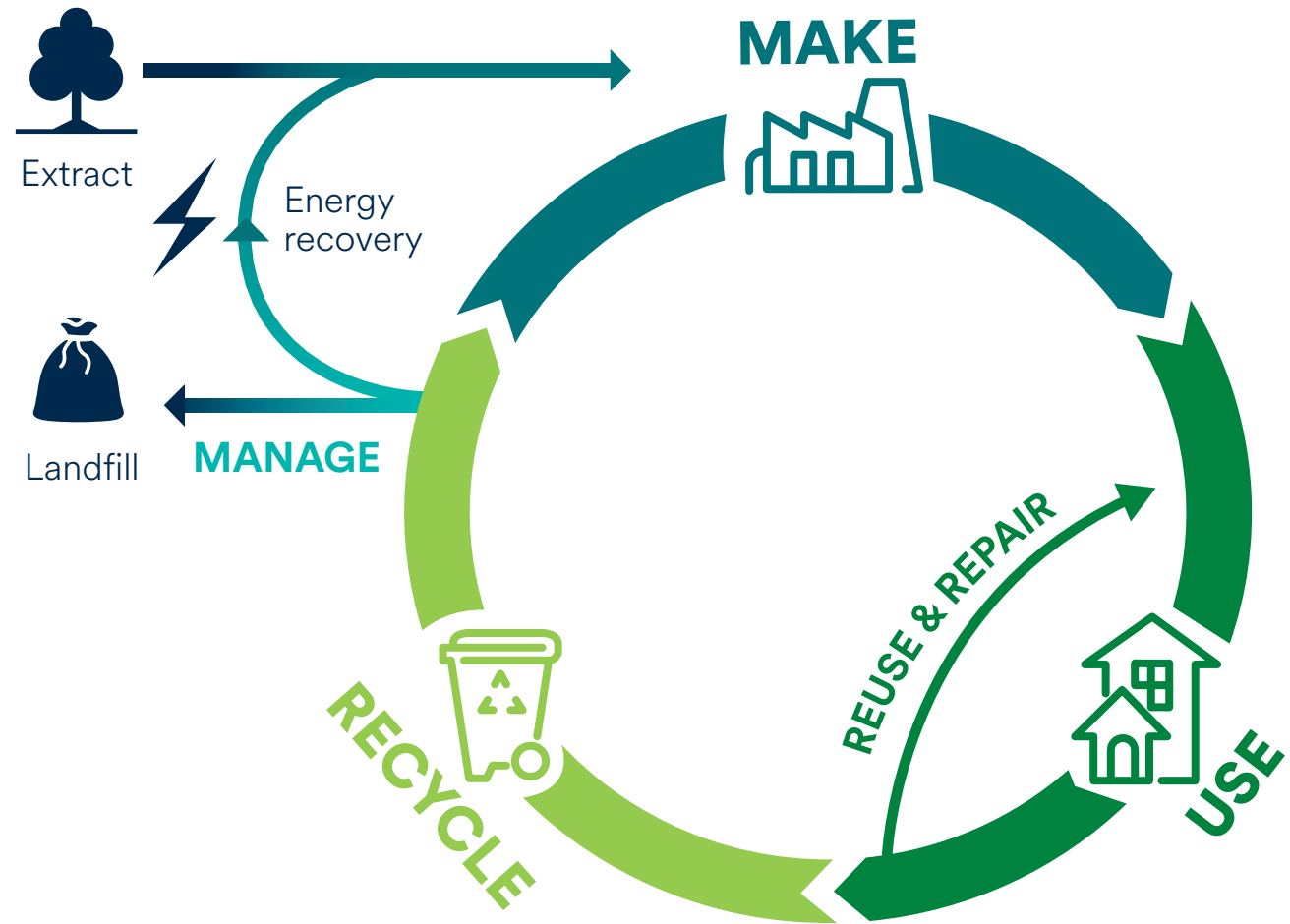


Figure 8: Circular Economy for Victoria

Transport and Active Travel

Objective: A City well connected through active and low carbon transport

Some key highlights include:



Council has introduced two electric vans to its fleet, over 20 electric passenger vehicles, as well as 38 other electric plant equipment since 2016. Electric vehicles now represent 10% of the total fleet.



Did you know there are 26 public charging stations in Greater Dandenong? Council is working with private partners to increase the availability of vehicle chargers.



Completed major road cycle lane projects, including Gladstone Road, Corrigan Road and Herbert Street.



Between 2017 and 2021, the Active Transport Infrastructure Prioritisation Program delivered approximately \$2 million worth of “missing link” paths within the municipality, improving connections for pedestrians.

Transport is at the heart of how we live, work, and connect in Greater Dandenong. It shapes our access to opportunity, our health, our environment, and the character of our neighbourhoods. As our city continues to grow and evolve, the way we move around must also change. This Strategy provides direction towards a transport system that prioritises active movement, clean energy, and sustainable choices.

Active Transport

Many residents, particularly young people, older adults, and newly arrived migrants do not have access to a private vehicle. For these groups active transport (walking, cycling, and public transport) are not just lifestyle choices; they are essential means of accessing education, employment, healthcare, connection, and community life. Yet, much like metropolitan Melbourne, Greater Dandenong has been shaped by car dependency. Vehicles using petrol and diesel fuel generate significantly more carbon emissions per person as opposed to using active transport or electric vehicles powered by renewable energy.

Recognising these challenges, Council is committed to transforming the way transport works in our city. The actions embed sustainability into the transport hierarchy and prioritises active and low carbon modes of movement to deliver a well-connected city.

These changes help us become resilient to a changing climate. To achieve this objective, we are investing in active transport infrastructure to deliver safe and accessible footpaths and bike lanes, further encouraging active and sustainable travel. Council will lead the way by encouraging staff to adopt more sustainable travel behaviours through its Green Travel Plan and showcase success stories and practical examples to inspire more staff and the community.

Low-carbon vehicles

A smart, well-connected city goes beyond the day-to-day movements of residents. As a hub of logistics, the State Significant Dandenong South Industrial Area relies on heavy trucks to transport goods across Victoria.

Innovations in logistics are key to use more sustainable modes of transport to move goods efficiently and reduce carbon emissions. Increased use of low carbon forms of transport will reduce carbon emissions and provide a range of other benefits, such as reducing congestion on the road, and reduced pollution. This leads to improved local air quality and improved health and well-being of the local community.

Council is delivering our Fleet Transition Plan to replace petrol and diesel fleet vehicles with electric and hybrid alternatives. Electrification and emission reduction form a key consideration in our procurement processes. This not only reduces our operational emissions but ensures Council is demonstrating its commitment to innovation and climate leadership.

To contribute to the broader community's transition to active and sustainable modes of transport, Council has developed policies to support the expansion of the network of public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the municipality. As EVs become more affordable and widespread, access to convenient charging infrastructure will be essential. By investing now, we are helping to future-proof our city and support residents who want to make the switch.



Biodiversity

Objective: A City that cares for and connects with nature

Some key highlights include:



Council is supporting community action through plant giveaways. In 2024-25, Council gave away over 13,000 indigenous plants to residents including over 3,600 native and indigenous plants and trees to Green Wedge residents.



2024 saw the return of the inland Sugar Glider to restored sections of Dandenong Creek – a first for the municipality.



98 environmental engagement events held with a total attendance of 3000+ (2024-25).

Greater Dandenong was once home to large grassy woodlands, forests near rivers and flood areas, wetlands with native grasses, and healthy waterways with many different plants and animals. But after more than 150 years of farming, land clearing, building cities and towns, and the impacts of a changing climate, less than five (5) percent of the native plants that were present in this area prior to European colonisation are still found in Greater Dandenong.

Benefits of biodiversity

Biodiversity has fundamental value to humans as we are dependent on it for our cultural, social, economic and environmental well-being. This includes both its intrinsic value (i.e. species are worth protecting regardless of their value to humans) along with the range of benefits that it produces, including:

- Supply of ecosystem services – water, nutrients, clean air, climate change mitigation, pollination
- Life Resources – food, medicine, energy, and raw materials
- Improved mental and physical health and wellbeing
- Landscape distinctiveness and cultural heritage
- Direct economic benefits from biodiversity resources and added value through local economic activity and tourism
- Educational, recreational and amenity resources.

On-the-ground action

Council cares for over 600 hectares of indigenous plants, wildlife habitat areas and wetland systems. Habitat restoration, waterway management, tree planting and urban greening are embedded in Council operations. This on the ground action is a core part of Council's function and is supported by the strategic programs and initiatives included in the Action Plan.

Many of these natural areas create connections across the municipality for wildlife habitat and refuges. The natural environment in Greater Dandenong is under serious pressure. As our city grows, we are seeing more buildings, roads and factories. This is leading to natural habitats being broken up into small, separate patches. These small areas are like islands and are often too small to fully support wildlife over the long term.

As the weather changes due to climate change, hotter days and less predictable rain mean it's even more important that animals can move around and gain access to specific habitats and corridors to survive. If we don't carefully plan where these safe green corridors are, and take care of them, we will lose more species and natural areas.

Moving to protect our biodiversity assets

One of the biggest opportunities to protect and grow our natural environment is the Green Wedge, as seen in Figure 9. The Green Wedge is an area of about 600 hectares inside the municipality characterised by large remnant River Red Gums and grassy plains. It is home to important natural features and is culturally significant to Traditional Custodians and local communities. This area was mostly kept for rural and farming use meaning it is characterised by large areas of grassland, which holds strong potential for large-scale environmental action.

Council strives to be a city that cares for and connects with nature by developing its data and engaging with the community directly. Council is working to update its GIS (Geographic Information System) biodiversity maps to provide a more detailed understanding of our natural systems. Furthermore, Council is developing a consistent method for monitoring biodiversity that can be used by Council and the community. This will ensure Council can continue to monitor biodiversity, building on the work already done, improve existing wildlife corridors and establish new connections.

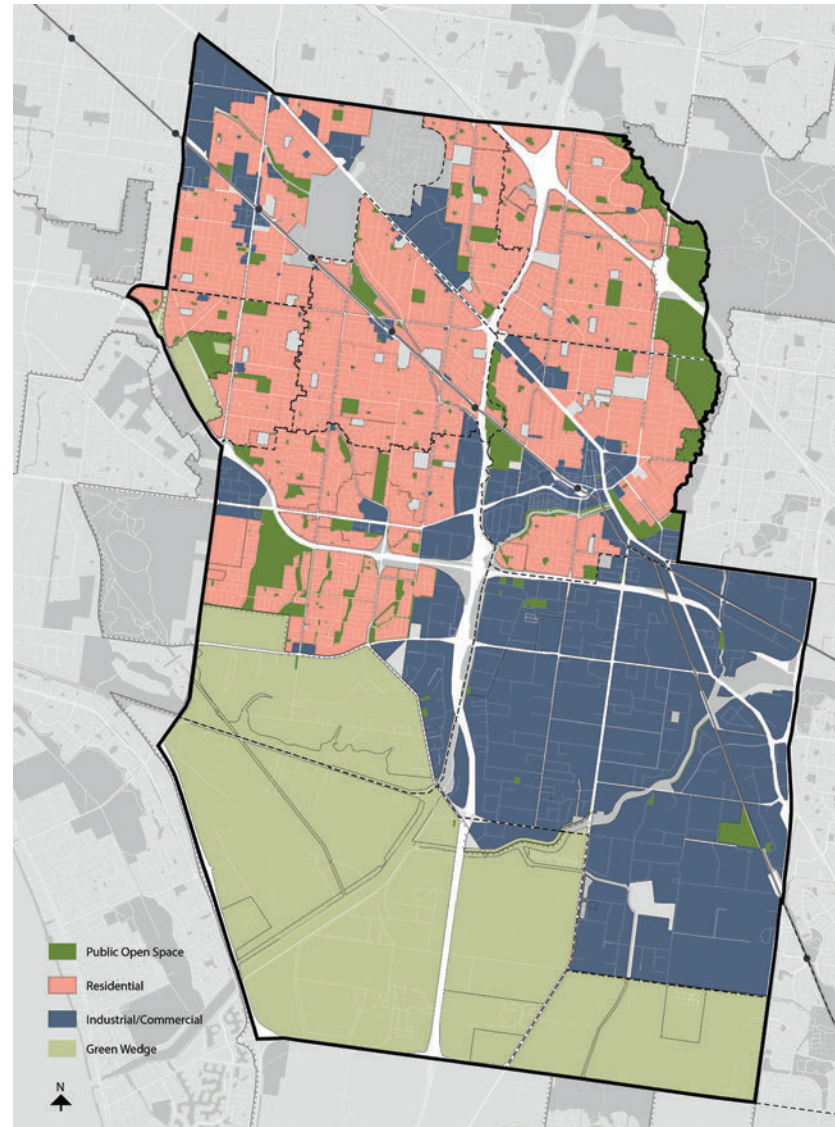


Figure 9: The Green Wedge area in the City of Greater Dandenong

Trees and Greening

Objective: A healthy, green and resilient City

Some key highlights include:



3,500 young trees maintained annually (watering, mulching, health checks).



Almost 40,000 inspections and proactive maintenance on over 24,000 trees (2024-25) valued at \$182 million, storing 16,000 tonnes of carbon, and removing 11 tonnes of air pollution annually.



Over 80 hectares of weeds controlled annually.



Revegetated almost 3 hectares of habitat and planted over 22,000 indigenous plants (2024-25).

Our city is changing. Summers are getting hotter, extreme heat days are becoming more frequent, and some of our neighbourhoods are already feeling the effects. It is clear climate change will worsen heatwave events and will increasingly affect the health and wellbeing of our community. Trees and green spaces are no longer just a “nice to have”, they are essential infrastructure for a healthy and liveable city.

Urban heat

Low canopy cover means more hard surfaces like concrete and asphalt are exposed to the sun, absorbing and radiating heat throughout the day and night. This is known as the urban heat island effect, as seen in Figure 10. There is strong evidence demonstrating that this artificial heat build-up is impacting human health and compromising the quality of the environment that people live in.

It also means fewer birds, fewer pollinators, fewer shade-giving trees, and less access to cool and inviting green spaces where people can rest, walk, play, or connect with nature.

Greater Dandenong was ranked as the seventh (7th) hottest municipality in metropolitan Melbourne in a 2024 study by the Centre for Urban Research at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

The study used a Heat Vulnerability Index to demonstrate how heat exposure, sensitivity to heat and capacity to adapt leads to communities being more vulnerable to heat. Our older residents, young children, people with disabilities or health conditions, and those living alone are especially vulnerable to heat-related illness.

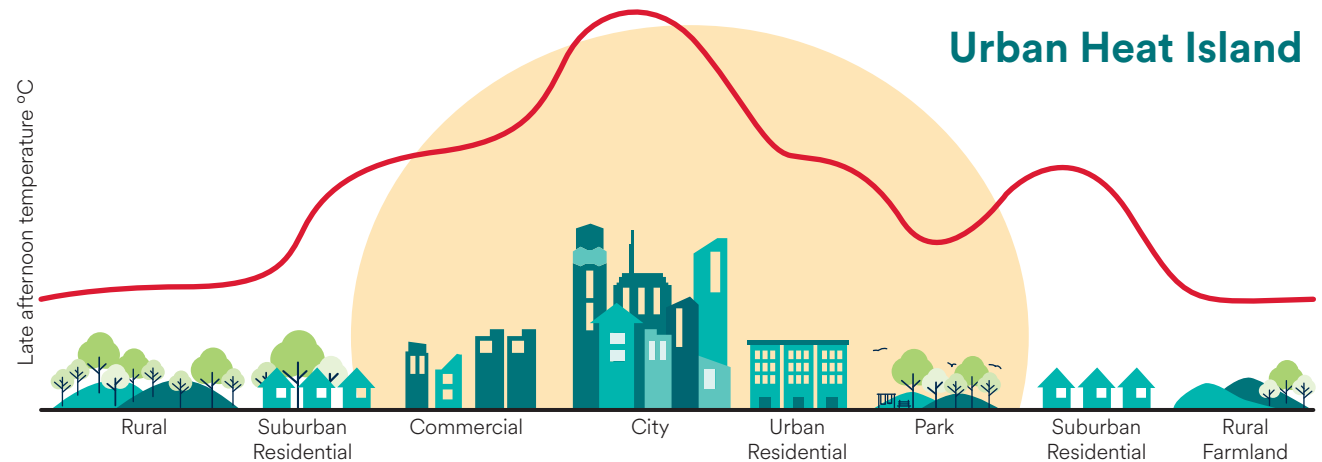


Figure 10: Urban Heat Island

Communities that suffer from heat stress are more likely to experience:

- social isolation due to increased barriers to exercise or movement
- heat related illnesses, particularly for the elderly or those living with chronic health conditions
- impacts to medications and food storage if kept in warm environments
- financial struggles due to a higher reliance on air conditioning (often due to poorly designed housing including lack of air circulation, poor insulation or a lack of environmentally sustainable design principles implemented).

If not managed, the increased daytime temperatures and reduced ability of land and homes to cool during the evening contribute to respiratory difficulty, heat exhaustion, heat stroke and heat-related mortality.

Working towards a greener city

Council has been working hard to increase our tree canopy. We are proud to report that Greater Dandenong had a canopy coverage of 14.6 percent in 2025. This is a significant achievement since our first measurement of 9.9 percent in 2016.

Council is committed to increasing canopy cover to fifteen (15) percent by 2028 and will continue leading the way on land it manages through annual planting programs, open space masterplans, and ensuring we select the right species for the right places.

This work is a core function of Council's operational services and is supported by the strategic planting actions in the Action Plan.

With seventy-three (73) percent of land privately owned, success depends on the whole community. We all share a responsibility to cool and green our environment and reduce urban heat island impacts by planting ground covers, shrubs and trees. Council will work with residents, schools, businesses, and developers through events, education, and planting days to make greening part of everyday life. Together, we can grow an urban forest that cools our suburbs, supports our health and wellbeing, provides wildlife habitat, and creates a healthier, more resilient city for all.

Protecting our trees

Council has many tools available to manage and protect trees. For trees owned and managed by Council, such as those on our streets and in our parks, Council conducts proactive and reactive maintenance to keep our trees healthy. This approach ensures regular tree audits, watering, mulching and pruning are undertaken to monitor safety and health across streets and public spaces. Extra care is taken during periods of heat stress in our natural environment and is given to young trees to help trees establish well and remain resilient.

During extreme weather events, Council is required to manage risk and address storm damage to trees. This extends to additional watering during periods of heat stress and weed management during periods of high rainfall and looking for opportunities to utilise fallen or damaged trees as hollows for wildlife or in open space projects. These actions prioritise community safety, while supporting the ongoing health of our tree canopy cover.

For trees on private land, Council can protect trees through its Tree Protection Local Law and requirements in the Planning Scheme. Council's local law prevents the illegal removal or damage of canopy trees, while planning controls can prevent removal of canopy trees or guide development to retain trees of significance.

Together these tools help protect neighbourhood character, biodiversity and provide shade to cool our neighbourhoods.

Water and Waterways

Objective: A City with well-managed water, clean and healthy waterways

Some key highlights include:



Council participates in the Living Links Partnership, which recognises that the benefits of a healthy ecosystem doesn't stop at our boundary. By partnering with other land managers, the partnership ensures an interconnected network of natural spaces and recreational assets.



Enforcement of water sensitive urban design requirements, such as rainwater tanks and permeable paving in all new developments since 2015.



20,000Lt

Two 20,000 litre rainwater tanks were installed at Ross Reserve and Thomas Carrol Reserve. These rainwater tanks will be used for irrigation and to capture stormwater which will then be used to maintain the reserves.



The installation of a Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) at Olinda Reserve is making a significant impact by intercepting large volumes of pollutants that would otherwise flow into our precious waterways. This proactive measure is a vital step in preserving local ecosystems and improving water quality for future generations.



Council hosts an annual Discover Dandenong Creek Festival which is focused on engaging residents to learn about the Dandenong Creek Catchment, its wildlife and conservation, along with practical steps the community can take to reduce our impacts and protect our waterways.

Water is one of our most valuable natural resources, it is essential to our community, environment, and way of life. As Greater Dandenong grows and our climate changes, we must manage water more efficiently.

Victoria is already experiencing warmer days, less rainfall and more intense storm events. This makes water scarcer and presents challenges for stormwater, irrigation, and maintaining green spaces. In built-up areas, hard surfaces limit natural absorption, increasing runoff, pollution, and flood risk. Reliable access to water is critical for maintaining tree canopy and open space planting.

Council's approach is guided by sustainability and integrated water management. This ensures water is managed in a way that supports current and future needs and protects our waterways from pollutants and waste.

Stormwater

Stormwater is rainwater that runs off roads, driveways and roofs. Without effective management, it can cause flooding, erosion and pollution. Council recognises that as stormwater infrastructure reaches the end of its service life, it is increasingly challenged by more frequent and intense rainfall driven by climate change. In addition, ongoing urban development has increased the extent of hard, impermeable surfaces, resulting in higher volumes and faster flows of runoff than older infrastructure such as stormwater drains and underground pipes were designed to accommodate.

Together, these pressures increase flood risk across our suburbs and inform contemporary flood mapping that reflects the combined impacts of climate change and urbanisation on local flood behaviour.

With less rainfall and more extreme weather already occurring, Council is focused on adapting infrastructure, using stormwater as a resource, protecting local waterways like Mile Creek and Dandenong Creek, and preparing for future climate shocks. Council has an effective partnership with Melbourne Water to identify flood-prone areas and ageing infrastructure, undertaking upgrades and maintenance. Council also goes beyond traditional drainage by using nature-based solutions such as wetlands, swales, and green spaces to slow and filter stormwater. These solutions are efficient, cost-effective, improve biodiversity, reduce pollution, and make neighbourhoods more attractive.

Adaptation measures range from tree planting to reduce urban heat and stormwater runoff, to major upgrades of stormwater systems to prevent flooding, to managing pollution and climate-resilient assets. Council is committed to valuing every drop of water and ensuring its efficient management to protect water as an asset and protect our waterways.

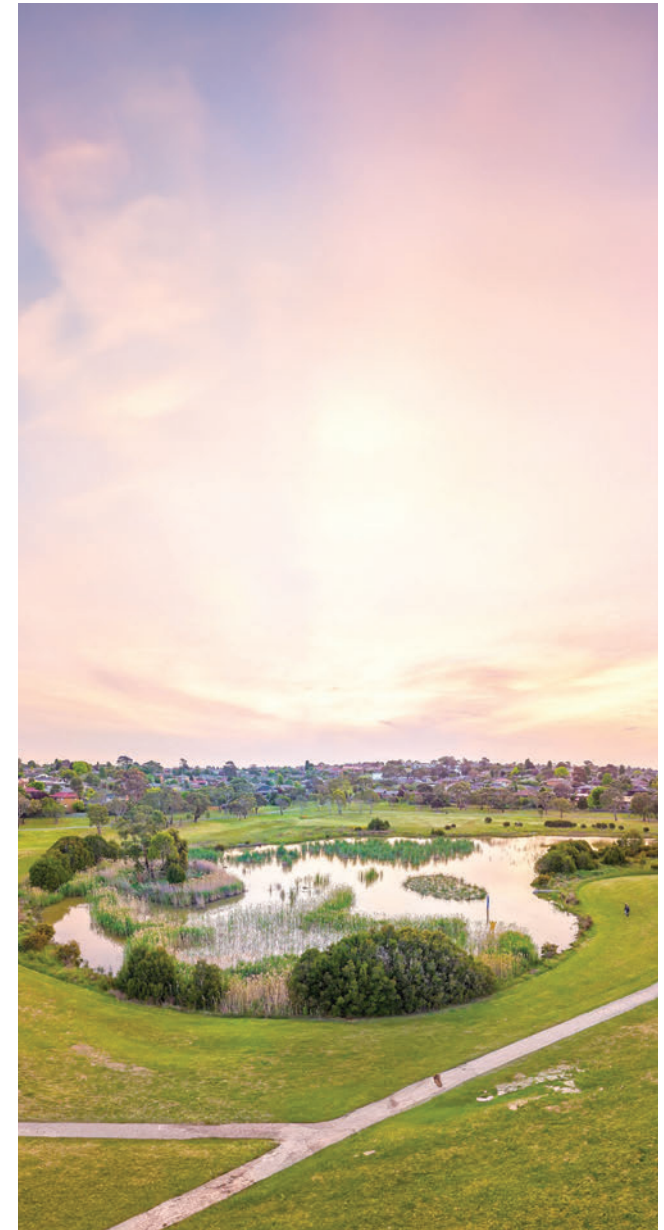
Community and Climate Resilience

Using water efficiently is everyone's responsibility. Small everyday action, such as watering during cooler times of the day, shortening shower times, washing your car on the grass, and using rainwater tank, can make a meaningful difference.

Using water at its highest value means protecting drinking water, increasing reuse, and capturing rainwater for gardens or flushing toilets. These practices are becoming increasingly important as temperatures rise and rainfall patterns continue to change.

Climate resilience also means protecting our waterways. Choosing drought tolerant plants, installation of pollutant traps on commercial premises and ensuring oils and chemicals are disposed of correctly all contribute to healthier waterways. Council will continue to educate residents and businesses on drainage, flood prevention and pollution reduction.

Council is committed to smart, fair and sustainable water management. Through partnerships and community action, we are building a resilient, water sensitive city that supports both people and nature.



Energy and Transition to Zero Emissions

Objective: A net zero, efficient City that prioritises low carbon and renewable energy

Some key highlights include:



600kw of solar panels (over 1900 panels) across Council's assets.



The Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system at 39 Clow Street is on track to be fully electric, significantly reducing the building's emissions.



Utilising the VEEC Scheme (Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates) Scheme, Council has replaced approximately 40 gas water boilers with electric heat pumps in our buildings.



Council has reduced our annual emissions by over 12,000 tonnes since 2019. This represents approximately an 80 percent reduction in Council's operational emissions.

Energy is something we all use every day. We use it for lighting and cooling our homes, charging our phones, cooking meals, and travelling to work or school. However, the way we use energy is changing, and it must change for a healthier, more efficient, and more energy secure future.

Council is committed to being part of the solution. This means moving away from fossil fuels and shifting to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and battery storage. These technologies are already available and working well. Council has installed 600kW of rooftop solar on its facilities, replaced gas appliances in our buildings for more efficient, electric alternatives and purchased over twenty (20) electric fleet vehicles.

While Council is committed to transitioning to more efficient, low carbon energy sources, the challenge is to ensure everyone in our community can access and benefit from these changes as well. This will support our target for our community to be net zero by 2040.

What is net zero and why does it matter?

'Net zero emissions' is when the amount of emissions released balances with the amount of emissions removed from the atmosphere. For Council this means actively removing as many greenhouse gas emissions as possible. It is a key step in slowing down climate change and protecting our health, environment and future generations.

Council has reduced its emissions by approximately 80 percent without the use of carbon offset credits. This significant achievement has been through Council's ongoing commitment to action on the climate and ecological emergency. Council remains committed to achieving net zero and is seeking new opportunities to proactively remove emissions, rather than offset.

Building upon our work to date, Council commits to reaching net zero operational emissions by 2035, and to supporting the whole community, households, businesses, industries and community organisations included, to reach net zero by 2040. In 2019, the Greater Dandenong community's emission was estimated at 3,665,000 tCO₂-e. This highlights the scale of transformation required beyond Council operations alone. In response, Council will continue to use advocacy, education and community mobilisation and engagement to support and empower the community to reduce emissions, alongside ongoing efforts to lower its own operational footprint. These targets have been informed by Council's emissions reduction journey to date and the significant hurdles experienced overtime.

As Council gets closer to our target, reducing emissions becomes more challenging. This is due to limited technologies available for more complex emissions or limited financial resources available to support the transition away from fossil fuels. Regardless of these challenges, Council is consistently seeking ways to reduce and remove our emissions at all stages of Council's operations.

This target reflects Council's role as both a leader and a partner in building a more efficient and climate-resilient city.

How will we get there?

Transitioning to net zero takes more than technology. It requires strong partnerships, smart planning and inclusive leadership. Council cannot do this alone. Council will work closely with Federal and State Governments, industry and the local community to share knowledge, attract funding and make the transition away from fossil fuels affordable and achievable for everyone.

As an individual or business you can support this transition by installing solar panels on your roof and connecting battery storage to retain solar energy for evening use, switch to an electric vehicle, replace gas appliances such as your gas oven or stove with an electric oven and cooktop, switching gas hot water systems to more efficient heat pumps or solar, and switching gas heaters to electric split systems.

In addition, Council is investigating the uptake of real-time energy monitoring across all Council facilities. These systems will provide greater visibility over energy use and allow for ongoing optimisation, helping to drive further savings and emissions reductions.

This Strategy is a roadmap for how we will do that together. It sets out the role Council will play, how we will support our community, and the changes needed across our City.



Sustainable Design, Assets and Infrastructure

Objective: A City that leads by example through a resilient built environment that is planned for the future

Some key highlights include:



A high-efficiency air-cooled propane (R290) heat pump provides centralised heating and cooling to the new Keysborough Community Hub. This pioneering system is a first-of-its-kind in Australia. This is powered by 150 solar panels.



Implementation of environmentally sustainable design measurements has led to a 58 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on average in new residential developments since 2015.



Decommissioning planned for Dandenong Oasis to tackle one of Council's biggest emitters. This facility will be replaced by the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre which is registered for Green Star accreditation and will be a fossil fuel free development.



Active partnership and participation in workshops with the Council Alliance for Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and the State Government that promote higher quality environmentally sustainable design requirements in the planning scheme.

Infrastructure is the basic facilities our community needs to live in our modern society. It includes physical assets which provide our transport, water, energy and communications needs, as well as assets that support our social needs, such as parks, community buildings and recreational facilities. Whilst these assets have high costs, they are vital to our community's needs.

Planning for climate change across Council

A key role for Local Government is to plan for, prepare, and adapt to the impact of climate change. This ensures Council can understand the risks associated with climate change and its effect on Council assets and services.

Climate change already has a direct and indirect impact on council's assets, infrastructure and the ability to deliver its services (Table 6).

As such, it is imperative to understand how the risks can be avoided, or reduced, allowing Council to continue providing critical services to the community.

Climate risk is understood to be the negative impacts of climate change on our community, environment and economy. The higher the expected impact and likelihood of it occurring, the greater the risk. It is therefore important to target the highest risks to reduce their impact on the community. By doing so it will help keep the community safe and allow the infrastructure to function with little disruption.

Council's role is to demonstrate leadership by embedding sustainability and climate resilience into assets and infrastructure delivery and management practices. This means, Council needs to make important decisions about how and where it invests in critical infrastructure. Early and ongoing consideration of sustainability measures and climate resilience across the full lifecycle of buildings, open space and civil infrastructure assets will future proof assets and infrastructure to maximise the environmental, social and economic benefits.

Table 6 Direct and Indirect impacts of climate change on council assets

Direct	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Damage to buildings and critical infrastructure such as roads, paths, drains, signs and lighting due to heatwaves or extreme weather. ● Damage to sporting grounds due to drought or flooding. ● Loss of street trees and damage to parks, gardens and playgrounds due to heatwaves, storms, flooding. ● Safety of staff working outdoors during heatwaves. ● Staff unable to travel from their homes to work to do their job due to road closures or damage to council facilities or their homes. ● Facilities unable to operate due to power outages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased maintenance cost due to frequent failures from extreme weather. ● Reduced ability to deliver services. ● Disrupting staff operations during extreme weather events. ● Increased demand for community support services during and after extreme weather events. ● Threat to long term financial liability and insurability due to associated risks.

Sustainable Design

Considering the lifecycle of materials and incorporating sustainability measures into our infrastructure and asset planning will prepare our infrastructure for climate change risks.

Some examples of sustainable design that Council, businesses and the community can implement include:

- Passive solar design – using window orientation, shading, thermal mass and natural ventilation to regulate indoor temperatures.
- Insulation and glazing – keeping heat in during winter and out during summer by installing

insulation in ceilings, walls and floors, and sealing gaps in doors and windows.

- Water-sensitive design – reducing water use and managing stormwater through landscaping, water tanks and water-efficient fixtures.
- Low-emissions materials – using recycled, non-toxic or low-carbon materials during construction.
- Full electric developments – ensuring all future infrastructure projects are designed to be low emissions before construction.
- Efficient appliances and systems – reducing ongoing energy and water demand by selecting appliances with WELS ratings of 4 or above.

Where do we go from here?

Enforcing strong sustainability standards in Council’s capital projects and master planning means Council will use less energy, reduce both operational and embodied emissions over time, and protect residents from the health impacts and costs of a changing climate. Embodied emissions are the greenhouse gas emissions produced throughout the whole life cycle of a building or infrastructure asset. There is a growing need for Council to develop its understanding of embodied emissions associated with its assets and infrastructure. This knowledge will support more informed investment, design and procurement decisions.

Council will invest in critical infrastructure to avoid significant future costs and impacts, while working with other public infrastructure owners and operators to improve the resilience of their assets.

It is important that climate resilience extends beyond just the resilience of council assets and services but also includes community resilience. By ensuring council assets are resilient to climate change, this will support business continuity for residents, businesses and other members of the community.

Sustainability across Greater Dandenong

Objective: A Council and Community committed to a sustainable future

Some key highlights include:



Partnership with Kingston Council, and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to protect and enhance Coomoora Reserve through Bush to Bay: Linking Landscapes on Bunurong Country.



Embedding climate risk into Council operations, consideration for capital works projects, procurement, open space design, assets, infrastructure and maintenance contracts.



Continue to embed sustainable practice and policy into everyday council operations. Examples include the updated Single Use Plastic Policy (2025), new sustainability requirements in Council's Procurement Policy and strict sustainability criteria for capital projects.



Long standing partnership with the Dandenong Market to implement policies promoting waste avoidance. An example of this is the Borrow-a-bag initiative aimed at reducing plastic waste.



Partnership with Melbourne Water, Federation University, Maroondah Council, Knox Council, and local indigenous nurseries to create five (5) Climate Future Plots (three in Greater Dandenong).

Sustainability is a driving principle of this Strategy.

Local governments like Greater Dandenong City Council play a critical role in advancing sustainability by leading initiatives that address climate change, protect our environment, and embed sustainable practices across our operations and decision making. Council is a vital part of the solution, driving practical action that helps our city do more with less and build a resilient, climate-ready future.

Embedding sustainability

Council has a unique and powerful role to play in addressing sustainability challenges and opportunities through leadership, strategic planning, procurement and partnership with our community. This Strategy sets a clear direction for coordinated action across all areas of Council operations, policies, and influence. It provides a shared framework to guide how we respond to the changing climate, through both reducing our impact (mitigation) and preparing for future change (adaptation). Council has laid the foundations for long-term sustainability action by embedding sustainability objectives into its core operations, risk assessments, procurement policies and decision-making.

The Strategy recognises that effective action starts with Council's own leadership. Council has developed an Action Plan that is clear, measurable and relevant. It will move Council towards more adaptive, sustainable operations and decision making in the face of climate change. Implementing the objectives of this Strategy is a whole of Council responsibility, and effective collaboration between teams will drive its success.

Building staff and community capacity is central to this work. That's why Council will continue to develop staff skills, knowledge and responsiveness to sustainability matters. We know our staff are committed to responding to climate change and are seeking opportunities to lead change and be more adaptable. However, Council cannot do it alone, Council recognises the need to mobilise our community to prepare for a changing climate.

Empowering the community

The Strategy aims to empower our community to take local sustainability action that delivers better health and wellbeing outcomes and increased resilience to the threats of climate change. This extends to working regionally with neighbouring councils, government partners, local industry and grassroots community groups. These partnerships will identify opportunities to mitigate our environmental impact, adopt infrastructure adaptation measures, and unlock funding mechanisms to overcome barriers.

There are significant financial challenges ahead to achieve the ambitious net zero targets. Council will continue seeking opportunities for partnerships, program funding, co-contributions and grant funding through Federal, State and other mechanisms.

There is not one single solution to implementing sustainability. It is a way of thinking, working, and living. The actions for this theme support sustainability across all sectors of Greater Dandenong, with Council and the community committing to a sustainable future.



Monitoring and Reporting

An Action Plan has been prepared that aligns with the objectives of the *Greater Dandenong Council Plan 2025-29* and the objectives developed for this Strategy.

Implementation of the Action Plan is critical to Council's commitment and ability to lead our community's sustainability action and to foster environmental stewardship. To understand Council's ability to influence change, the Strategy has outlined the role of Council, community and other stakeholders. The Action Plan responds to the objectives for each theme by setting actions that contribute to its delivery. It includes a commencement date, baseline and measure, and an intended completion date where appropriate. Delivery of the Action Plan is subject to the annual budget and long-term financial plan.

The use of objectives and actions in the *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan* is consistent with the Integrated Planning Framework adopted by Council. A clear intention of the development of this Strategy was to improve the strategic framework for Council's climate and sustainability action. The Action Plan provides that strategic framework to guide operational decision making. This enables Council to remain adaptable and responsive over the life of the Strategy.

The Action Plan has been developed to be clear, measurable, and relevant, ensuring each action includes defined performance measures to monitor its implementation and outcome. Progress on the Action Plan will be reported annually. The annual update will share achievements from the past 12 months and progress on actions undertaken in that year, including key advocacy work completed. These annual reports will include quantified performance data against progressed actions where relevant and available to track the effectiveness of the Action Plan over time and respond accordingly. The Action Plan will be incorporated into Council's annual Council Plan reporting process to assist with the timely implementation.

As the Strategy is a Priority Strategy under the Integrated Planning Framework, the objectives and actions of the Action Plan will be reviewed every four (4) years to ensure they align with the Council Plan. As part of this review, the status of all actions will be reported on, and the Action Plan will be updated to support continued implementation of the Strategy and Council priorities through to 2036.

These commitments ensure progress made against the actions is reported annually, and the Action Plan is reviewed every four years. This progress will be published on Council's website for the community to monitor.

A full strategic renewal of *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan* will commence in 2036.



Our Bright Green Future

Action Plan | 2026-2036



THEME 1 **ADVOCACY**

OBJECTIVE *A City that advocates for a sustainable future.*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR
1	Advocate for increased investment in climate resilient infrastructure that reduces the impact of climate change on community health and wellbeing.	Climate and Open Space Planning Community Advocacy	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING
2	Advocate to relevant stakeholders to protect and enhance biodiversity, including developing new wildlife corridor links.	Parks	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING
3	Advocate to Melbourne Water to improve waterway health and data bases, including revised flood modelling and supporting resources and tools.	Infrastructure Planning Strategic Planning	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING
4	Advocate for improved consideration of Greater Dandenong stormwater priorities within regional asset and infrastructure plans.	Infrastructure Planning Strategic Planning	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING
5	Advocate to State and Federal government, landowners, developers and other key stakeholders to improve the understanding of the benefits of trees, and facilitate the enhancement of canopy coverage and greening at a local and regional level.	Strategic Planning Parks	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING
6	Advocate to State and Federal government, and other relevant stakeholders for increased investment in batteries and other renewable energy sources for both public infrastructure and private properties.	Climate and Open Space Planning	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING
7	Continue to advocate for the earliest possible closure of the Lyndhurst landfill site.	Strategic Planning Climate and Open Space Planning	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING

THEME 1 ADVOCACY



OBJECTIVE *A City that advocates for a sustainable future.*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR
8	Advocate to State and Federal government and other relevant stakeholders for increased programs, education and activities to promote a circular economy by reducing waste and improving opportunities for reuse.	Climate and Open Space Planning Waste & Cleansing	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING
9	Advocate to State and Federal governments, and relevant stakeholders to improve green travel options, including public transport, cycling, walking and uptake of electric vehicles.	Infrastructure Planning	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING
10	Advocate with key stakeholders and government on the importance of maintaining an appropriate level of regional air quality.	Planning Compliance Climate and Open Space Planning	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING
11	Advocate to and support the business sector and wider community regarding the importance of reducing emissions through electrification, energy efficiency upgrades and other methods.	Climate and Open Space Planning Business Development and Investment	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING
12	Actively seek external funding to strengthen Council's environmental programs.	Climate and Open Space Planning	Advocacy measures undertaken including grant applications as relevant	ONGOING
13	Advocate to partners to identify opportunities to enhance urban ecology and integrated water management outcomes to mitigate the impact of the urban heat island effect.	Climate and Open Space Planning Infrastructure Planning	Opportunities identified and advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING
14	Advocate alongside CASBE to State Government for the implementation of the Elevating Environmentally Sustainable Design Targets Planning Scheme Amendment.	Climate and Open Space Planning	Advocacy measures undertaken	ONGOING

THEME 2 COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND RESILIENCE



OBJECTIVE *A City prepared for a changing climate.*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
1	Develop partnerships with Traditional Custodians, including the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, to include cultural values, wisdom and ecological knowledge in environment, sustainability and climate planning and management in significant Council projects and programs.	Climate and Open Space Planning	Traditional custodians values, wisdom and knowledge embedded in relevant projects and programs by 2030	2027/28	2029/30
2	Enable opportunities for consultation and engagement on sustainability and climate change with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to increase Council's awareness of their needs and priorities.	Climate and Open Space Planning	Increased staff knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations needs and priorities	ONGOING	
3	Develop partnerships with community organisations to focus on leadership and capacity building of community members.	Climate and Open Space Planning	Strong and positive relationships with community organisations	ONGOING	
4	Review and strengthen Council's climate change hazard preparedness and emergency management response planning of more frequent and extreme weather events and increase involvement of the community in these planning processes to improve community resilience.	Emergency Management Climate and Open Space Planning	Review complete by 2028	2026/27	2027/28
5	Council to facilitate collaboration between local schools and external stakeholders, including delivery of the CERES Student Environmental Leadership Summit.	Climate and Open Space Planning Youth and Family Services	Programs implemented by 2028	2026/27	2027/28
6	Council to increase its understanding of the unique needs of different members of the community, and to facilitate strategic partnerships, including with the multicultural community, young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with a disability, and the business sector to inform climate-related engagement.	Climate and Open Space Planning	Increased engagement with all members of the community	2026/27	2035/36

THEME 2 COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND RESILIENCE



OBJECTIVE *A City prepared for a changing climate.*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
7	Collaborate with key partners to ensure information regarding sustainability and climate change is translated into community languages, to improve accessibility.	Climate & Open Space Planning Parks Strategic Communication and Engagement	Information translated into relevant languages by 2028	2026/27	2027/28
8	Engage young people on Council's programs and activities relating to climate change and sustainability.	Climate & Open Space Planning Youth and Family Services	Engagement with young people in sustainability and environmental projects	ONGOING	
9	Facilitate opportunities for young people to engage in projects that support the environment and promote sustainability, including addressing the impacts of climate change.	Youth and Family Services Climate & Open Space Planning	Engagement with young people in sustainability and environmental projects	2027/28	2035/36
10	Continue to provide funding through Council's Community Grants Program (Climate Action Stream) to support community projects that mobilise climate action and contribute to healthier, more sustainable and climate resilient ways of living.	Community Partnerships and Volunteers Climate & Open Space Planning	Continue to provide funding to the Climate Action Stream of the Community Grants Program	ONGOING	
11	Continue to recognise and promote the achievements of the community through initiatives such as the annual Australia Day Awards (Sustainability category) and use of Council's publications and social media.	Climate & Open Space Planning Strategic Communication and Engagement	Australia Day Award in Sustainability category continuing to be awarded	ONGOING	
12	In partnership with the South East Business Network (SEBN) and South East Melbourne Manufacturers Alliance (SEMMA), proactively identify and implement measures within existing forums to enhance local business awareness and preparedness for the impacts of climate change.	Climate & Open Space Planning Business Development and Investment	Promote engagement and awareness on climate change impacts	2026/27	2035/36

THEME 3 CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WASTE



OBJECTIVE *A Circular City: Reducing our waste and redefining our resources*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	BASELINE	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
1	Identify and implement opportunities to improve community waste education programs and initiatives to reduce waste going to landfill, and more resources recovered and recycled.	Climate and Open Space Planning Waste and Cleansing	29,713 tonnes of waste sent to landfill - 2024/25	Reduction of waste going to landfill by 10% by 2030	2026/27	2029/30
2	Investigate and support industry partnerships to develop alternative resource recovery solutions beyond kerbside system to improve diversion of "other" household waste materials from landfill.	Climate and Open Space Planning Business Development and Investment Waste and Cleansing		Investigation of opportunities completed by 2029	2027/28	2028/29
3	Increase resource recovery across Council facilities and operations by applying best practice waste management processes, and trialling new technologies.	Climate and Open Space Planning Waste and Cleansing	29,713 tonnes of waste sent to landfill - 2024/25 12,222 tonnes of recycling - 2024/25	Reduction in waste going to landfill by 10% and increase recycling tonnages by 2030	2026/27	2029/30
4	Identify and implement opportunities to reduce litter and dumped rubbish across the municipality.	Climate and Open Space Planning Waste and Cleansing	952 tonnes of dumped rubbish collected - 2024/25	Reduction in dumped rubbish by 20% by 2035	2026/27	2034/35
5	Align Council waste services with Recycling Victoria Policy by working with the Victorian government to implement key actions mandated under the circular economy policy and action plan - Recycling Victoria: a new economy.	Climate and Open Space Planning Waste and Cleansing		Roll out and implementation of kerbside glass bin by 2027 Increase in containers being deposited at CDS facilities by 10% by 2030 and an overall decrease in glass and CDS materials in commingled recycling by 2030	2026/27	2029/30

THEME 3 CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WASTE



OBJECTIVE *A Circular City: Reducing our waste and redefining our resources*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	BASELINE	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
6	Support alternatives to landfill, through participation in the South East Melbourne Advanced Waste Processing (SEMAWP) project.	Climate and Open Space Planning Waste and Cleansing	29,713 tonnes of waste sent to landfill - 2024/25	Implement SEMAWP contract by 2028	2026/27	2027/28
7	Review the provision of waste services and the scope of service to: Residential properties, commercial properties, schools and children’s services and sporting clubs.	Climate and Open Space Planning Waste and Cleansing		Review complete by 2030	2026/27	2029/30

THEME 4 TRANSPORT AND ACTIVE TRAVEL



OBJECTIVE *A City well connected through active and low carbon transport.*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	BASELINE	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
1	Support and promote Council's Green Travel Plan, including success stories, that result in increased use of low emission transport by Council staff and the community.	Infrastructure Planning Climate & Open Space Planning	11% of staff use green travel options - (Staff Travel Survey 2023)	Green Travel Plan updated and increase of staff using green options to 20% by 2030	2026/27	2029/30
2	Implement the Active Transport Infrastructure Priority Program improving pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.	Infrastructure Planning		Generate benchmark for active transport (based on Physical Activity Participation Survey) and set 2030 target	2026/27	2026/27
3	Continue to implement the Fleet Transition Plan to increase Council's use of low emissions vehicles and drive accelerated uptake.	Works and Fleet Infrastructure Planning Climate & Open Space Planning	27 vehicles (made up of 11 electric passenger vehicles, 1 electric van, 15 hybrid passenger vehicles (Fleet - 2025)	Transition Council's passenger vehicle fleet to low-emissions vehicles by 2030	ONGOING	2029/30
4	Work with partners to increase the number of public electric vehicle charging stations across the municipality.	Infrastructure Planning	28 public charging stations (PlugShare -2025)	Increase number of public electric vehicle charging stations in the municipality to 50 by 2030	2026/27	2029/30

THEME 5 BIODIVERSITY



OBJECTIVE *A City that cares for and connects with nature.*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	BASELINE	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
1	Continue Council's participation in regional alliances to facilitate increased consideration and protection of local biodiversity, connection of green space and pest animal control.	Parks		Active participation in regional alliances	ONGOING	
2	Increase community awareness, education and involvement in ecological improvements within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.	Parks Strategic Planning	Annual Green Wedge newsletter	Increased targeted communications to Green Wedge Residents	ONGOING	
3	Engage and strengthen the community's awareness on the ecological value of the parks, plants and wildlife in Greater Dandenong through programs such as Gardens for Wildlife.	Parks	Pilot Gardens for Wildlife program	Continue to deliver environmental education programs and establish the Gardens for Wildlife program	2026/27	2035/36
4	Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure biodiversity within Greater Dandenong, including the establishment of baseline biodiversity metrics.	Parks		Implementation of framework by 2028	2026/27	2027/28
5	Investigate opportunities to improve existing wildlife corridor links and establish new ones where appropriate.	Parks		Investigation of opportunities complete by 2029	2027/28	2028/29
6	Review and update GIS map data for existing biodiversity values across all land tenures.	Parks		GIS map data updated by 2028	2026/27	2027/28

THEME 6 TREES AND GREENING

OBJECTIVE *A healthy, green and resilient City*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	BASELINE	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
1	Increase canopy coverage across the municipality.	Climate and Open Space Planning Parks	14.6% canopy coverage across municipality (Canopy Coverage Audit - 2025)	Canopy coverage increased to 15% by 2028	ONGOING	2027/28
2	Further develop opportunities for engagement and education to increase the community's awareness of the benefits of greener and cooler environments.	Parks Climate and Open Space Planning	Delivery of current Environmental Education programs	Develop and implement an environmental engagement schedule	ONGOING	
3	Regularly source tree canopy and urban heat island data for Greater Dandenong, and actively work to increase canopy cover to reduce impacts of the urban heat island effect and inform strategic planting plans for the municipality.	Climate and Open Space Planning Parks		Prepare an urban heat island map to inform the tree planting plans by 2028	2026/27	2027/28
4	Continue to deliver and review Environmental Education programs such as community planting days and the Adopt-A-Park program, to build and improve community awareness of the importance of our natural environment. This includes supporting local community groups to undertake their own activities.	Parks	Delivery of Environmental Education programs (8 programs)	Continue to deliver environmental education programs and support local community groups to undertake their own activities	ONGOING	
5	Undertake an audit of the Native Vegetation Precinct Plan to determine status of identified trees.	Strategic Planning		Audit complete by 2027	2026/27	2026/27
6	Implement the 15 year tree planting program.	Parks		Tree planting program complete	ONGOING	2032/33

THEME 7 WATER AND WATERWAYS



OBJECTIVE *A City with well-managed water, clean and healthy waterways.*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
1	Collaborate with Melbourne Water to identify and investigate flood mitigation opportunities, including reviewing drainage capacity and nature-based solutions.	Infrastructure Planning	Flood mitigation opportunities identified	2026/27	2035/36
2	Review and develop drainage capital works programs based on risk, priority and cost-benefit analysis with a focus on flood mitigation and integrated water management.	Infrastructure Planning	Update Drainage Capital Works Programs following review of updated Melbourne Water flood mapping by 2027	2026/27	2027/28
3	Continue to collaborate with key stakeholders through participation in the Dandenong Integrated Water Management Forum.	Infrastructure Planning Climate and Open Space Planning	Ongoing participation in forum	ONGOING	
4	Strengthen the community's awareness on best practice for the responsible use of water.	Climate and Open Space Planning	Run multiple community awareness education programs per annum	ONGOING	
5	Incorporate water sensitive urban design (WSUD) initiatives and use passive storm water irrigation in new tree planting areas where possible. Establish irrigation water requirements and water budgets for urban trees and landscapes.	Infrastructure Planning Parks	Implement WSUD and passive storm water irrigation initiatives by 2032	2026/27	2031/32

THEME 8 ENERGY AND TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

OBJECTIVE *A net zero, efficient City that prioritises low carbon and renewable energy.*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	BASELINE	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
1	In collaboration with key partners, continue to support programs that facilitate the uptake of energy efficiency, renewable energy and financial support for upgrades for residential properties (including low-income households) and the industrial and commercial sectors.	Climate and Open Space Planning Business Development and Investment		Increasing promotion of renewable energy upgrades and available financial supports	ONGOING	
2	Facilitate and help support efforts of local community service organisations to seek opportunities through State and Federal government funding to pilot renewable energy networks aimed at supporting continuity of services during power blackouts, particularly in emergency situations.	Climate and Open Space Planning Community Advocacy Community Partnerships and Volunteers		Identify and promote infrastructure and grant opportunities	2027/28	2035/36
3	Investigate opportunities for community renewable energy, and distributed energy projects, including neighbourhood batteries.	Climate and Open Space Planning		Opportunities identified by 2030	2028/29	2029/30
4	Investigate mechanisms such as Virtual Power Networks, Energy Performance Contracts and upgrades through the Victorian Energy Upgrade Program to reduce Council's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.	Climate and Open Space Planning Procurement		Opportunities identified by 2030	2028/29	2029/30
5	Net zero emissions for Council operations.	Climate and Open Space Planning	3,827 tCO ₂ -e emitted by Council facilities in 2024/25	Council's operations result in net zero emissions by 2035	ONGOING	2034/35
6	Net zero emissions for the municipality.	Climate and Open Space Planning	3,598,000 tCO ₂ -e (2016/17)	Community emissions net zero by 2040	ONGOING	2040/41
7	Phase out the use of natural gas across Council facilities.	Climate and Open Space Planning Building Projects	42,103 GJ gas used across Council facilities (2023)	Gas usage phased out of all Council facilities by 2035	ONGOING	2035/36

THEME 8 ENERGY AND TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

OBJECTIVE *A net zero, efficient City that prioritises low carbon and renewable energy.*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	BASELINE	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
8	Support the facilitation of 100% renewable energy Power Purchasing Agreements for local businesses.	Climate and Open Space Planning Business Development and Investment		Investigate additional opportunities to facilitate Power Purchasing Agreements.	2027/28	2035/36
9	Investigate and improve the monitoring of energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions across all Council facilities, including through uptake of real-time (IOT-based) monitoring capabilities.	Climate and Open Space Planning		Improved monitoring processes implemented by 2030	ONGOING	2029/30

THEME 9 SUSTAINABLE DESIGN, ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



OBJECTIVE *A City that leads by example through a resilient built environment and assets that are planned for the future.*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	BASELINE	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
1	Continue to utilise renewable energy Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council's streetlights and buildings.	Climate and Open Space Planning Procurement	All electricity use by Council sourced from renewable energy	Maintain renewable energy source for electricity	ONGOING	
2	Review and update Council's Civil Engineering Standards and associated standard design drawings to ensure consideration of climate change impacts.	Infrastructure Planning Climate and Open Space Planning		Updated standards and design drawings implemented by 2028	2026/27	2027/28
3	Reduce Council's energy usage and costs through an increased focus on optimising Council's buildings, fixtures and appliances, and control systems to the most energy efficient available.	Climate and Open Space Planning Building Projects		Undertake energy efficiency upgrades as identified	ONGOING	
4	Continue to ensure all new Council buildings and other infrastructure utilise renewable electricity as their only energy source.	Climate and Open Space Planning	All new buildings and other infrastructure use renewable electricity	All new buildings and other infrastructure continue to use renewable electricity	ONGOING	
5	Embed climate resilience into Council's asset management strategies and plans as they are reviewed and updated in accordance with most up to date standards in relation to climate risk and adaptation.	Asset Management Climate and Open Space Planning		Consideration of climate resilience embedded into relevant strategies and plans as they are reviewed and updated	ONGOING	
6	Develop a program to undertake climate change vulnerability assessments of Council's key assets and infrastructure to increase understanding of physical, financial and workforce impacts and develop a budgeted implementation plan including priorities for future asset plans and capital expenditure program.	Climate and Open Space Planning Asset Management		Develop a program to undertake climate change vulnerability assessments by 2028	2026/27	2027/28
7	Investigate opportunities to improve understanding of Council's embodied emissions.	Climate and Open Space Planning		Opportunities investigated by 2028	2027/28	2027/28

THEME 10 SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS GREATER DANDENONG



OBJECTIVE *A Council and Community committed to a bright green future.*

#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	MEASURE	COMMENCEMENT YEAR	DELIVERY YEAR
1	Establish a single internal working group for oversight of Our Bright Green Future Strategy implementation.	Climate and Open Space Planning	Working group established by 2026	2026/27	2026/27
2	Review and embed the climate change risks relevant to all themes within this strategy as part of the review and update of Council's Risk Register. This includes assigning identified risks to responsible risk owners.	Climate and Open Space Planning Governance, Legal and Risk	Updated climate change risks embedded into Council's corporate risk register by 2027	2026/27	2026/27
3	Continue to assess and strengthen Council's adaptive capacity to respond to the climate emergency and improve environmental outcomes by increasing staff capacity and increased resilience.	Climate and Open Space Planning Organisational Development	Implement program of staff training activities	2027/28	2035/36
4	Work collaboratively with local government partners and key stakeholders to identify regional infrastructure adaptation projects and consider potential funding mechanisms to help address financial barriers.	Climate and Open Space Planning	Ongoing identification of environmental, sustainability and climate change related regional projects and supporting funding mechanisms	2026/27	2035/36
5	Implement the sustainability objectives of Council's procurement policy, and incorporate sustainability criteria into procurement evaluation processes.	Procurement Climate and Open Space Planning	Procurement Policy updated by 2027 to strengthen sustainability objectives	2026/27	2026/27
6	Investigate opportunities to improve digital reporting of sustainability related performance metrics.	Climate and Open Space Planning Digital and Data Transformation	Opportunities identified by 2027	2026/27	2026/27
7	Develop a program to undertake climate change vulnerability assessments of Council's service delivery to increase understanding of physical, financial and workforce impacts and develop a budgeted implementation plan including priorities.	Climate and Open Space Planning Asset Management	Develop a program to undertake climate change vulnerability assessments by 2028	2026/27	2027/28

Glossary

Term	Definition
Adaptation	The process of adjusting to actual or expected climate impacts to reduce harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.
Biodiversity	The variety of all life-forms, plants, animals, fungi, protists (including algae) and bacteria, their encoded genes, and the ecosystems of which they form part.
Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC)	BLCAC are a Traditional Owner organisation that represent the Bunurong people of the South-Eastern Kulin Nation. They aim to preserve and protect the sacred lands and waterways of our ancestors, their places, traditional cultural practices, and stories.
Built Environment	Human-made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, such as buildings, parks, and transportation systems.
Canopy cover	The measure of the area of tree canopy when viewed from above and is recorded as a percentage of total land area.
Canopy tree	Defined as any tree above 3m.
Capacity	The maximum amount that something can contain or produce; in sustainability, often refers to the ability to manage or respond to environmental issues.
Capacity building	The process of developing and strengthening skills, abilities, and resources to adapt and respond to challenges.
Carbon	A chemical element (C) that is the basis of all known life and a key component in fossil fuels.
Carbon dioxide	A colourless, odorless gas (CO ₂) produced by burning carbon and organic compounds and by respiration, contributing to the greenhouse effect.
Carbon emissions	The release of carbon, particularly carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere from human activities such as burning fossil fuels.
Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE)	CASBE is a group of Victorian councils that work together to make buildings more environmentally friendly. CASBE helps councils improve how buildings use energy, water, and materials, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It also supports better building design that is healthier, more comfortable, and cheaper to run.
Circular Economy	An economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources through reuse, repair, remanufacturing, and recycling.

Term	Definition
Climate and ecological emergency	Recognition that climate change is causing significant damage to the economy, society and the environment, and that action is required urgently to avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.
Climate change	The long-term change in the Earth's weather patterns as a result of global warming, resulting in fluctuating temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events
Cost-of-living	The amount of money needed to cover basic expenses such as housing, food, taxes, and healthcare.
Dandenong Wellbeing Centre	The Dandenong Wellbeing Centre will replace the ageing Dandenong Oasis and aligns with Council's vision of getting "more people, more active, more often. It will be a space for people to connect, socialise and take care of their health year-round and offer fun, culturally safe programs, health therapies, rehabilitation and much more.
Ecological diversity	The variety of ecosystems in a given place, including the diversity within and between ecosystems.
Embodied emissions	Greenhouse gas emissions associated with materials and construction processes throughout the whole life cycle of a building or infrastructure being the sum of upfront carbon, in-use embodied carbon, and end-of-life embodied carbon, measured by CO ₂ e.
Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)	A design approach that reduces negative impacts on the environment through efficient and sustainable building practices.
Fossil fuels	Fuels such as coal, oil, and gas, formed from the remains of living organisms over millions of years. The main contributor towards climate change.
Gardens for Wildlife	Gardens for Wildlife is a free program supporting residents, businesses, schools and community groups to attract and support wildlife with indigenous plants and wildlife gardening practices.
Global warming	The long-term heating of Earth's climate system due to human activities, primarily fossil fuel burning.
Grants	Funds provided by a government, organization, or institution for a specific purpose, often without repayment.
Green Star	An Australian sustainability rating system for buildings and communities managed by the Green Building Council of Australia.
Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)	Gases such as carbon dioxide and methane that trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to global warming.
Heat pumps	Devices that transfer heat from one place to another for heating or cooling purposes, often using electricity efficiently.

Term	Definition
Heat wave	Defined as three or more days of high maximum and minimum temperatures that are unusual for that location (Bureau of Meteorology, 2020).
Integrated water management	A collaborative approach to planning that brings together all elements of the water cycle including sewage management, water supply, stormwater management and water treatment, considering environmental, economic and social benefits. It is the integration of the water cycle into urban planning and design by recognising all water streams in the urban environment as a potential resource e.g. rainwater, stormwater, grey water and blackwater.
IoT-enabled energy monitoring	Refers to the use of internet-connected devices, sensors, and software to track, analyse, and optimize energy consumption in real-time. This technology allows users to gain insights into their energy usage patterns, identify areas of waste, and implement strategies for greater efficiency and cost savings.
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	The IPCC is an international group of scientists supported by the United Nations. It studies climate change and provides trusted information about its causes, impacts, and solutions. Governments around the world use IPCC reports to plan actions to reduce climate change and prepare for its effects.
Keysborough Community Hub	The Keysborough Community Hub, previously informally known as the Keysborough South Community Hub, provides a wide range of quality services, programs and flexible meeting spaces for our community.
Living Links	Living Links is a program that protects and connects natural areas such as parks, waterways, and wildlife habitats. It helps plants and animals move safely between green spaces. Living Links also supports healthier ecosystems and creates greener, cooler places for people to enjoy.
Local Law	A Local Law is a rule made by Council to manage local issues. Local Laws help keep the community safe, healthy, and respectful. They can cover things like waste, pets, parking, noise, and the use of public spaces
Planning Scheme	The Planning Scheme is a set of rules that guide how land is used and developed. It explains what can be built, where it can be built, and under what conditions. The Planning Scheme helps protect neighbourhood character, support jobs and housing, and manage environmental impacts.
Mitigation	Efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases; limiting the magnitude of future climate change.
Net Zero Carbon Emissions	Achieving a balance between the amount of carbon emitted and the amount removed from the atmosphere.
Our Bright Green Future	The branding used by Council for all sustainability programs, events, newsletter and initiatives.

Term	Definition
Paris Agreement	A global accord within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change aimed at limiting global warming.
Power Purchase Agreement	To achieve its target of zero net carbon emissions, Greater Dandenong Council has worked together with 46 other councils combined purchasing power to purchase its electricity needs from 100% renewable resources at a reduced cost. Further information about Greater Dandenong's Renewable Power Purchasing Agreements can be found at the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) website .
Resilience	The ability of a system, community, or individual to withstand and recover from adverse situations like climate impacts.
Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions	<p>Categories of greenhouse gas emissions: direct emissions (Scope 1), indirect from energy (Scope 2), and other indirect emissions (Scope 3).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope 1 emissions for Council include fleet vehicles and gas usage in our community facilities. • Scope 2 emissions for Council include emissions from sources of electricity in our buildings and streetlights. Council sources all its electricity from renewable energy sources as part of the VECO Power Purchase Agreement. • Scope 3 emissions for Council include community emissions, emissions from landfill and procured goods and services.
Stormwater	Rainwater that flows over surfaces such as roads and roofs, often collected in drainage systems.
Sustainability	Actions and decisions that are capable of being maintained at a steady level without exhausting natural resources or causing significant ecological damage.
tCO₂e	Tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent; a standard unit for measuring carbon footprints across different greenhouse gases.
Urban heat island	When urban areas are warmer than surrounding rural areas due to heat retention in hard surfaces. These occur due to the increased hard surfaces that absorb and radiate heat, limited vegetation to shade and cool, heat production from machines and activities and air pollution creating local greenhouse effects. The analysis has demonstrated that Greater Dandenong is already experiencing these effects with the most serious effects being experienced in major activity centres such as Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park. The most cost effective and efficient mitigation tool is an increase in tree canopy cover.
VECO	Victorian Energy Collaboration; a collective of local governments in Victoria purchasing renewable energy together.
WELS Rating	An Australian government scheme that rates the water efficiency of products such as taps, showers, toilets, washing machines and dishwashers. Products are assigned a star rating (typically 1–6 stars) and a water consumption figure, helping households, businesses and organisations compare options and choose appliances that use less water.

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