

7 Presentation of officer reports

7.5 Climate Action Plan - adoption

Abstract

This report presents the Climate Action Plan, (refer **Attachment 1**), and the supporting Implementation Plan, (refer **Attachment 2**) for adoption by Council. These Plans have been developed following three rounds of consultation with the Boroondara community. The Implementation Plan contains actions funded through a variety of budgets that will enable progression towards the Climate Action Plan targets. The draft Climate Action Plan was released for consultation during July and has been revised based on the feedback received, a summary of this feedback is shown in **Attachments 3 and 4**. The community has provided strong feedback on the importance of the Climate Action Plan through all stages of consultation for both this plan and the refresh of the Boroondara Community Plan. There is general recognition that our climate is changing and that Council and the community have the capacity to respond to this.

The Climate Action Plan sets targets for both Council operations and for the whole of Boroondara to reduce emissions and for other sustainability priorities. The Implementation Plan provides details of actions to be undertaken across the next two financial years which will enable Council and the community to progress towards these targets.

Officers' recommendation

That Council resolve to:

1. Adopt the Climate Action Plan (as annexed to the minutes as **Attachment 1**)
2. Adopt the Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan 2021-2023 (as annexed to the minutes as **Attachment 2**)
3. Note that an amended Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan 2021-2023 will be presented to Council subject to additional funding allocation made through the September Amended Budget at the October 2021 Council Meeting.

Responsible director: Daniel Freer, Director Places and Spaces

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present a revised Climate Action Plan (refer **Attachment 1**) and supporting two-year Implementation Plan (refer **Attachment 2**) following community consultation on the draft. These documents are presented for seeking adoption by Council.

2. Policy implications and relevance to community plan and council plan

The Boroondara Community Plan (BCP) 2017-27 articulates Council's overarching commitment to a vibrant and inclusive community. The Community Plan sets the long-term strategic directions for Council and informs the Council Plan, annual commitments and strategic indicators, and Council strategies, plans, policies and actions. The Climate Action Plan has been primarily developed in the context of the BCP 2017-27 but also in consideration of the draft Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31. The adopted version of the BCP is referenced in the Climate Action Plan.

Development of a Climate Action Plan with the advice of the Climate Action Plan Advisory Group, supports the vision of the BCP for '*a vibrant and inclusive city, meeting the needs and aspirations of its community*', particularly in relation to the following strategic objectives and relevant strategies:

Strategic Objective 2: Inviting and well-utilised community parks and green spaces

Strategy 2.1 - Sustainably design, manage and utilise parks and green spaces to foster a connected and healthy community for all ages and abilities.

Strategy 2.7 - Manage, renew and preserve the green canopy in our open spaces and playgrounds for the enjoyment of future generations.

Strategic Objective 3: Our natural environment is healthy and sustainable for future generations

Strategy 3.1 - Build community capacity to live sustainably through efficient use of energy and water, resource recovery and renewable energy generation.

Strategy 3.2 - Reduce the amount of waste generated and disposed of in landfill through initiatives to prevent, reduce and reuse waste.

Strategy 3.5 - Reduce the environmental impact of Council facilities and assets through continued greenhouse gas saving initiatives and stormwater treatment and re-use.

Strategy 3.7 - Lead our community through advocacy and action to mitigate and adapt to impacts of climate change to minimise impacts on community health and wellbeing, our natural environment and facilities and services.

Strategic Objective 4: Protect the heritage and respect the character of the City to maintain amenity and liveability whilst recognising the need for appropriate, well-designed development for future generations

Strategy 4.5 - Introduce environmentally sustainable design policies and principles into the Boroondara Planning Scheme to facilitate sustainable development.

Strategic Objective 5: Travel options that are connected, safe, accessible, environmentally sustainable and well-designed.

Strategy 5.4 - Promote and increase active and environmentally sustainable travel options, including cycling and walking and access to public transport.

There are also a number of other Council strategies, policies and initiatives which relate to Climate including:

- Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWMS) 2014-2024
- Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy (WMRS) 2017
- Urban Biodiversity Strategy (UBS) 2013-2023
- Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) 2006
- Urban Agriculture Discussion Paper
- Shade Policy 2017-2027 and Action Plan
- Living For Our Future Program
- Boroondara Tree Strategy 2017-2027 and Action Plan
- Sustainable Council Buildings Policy 2016
- Boroondara Bicycle Strategy 2008
- Car Share Policy and Car Share Procedures 2013
- Boroondara Health and Wellbeing Plans

3. Background

At a Special Council Meeting on 16 December 2019, Council resolved:

1. To note the wide range of policies, strategies, action plans and initiatives either being undertaken or planned in response to Council's commitment to the environment and combatting the impacts of climate change as set out below.
2. Noting the Our Low Carbon Future Strategy 2009 - 2020 which has been a key driver of Council's response to climate change is due to expire in 2020, Council officers are directed to bring forward a Climate Action Plan to replace the current strategy prior to finalisation of the 2020-2021 budget enabling consideration of new initiatives for the following financial year and beyond.
3. That the Climate Action Plan be drafted as an umbrella document focused on initiatives within Boroondara to bring together the wide range of existing and proposed commitments [included below] for Council's consideration.
4. That the community be consulted in relation to the Climate Action Plan prior to its final adoption by Council.

At the Special Meeting of Council on 23 March 2020 Council resolved that:

1. Continue development of the draft Climate Action Plan in accordance with the Notice of Motion No 49, and the proposed approach and consultation and engagement plan outlined in this paper.
2. Authorise officers to amend the proposed approach and consultation and engagement plan outlined in this paper in accordance with the latest Federal and Victorian Government and Council advice, as it evolves in relation to COVID-19 and to note the timing for delivery of the Climate Action Plan will be subject to these amendments.
3. Refer the capital budget bid for the additional \$985,000 to fund a range of new energy saving projects and initiatives that could be delivered in the 2020/2021 financial year to the 2020/2021 budget process.

Council also established a Climate Action Plan Advisory Group with a membership of six Councillors which commenced meeting in January 2021. This advisory group has met regularly and provided ongoing advice and feedback through its discussions on the development of the Draft Plan.

The draft plan was presented at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 28 June 2021 and it was resolved that Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Climate Action Plan as at Attachment 1 for community consultation.
2. Receive a report detailing submissions and any proposed amendments to the Draft Climate Action Plan and a supporting Implementation Plan will be presented at a Meeting of Council to be held Monday 27 September 2021.

At the same meeting of Council as part of the resolution to adopt the 2021/22 Council Budget it was resolved:

12. That officers submit a further report to Council subsequent to adoption of the Climate Action Plan and as part of the September Amended Budget report to Council detailing opportunities to allocate additional funds of up to \$1m in the current financial year for implementation of initiatives included in the adopted Climate Action Plan.

4. Outline of key issues/options

Community Consultation on the Draft Climate Action Plan

Phase 1 of community consultation about the Climate Action Plan was undertaken in August and September 2020. 1567 survey responses were received including 502 from a demographically representative randomly selected cohort.

This survey revealed 90% of respondents supported the development of the Climate Action Plan with only 5% opposed. When asked to rate the importance of different aspects of sustainability for the climate action plan the following was revealed:

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy - 89 per cent said very/fairly important
- Sustainable water use and healthy waterways - 89 per cent said very/fairly important
- Waste management and recycling - 83 per cent said very/fairly important
- Sustainable community transport - 75 per cent said very/fairly important
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity - 80 per cent said very/fairly important

Phase 2 of community consultation was conducted in March and April 2021. This consultation stage made use of a brief survey and public online forums and sought to 'check in with our community' about the results of the first stage of consultation.

Phase 3 of community consultation presented a draft Climate Action Plan for community feedback. This was undertaken between 5 July and 4 August 2021 via an online survey. Direct submissions were also received. The survey was developed and hosted by Council's Engage Boroondara platform. Analysis was undertaken by the same external consultant as the previous consultations. 276 individuals completed the survey.

Overall, the majority of respondents rated the draft Climate Action Plan as adequate or better (3-5 out of 5).

CAP Rating

Rating	1 - poor	2	3-adequate	4	5-excellent
All respondents	13%	28%	28%	22%	9%

The main criticisms of the draft related to the need for it to be more detailed, to do more sooner, and/or address specific topics of importance to individuals such as increasing trees and property development rules. There were 18 (8.7%) comments suggesting that it is inappropriate for Council to be developing a Climate Action Plan. Six contributions included denial of climate change science.

Feedback on the draft identified trees and biodiversity, renewables and solar, and emissions reduction as important.

When asked if there was anything missing, the most common responses related to property development rules (to encourage more environmentally friendly building and maintain trees), strengthening targets, waste management and acting urgently to respond to climate change.

The full consultation report for all phases of consultation can be seen in **Attachment 3**. This report will be published online post endorsement of the Climate Action Plan and Implementation Plan

A summary of responses to submissions is included in **Attachment 4**.

Implementation Plan

The Council resolution on 28 June 2021 noted the development of a supporting Implementation Plan. This Implementation Plan provides the detail that much of the feedback on the draft Climate Action Plan requested.

The Implementation Plan is for the first two years of the Climate Action Plan and includes actions that are funded through a variety of budgets. Initiatives are grouped under the themes of the draft Climate Action Plan and linked to the overarching actions of the Plan. The Implementation Plan prioritises actions that will have the most impact on emissions, both for Council and community, opportunities where there is a return on the investment and actions that protect against negative impacts. This aligns with the feedback received that identified the top priorities for action being trees/biodiversity, renewables/solar and reduction of emissions.

At the Council meeting on 28 June 2021, Councillors discussed the option of providing an additional budget allocation of up to \$1M as part of the September Amended Budget process. The Implementation Plan presented for adoption has been prepared to reflect the current budget allocation. Consideration of the amended budget has now been deferred until October of this year. Should additional funding be allocated, an updated Implementation plan will be presented for Council endorsement. It should be noted that many of the actions identified in the Implementation Plan are of a scalable nature directly related to the level of funding allocated.

Climate Action Plan revisions

In response to the feedback received about the draft Climate Action Plan, the following key changes have been made:

Aspirational Community Targets - The interim 2030 target of 30% community emissions reduction has been replaced with an interim 60% community emissions reduction target for 2030. The originally proposed 2035 target of 100% net community emissions reduction has been retained. A 2040 target of 100% actual community emissions reduction is also retained.

These targets align with the 'Science Based' global targets considered necessary to avoid climate change beyond 1.5-2.0 degrees C. All targets can only be achieved with significant effort from all levels of government and community members.

The Climate Action Plan clearly articulates that Council is not able to control community emissions and these community targets do not imply that Council is accountable for meeting them. Setting an interim target of 60% reduction by 2030 responds to community feedback that Council should take a leadership position in responding to the threat of climate change.

The Victorian Government Climate Change Strategy sets targets of 45-50% below 2005 levels for 2030. Council does not have access to Boroondara specific data for 2005 which is the Victorian Government's baseline year. Using a baseline year of 2020, the Council target represents a stronger commitment than the Victorian Government Target.

Tree canopy/Development - Actions in the draft Climate Action Plan have been updated and added to focus on the protection of existing trees on both public and private land. Feedback will be further addressed by the inclusion of actions within the Implementation Plan.

External Funding Support - A new action has been added to the draft Climate Action Plan to advocate to other levels of government and relevant agencies to provide funding for Local Government Authorities and communities to take action to respond to climate change.

Finance Mechanisms for Community Action - Throughout consultation for the draft Climate Action Plan, community members have advocated for Council to support Environmental Upgrade Agreements or other mechanisms of financial support for energy efficiency or renewable energy projects on private property. The Implementation Plan includes a supporting action to pursue opportunities to support community uptake of renewable energy or energy efficiency through Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUAs) or alternative finance mechanisms.

Water Harvesting Target

The Council target to harvest 80ML of alternative water per annum has been revised down to 65ML. This target has been revised in response to updated analysis of what can feasibly be achieved within the timeframe. 65ML is presents a challenging but achievable target.

Climate Action Plan feedback where no changes have been made

The following two themes were the most highly represented in phase 3 consultation feedback where no changes have been made

Aspirational Target - 63 responses highlighted a concern that targets are termed Aspirational or are not ambitious enough. No change to the title has been made however the targets have been refined.

Greater Urgency/ Declaration of a Climate Emergency - 62 responses supported using stronger language in the Climate Action Plan to express the urgency and scale of concern about Climate Change. No change was made as clarity on urgency of action is provided through the Implementation Plan.

Community Advisory Group - 28 responses supported the formation of a Community Advisory Group. No change has been made as the time and resources required to develop and manage an advisory group is not considered as valuable as investing those resources in other actions.

5. Consultation/communication

Development of the Draft Climate Action Plan has been based on extensive community consultation.

The first phase of the consultation was conducted in August and September 2020.

Phase 2 of community engagement was conducted in March and April 2021. This consultation stage made use of a brief survey and public online forums and sought to 'check in with our community' about the results of the first stage of consultation.

Phase 3 was conducted in July and August 2021, to receive feedback on the draft Plan.

The consultant report of the first phase of consultation is published on Council's website. An updated report on all consultation phases will be published online in parallel to the adopted Climate Action Plan and the Implementation Plan.

Internal consultation

Consultation with various departments has been undertaken to inform and refine targets and actions. These include, Environmental Sustainability and Open Space, Traffic and Transport, Strategic and Statutory Planning, Capital Works, Facilities, Waste and Infrastructure and Chief Financial Office.

6. Financial and resource implications

Consistent with other long term strategic plans such as the Boroondara Community Plan (BCP), it is not viable to accurately account for all financial impacts over the ten-year life of the Climate Action Plan. Also consistent with plans such as the BCP, there will be ongoing opportunities to consider the financial and other impacts as part of Council's annual budget process. There are actions outlined in the Climate Action Plan that do not commit Council to a specific scale and nature of action and allow greater specificity of budgetary considerations to be made through detailed feasibility work.

Furthermore, the majority of the actions can be delivered within existing budget allocations.

The Implementation Plan includes actions that will be delivered from currently committed or foreshadowed operating and project budgets. These actions, which include substantial expenditure such as ESD standards in Council's building program and Council's Tree and Biodiversity Programs represent a large proportion of our financial commitment to our environment.

These actions have been considered through the Council budget process and are not addressed specifically in this report.

The September Amended Budget is to be considered at the Council Meeting on 25 October. If additional funding is allocated to the Climate Action Plan, an updated Implementation Plan will be presented for Council endorsement.

Emissions Offset for Carbon Neutrality

In 2022 (financial year 2022-23), \$50,000 (within the Climate Action Plan budget) will be required to allow purchase of offsets to achieve carbon neutrality. This assumes purchase of green electricity (see below) and continued offset of Council fleet from existing operating budget allocations.

The Boroondara FOGO program presents a potential pathway to generate accredited greenhouse offsets in the form of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUUs). Officers will present a future report to Council about the opportunity to support carbon neutrality via this pathway.

Purchase of Green Electricity

Approximately 80% of Council electricity is purchased via a Power Purchase Agreement for Electricity from a renewable source. In October 2021, Council will consider opportunities to contract the remaining 20% of supply via a Procurement Australia aggregated contract. This contract will include an option for renewable electricity. An allowance of \$40,000 per annum is expected to allow Council to fund this additional cost and source 100% of electricity from renewable sources. Electricity charges are funded from operating budgets.

Financial Return on Investment

Community facing programs will not deliver any direct financial benefit to Council but will generally deliver multiple benefits to community members including financial savings.

Investment in solar PV and energy efficiency at Council operated facilities will typically deliver simple paybacks of 5-8 years.

The financial returns from additional landscape and building compliance has not been quantified, but returns are expected from:

- Avoided reinstatement costs by Council
- Avoided costs from silt impact on Council drains and
- Income from penalties

7. Governance issues

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

The officers responsible for this report have no direct or indirect interests requiring disclosure.

8. Social and environmental issues

The Climate Action Plan will provide a framework for Council to plan and deliver actions to reduce harmful emissions from Council's operations, facilitate the reduction of community emissions by the community and preserve and protect our natural assets to meet the challenges of a changing climate. This will help guide Council's climate related actions into the next decade and deliver wide ranging social and environmental benefits for our community.

9. Evaluation and review

Council will regularly promote and provide updates on its performance in delivering the Climate Action Plan through all of its media channels. Council will also provide an annual report on its delivery of actions and progress toward targets through a Climate Action Plan update report. The two-year Implementation Plan will be reviewed and updated every two years including a community survey process. The Climate Action Plan will have a life of 10 years and be fully reviewed at the end of this period.

10. Conclusion

The Climate Action Plan has been developed in response to Council's resolutions in December 2019 and March 2020 and its development has been strongly supported by the community through consultation results. Feedback on the Draft Climate Action Plan has been considered and revisions made and a supporting Implementation Plan developed. The Climate Action Plan is now presented for adoption by Council to enable implementation.

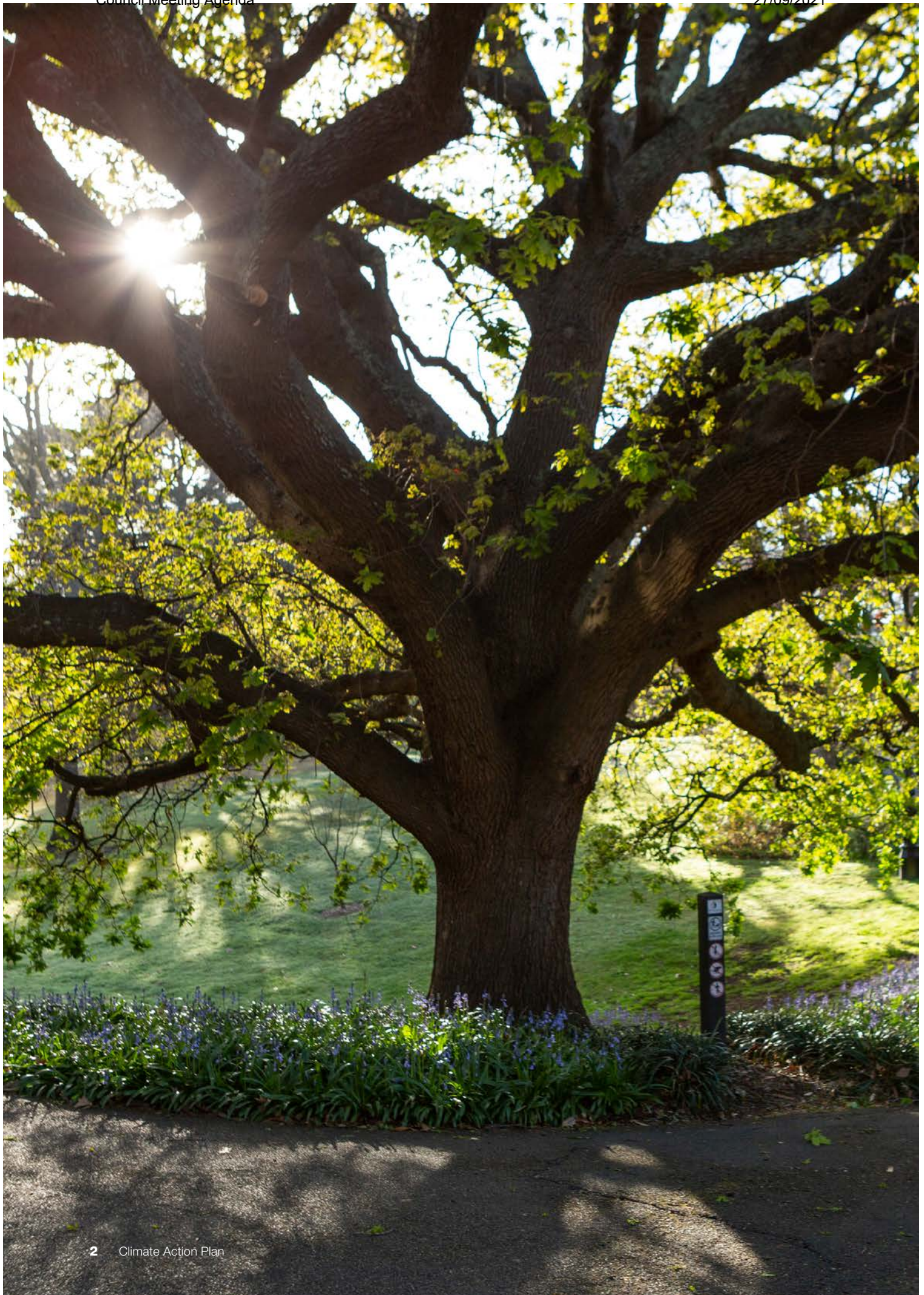
Manager: **David Shepard, Manager Environmental Sustainability & Open Spaces**

Report officer: Mathew Dixon, Coordinator Environmental Sustainability



Climate Action Plan

Our plan to deliver what is important to our community
to further reduce our city's environmental footprint.





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Our plan

We have developed Boroondara's Climate Action Plan to deliver what is important to our community and in recognition of the real and increasing threat to our environment, to our health and wellbeing, and to the quality of the lives of current and future generations as the result of our changing climate.

In 2017, Council produced the Boroondara Community Plan responding to the needs and aspirations of our community. It reflects major themes from the associated community consultation, including supporting sustainability and our natural environment. Since then, we have heard from our community more and more often that environmental sustainability, specifically climate change, is an important issue for Boroondara.

During 2020 and 2021, we consulted our community about refreshing the Boroondara Community Plan and about this Climate Action Plan. The feedback showed enthusiastic support for this Plan and for Council to prioritise action for our environment.

A successful response to climate change requires a holistic approach, new ways of thinking and shifts in how we live, work and play. It requires action by individuals, businesses and all levels of government.

This Plan outlines how Council will respond to this challenge and how we will work with our community and other levels of government to do the same.

At Council, we have already made big improvements, but we can build on these as we continue to adapt our own practices. As a local government, our

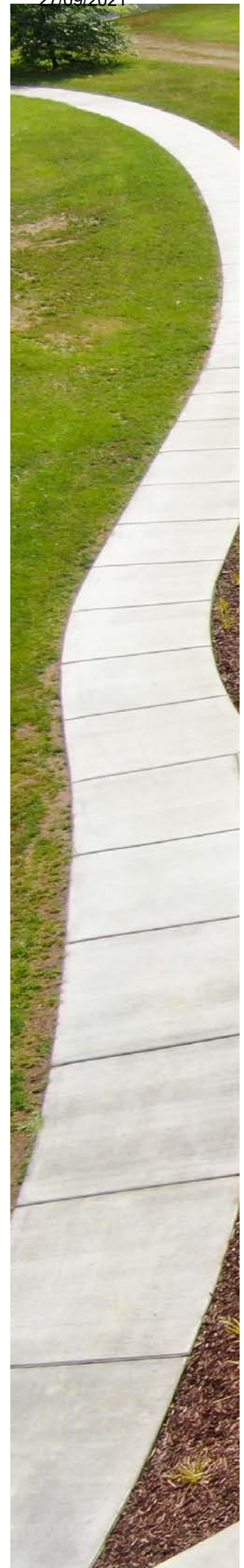
role extends beyond our own buildings, assets and operations to serve and support our community to mitigate threats, adapt and become more resilient.

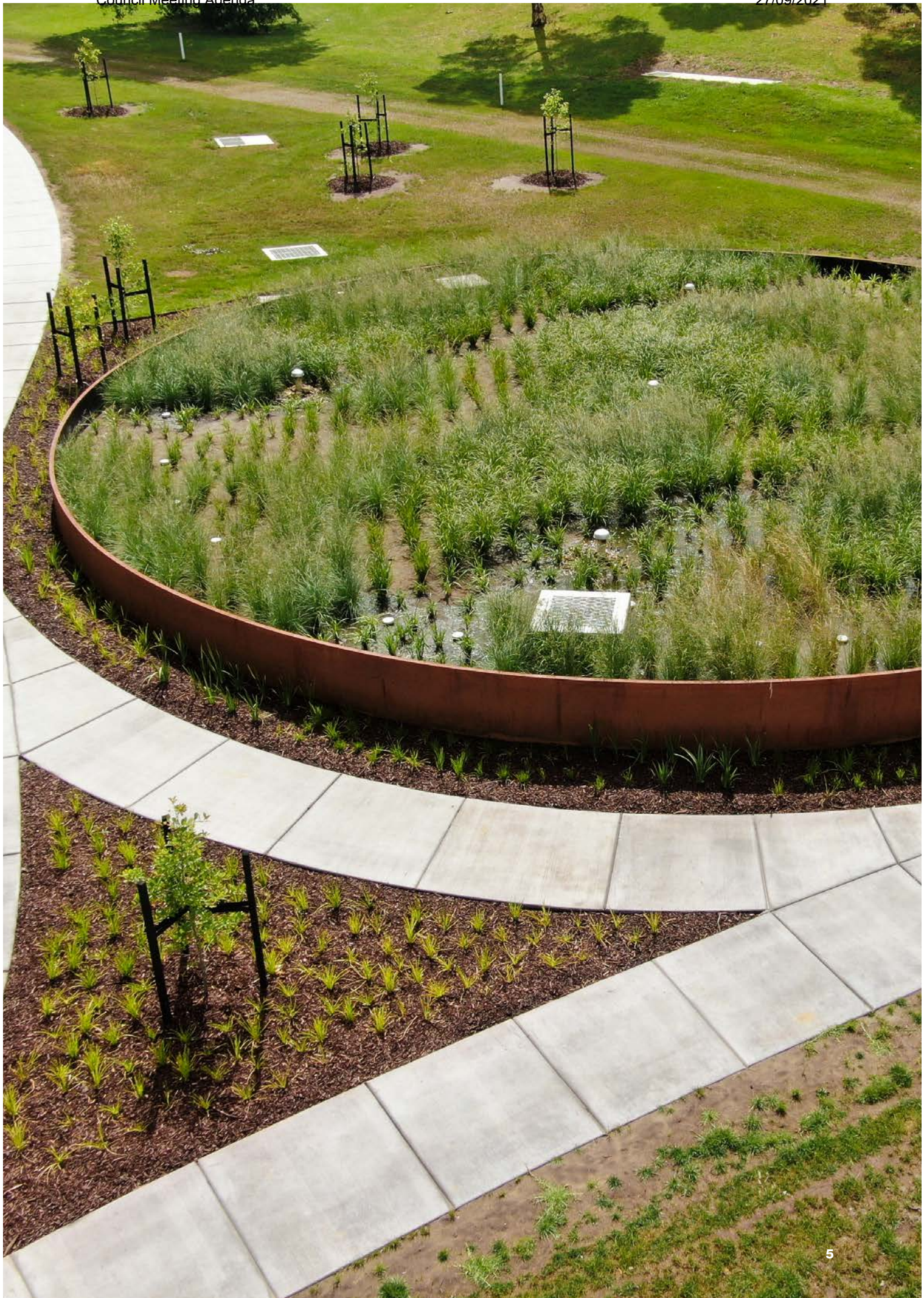
We acknowledge the important global movement towards zero net emissions and that the City of Boroondara should be part of this movement.

Climate change is about more than just greenhouse gas emissions and this is reflected in this Plan. Even if all countries substantially reduce emissions now, it is too late to avoid some long-term changes to our environment. We must prepare to adapt to a warmer, more variable climate with more extreme weather events.

This will impact on both our people and biodiversity. It will affect how we travel, how we use water and how we live our lives. This Climate Action Plan will support the delivery of the Boroondara Community Plan and it will inform all other related strategies and actions, and set Boroondara on a path to a holistic response to these broad challenges.

Outcomes of the Climate Action Plan will be reported on an annual basis, and it will be reviewed and updated in five years.





Our vision

Boroondara is a vibrant and thriving city that lives within its means. We have the capacity to achieve our aspirations, and inspire others along the way. Our vision is that:

- Council and all those that live, work and play in Boroondara will come together in partnership to achieve our goals.
- Boroondara is a green and leafy city with healthy trees, plants and other thriving biodiversity. Our trees and plants absorb and store carbon dioxide emissions, provide habitat and our canopy provides shade and urban cooling.
- Our homes, businesses, schools and other buildings are efficient and resilient to the extremes of our environment. They make efficient use of renewable energy and they are constructed from sustainable materials.
- We travel using a range of convenient, reliable and healthy options. Walking and cycling provide safe and convenient exercise and transport. We use electric vehicles, powered by renewable energy, and other low emission forms of transport.
- We conserve our valuable drinking water and make use of alternatively harvested water in our efficient buildings, gardens and parks.
- Our environment is clean and unpolluted. The quality of our air and waterways is substantially improved.
- We make efficient use of our valuable resources. We avoid single-use items, and we reuse and repurpose. We recycle into a circular economy and make new things from our recycled resources.
- We are ready to incorporate new and evolving technologies that help us mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- We have a flourishing local economy that provides sustainable goods and services to our community.

Our role

We have an essential role to play in climate action. We can:

- Continue to lead, facilitate and support our community to reduce emissions.
- Build on our existing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council-run buildings and services.
- Act on the growing expectation of our community to take holistic action to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- Support our community to mitigate the threats and outcomes of climate change.
- Keep working towards sustainability and resilience within our organisation and for the broader community.
- Partner with councils, governments, agencies and groups to carry out or create opportunities for actions to reduce emissions.
- Play a role in emergency management where appropriate.
- Promote and provide opportunities to learn about climate change mitigation and adaptation through programs and partnerships.
- Take action to achieve net zero carbon neutrality in Council operations by 2022 and support the community to achieve net zero carbon neutrality by 2035.
- Advocate to other levels of government to take climate action.
- Actively incorporate climate change mitigation and management into any new Boroondara Council strategy and policy.
- Support staff to understand the targets and apply the actions of this plan.
- Prepare to adopt and adapt to new and evolving technology.

Our response so far

Strategy

At Council, we have policies and programs that seek to embed environmental sustainability into our operations and services, while also supporting our community to do the same.

The Boroondara Community Plan 2017–2027 (BCP) is Council's overarching strategic document. It guides our decisions and directly informs our annual plans and budgets, as well as all of our strategies, policies and actions.

The BCP has seven priority themes. Theme Three is The Environment and its strategic objective is: Our natural environment is healthy and sustainable for future generations.

Lead our community through advocacy and action to mitigate against and adapt to the impacts of climate change to minimise adverse impacts on community health and wellbeing, our natural environment and facilities and services.

Strategy 3.7 of the Boroondara Community Plan



Other themes and strategies from the BCP also guide our response to environmental sustainability and climate change.

These include:

- Theme Two: Your Parks and Green Spaces
- Theme Five: Getting Around Boroondara
- Theme Seven: Civic Governance and Leadership

The BCP includes the Boroondara Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWB). The Victorian Government *Climate Change Act 2017* requires that local governments must have regard to the potential impacts of climate change when preparing a MPHWB.

Council has policies and strategies that guide us to meet the objectives of the BCP.

These include:

- Our Low Carbon Future Strategy (2009–2020)
- Boroondara Urban Biodiversity Strategy (2013–2023)
- Boroondara Integrated Water Management Strategy (2014–2024)
- Boroondara Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy (2017)
- Boroondara Integrated Transport Strategy (2016)
- Boroondara Tree Strategy (2017–2027)
- Boroondara Sustainable Council Buildings Policy (2016)

The adoption of Council's Our Low Carbon Future – City of Boroondara Strategy (OLCFS) in 2009 set the direction for our climate change mitigation response. The strategy has been supported by three action plans, including the most recent Action Plan Update 2017–2020.

The 2009 strategy had core objectives:

1. Reduce Council's own greenhouse gas emissions
2. Reduce aggregate emissions for Australia
3. Reduce the impact of increasing energy prices on Council's budget
4. Reduce the impact of increasing energy prices on vulnerable sectors of the community
5. Support the Australian Government to introduce more ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets
6. Increase local energy security through investment in renewable energy sources.

The strategy set us a target to reduce our corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 30 to 40 per cent below 2007/08 levels by 2020, and to support the reduction of community emissions by at least 50,000 tonnes of CO₂-e by 2020 through community programs and projects.

Projects

Actions from Our Low Carbon Future strategy focused on addressing key sources of greenhouse gas emissions from our buildings, street lighting and fleet vehicles.

We have made substantial progress in increasing the energy efficiency and low carbon technologies in Council-owned buildings. Significant initiatives and policies that we have delivered include:



- Powering more than 12,000 streetlights and 16 major City of Boroondara buildings with 100 per cent local renewable energy from a Gippsland wind farm until 2030. This accounts for over 85 per cent of Council's total electricity use.
- Upgrading over 7,000 streetlights with more efficient technologies.
- Installed cogeneration at Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre in 2011 and at Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre in 2014. This technology uses natural gas to 'co' generate both heat and electricity onsite where and when it is needed.
- Installing solar PV (rooftop solar) on our buildings including our four aquatic centres. By June 2021, we installed, or had committed to, over 1,133 kW of Solar PV on all Council office, depot and community buildings.
- Delivering a broad suite of cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades at Council's largest buildings via an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) model as used in the Victorian Government's Efficient Government Building Program. This \$2.5M project is now saving 1,700 tonnes of CO₂-e per year and delivering annual savings of over \$250,000.
- During 2020/21 alone, Council implemented over \$1M in additional energy-saving initiatives drawing on what we learned from the EPC project.

Other initiatives

We also run other projects and programs that support environmental sustainability within Council and for our whole community. Key examples include:



- The Council Climate Change Risk Assessment (2020).
- The Sustainable Buildings Policy (2016) which ensures that all new or upgraded buildings are environmentally sustainable while still providing high quality spaces for the community. This policy requires that all Council building projects are equivalent to the 5 Star standard set by the Green Building Council of Australia's Design & As Built Tool.
- The launch in May 2020 of the Food Organics Garden Organics Program (FOGO), providing a huge boost to the diversion of organic materials away from landfill. This is one of the most significant changes in municipal waste management since the introduction of kerbside recycling.
- Supporting the uptake of behaviours and technology to improve residential energy efficiency through community education and incentives via programs such as our Living for our Future program.
- Engaging the Australian Energy Foundation to provide up-to-date and impartial energy efficiency and renewable energy advice and one-to-one support for residents and businesses.
- Discounts for residents on products such as worm farms and compost bins through our Compost Revolution program to divert organic waste from landfill.
- Supporting schools to embed sustainability in their operations and curriculum via programs such as the Teacher Environment Network.
- Constructing roads using recycled asphalt. Council uses asphalt containing materials such as recycled soft plastic bags, glass and leftover cartridge toners. We also reuse recovered asphalt from other Council road projects.
- Participation in the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action where Boroondara is a member of the alliance of eastern suburb councils in Melbourne, combining to deliver programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide support for adapting to the impacts of climate change in our region.

Emissions in Boroondara

Council corporate emissions

As part of Boroondara's Our Low Carbon Future Strategy, we have monitored greenhouse gas emissions since 2007/08 across all Council-run buildings and services. In the baseline year these emissions were 26,837 tonnes of CO₂-e.

Due to ongoing efforts to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and environmental footprint, corporate emissions are now below¹ 6,000 tonnes CO₂-e which represents a reduction of over 80 per cent compared with our baseline year.

Though this an excellent effort, a comparison of the municipal emissions and Council's corporate emissions reveals that Council is directly responsible for less than 1 per cent of municipal emissions. For this reason, we have an important role to play in supporting our community to tackle the greenhouse gas emissions of the broader municipality.

¹ Actual emissions for 2020/21 will be calculated prior to final endorsement of this Plan. From 1 July 2020, Council has purchased 100 per cent renewable electricity for the majority of buildings and street lighting. From 1 July 2020, annualised emission are calculated to be 4,500 tonnes of CO₂-e. This result is partly driven by atypical Council operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have reduced greenhouse gas emissions from Council-run buildings and services by 80 per cent since FY 2007/08

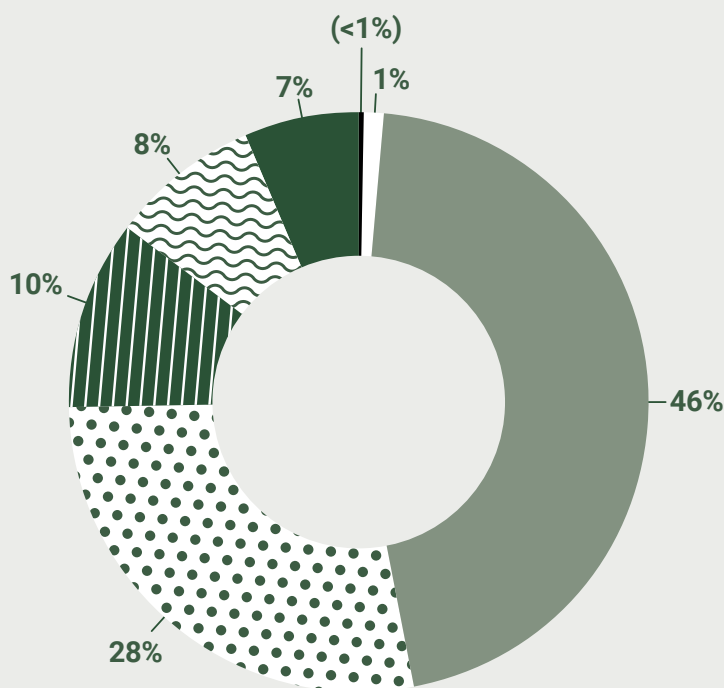
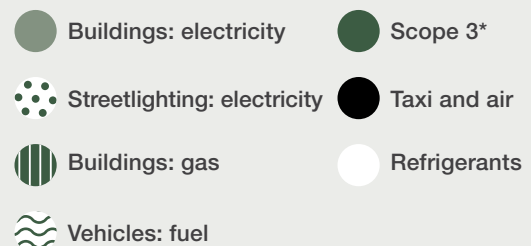


Figure one

Shows the breakdown of Council's corporate emissions by source. The 2007/08 baseline year is used for reference. At 2021, streetlighting electricity is 100 per cent renewable and over 90 per cent of building electricity is also renewable. Renewable electricity does not contribute to our greenhouse emissions total.



**Scope 3 emissions are indirect greenhouse gas emissions*

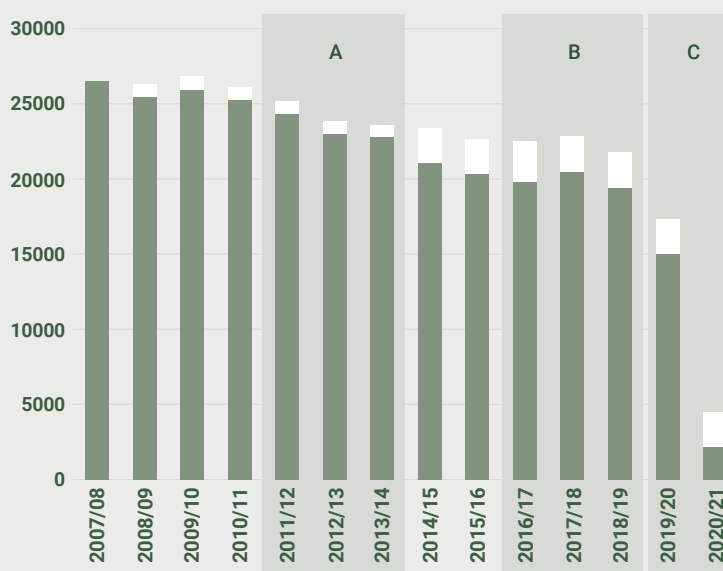


Figure two

Shows Council's corporate emissions over time.

The columns represent actual emissions. The white portion represents emissions from vehicle use which have been offset by the purchase of Australian Biodiversity Regeneration Offsets. The shaded portion represents net emissions after offsetting.

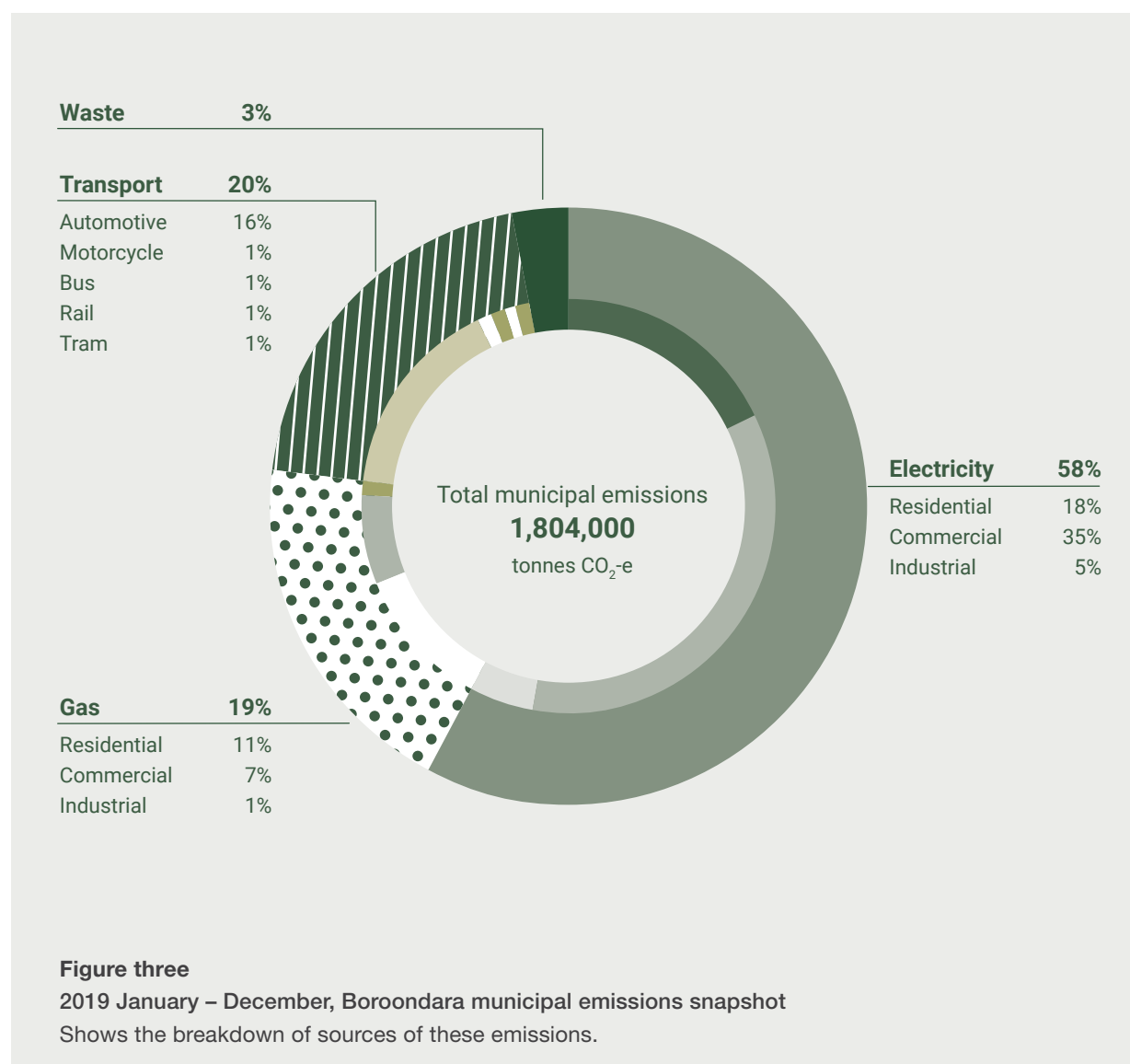
A = Renewable electricity for streetlights introduced

B = Energy Performance Contract begins

C = Power Purchase Agreement begins

Municipality-wide emissions

The Snapshot² database provides information on a subset of the greenhouse gas emissions for the Boroondara municipality. This includes emissions associated with electricity, natural gas, road transport and some elements of waste management. This data also provides a breakdown of emissions according to sector. The Snapshot database is the most readily available information about community emissions in Victorian Local Government areas.



² <https://snapshotclimate.com.au/explore>

The corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory and Snapshot data that we have tracked at Council mostly highlight the emissions related to the purchase of energy in the forms of fuel, natural gas and electricity by individuals, businesses and organisations. This provides a useful indicator of our collective environmental impact and is a useful tool to track our progress.

It is important to recognise that our environmental impact is made up of far more than our energy use alone. Decisions we all make every day contribute to our carbon footprint and impact on the environment. These include what we buy and use, how our food is produced, how we dispose of things and the materials used to build our homes, roads and cities.

In order to truly respond to the challenges of climate change, all of these factors should be considered when developing any plan or action to support environmental sustainability. It is also important to consider opportunities that are particularly relevant to Boroondara. Boroondara is well known for its leafy tree canopy. Our trees and plants provide an

important carbon sink, and by capturing groundwater they reduce flooding and erosion of our waterways. They also provide shade and urban cooling and are vital habitat for our wildlife.

The Plan gives significant consideration to our trees and ways that we can not only protect our existing canopy cover but actually improve on current levels.

Council's recent implementation of our Food Organics Garden Organics Program also has substantial implications for climate change. Diversion of organic material from landfill not only preserves a valuable resource, it also prevents the formation of methane which is a potent greenhouse gas.

Though we don't have a good estimate of average individual greenhouse gas emissions in Boroondara – as such analysis would be difficult, time consuming and expensive to undertake – we do know that there are many actions that we can take as a Council and as a community to reduce our collective impact and create a sustainable, vibrant future.

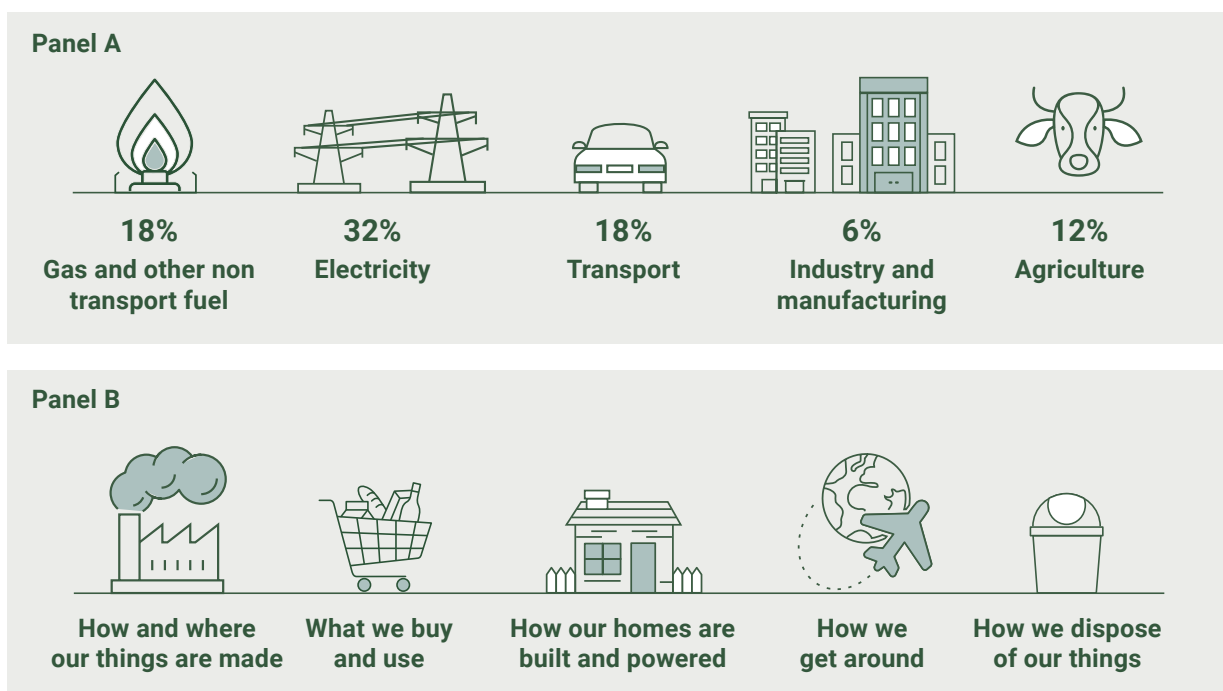


Figure four Greenhouse Gas Emissions Sources (Adapted from Australia State of the Environment Report (2016) and Australian National Greenhouse Accounts)

Panel A Shows the top five emissions sources in Australia and their approximate percentage contribution.

Panel B Shows how we contribute to Australian and global greenhouse gas emissions.

Community consultation informing the plan

We undertook consultation with our community about this Climate Action Plan in 2020.

During the first phase of the consultation, we heard from more than 1,500 community members who shared their feedback online, over the phone and in writing. One third of these community members were randomly selected to participate.

In March/April 2021 we did a follow up survey and workshops. This second phase of consultation told us we were mostly on the right track and that action to mitigate the Boroondara-wide contribution to climate change is

important and necessary, and that our community broadly supports Council to take bold action.

A survey report outlining the consultation process for this plan is published on Council's website.

During 2021, we undertook consultation on the refresh of the Boroondara Community Plan. Community feedback during this process has been considered and incorporated in the development of this Climate Action Plan. The details of the consultation will be publicised during 2021.

Considerations in developing this plan

This Climate Action Plan seeks to guide the City of Boroondara on the most effective path to reduce emissions and to a more sustainable environment.

In developing this plan, Council has considered:

- Community feedback
- Contributions to greenhouse gas emissions by operations managed by Council
- Contributions to greenhouse gas emissions by the Boroondara community
- The relationship between climate change and other previous and future environmental issues such as our biodiversity and the availability of water
- The sphere of influence and capacity to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation that Council has beyond our own operations
- Emission reductions required to avoid the worst impacts of climate change
- Metrics where data is available to us to track and report on the progress of Council and community emissions, and metrics where monitoring and reporting is unfeasible.



Targets

This Climate Action Plan defines targets³ for both Council and the municipality of Boroondara as a whole.

Council corporate greenhouse gas emissions targets

The majority of Council's electricity now comes from renewable energy. This has been an important factor in reducing our own corporate emissions by more than 80 per cent compared with our baseline year of 2007/08. This outcome is double Council's high range target of 40 per cent from the OLCFS. Many of the most cost-effective and best future opportunities for Council to further reduce energy use and costs are at facilities which are supplied by renewable electricity. Improvements at these facilities are important and will continue to be a priority for Council but will not help us achieve our new emissions target on their own.

In setting a corporate greenhouse gas target, Council's approach aligns with the following objectives:

- Reduce energy use and pollution
- Prioritise cleaner energy alternatives
- Pursue cost-effective approaches
- Pursue options that invest locally and offer lasting benefits for Boroondara.

In delivering the Plan, Council will continue to invest in energy efficiency, renewable energy and other local projects and programs that reduce our energy use and any emissions.

Council has set a target to be carbon neutral by 2022. This will be achieved through an investment in meaningful greenhouse gas offsets that are measurable and verifiable. Carbon neutrality has been deferred until one year after adoption of this Plan to allow Council to determine the most appropriate mechanism for achieving it.

As Council continues to improve our own operations, the requirement for offsets will reduce as our level of emissions will shrink as we use less and less greenhouse gases.

Council's approach to targets has considered both what can feasibly be achieved but also the importance of setting objectives that are difficult and will continue to push us as we strive to do better. We may not hit every target but if the opportunities arise, we will go further and sooner.

Targets will be reviewed as part of an update to the Climate Action Plan five years after adoption or sooner if required.

3. Reporting methodology may change during the life of the Plan and targets. Where methodology or other changes impact on reported progress, Council will publish the details of any changes and the impact of these changes on reported progress. ie changes in emissions factors or criteria for determining the extent of tree canopy.



Community greenhouse emissions aspirational targets

Unlike Federal and State Governments, local governments do not have broad legislative or financial control over major community emissions sources. For example, electricity generation and distribution, transport policy, planning controls and agricultural regulations are mostly controlled by the State and Federal Governments. Additionally taxation and levies along with associated financial incentives are less available to local governments. Council recognises a role in all of these matters but can only partner in solutions and is not able to enforce an outcome.

The aspirational targets for the whole Boroondara community will be more difficult to achieve and will require efforts from Council and the whole community.

These targets reflect where we need to be to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and will only be achievable if other levels of government and the Boroondara community are committed to the same path. Council cannot mandate a target like other levels of government, due to the different powers they hold that enable them to make decisions which directly influence the level of emissions. Meeting these targets will require productive partnerships with community members, businesses and institutions.

We have set targets that are challenging but achievable.

Council's corporate targets

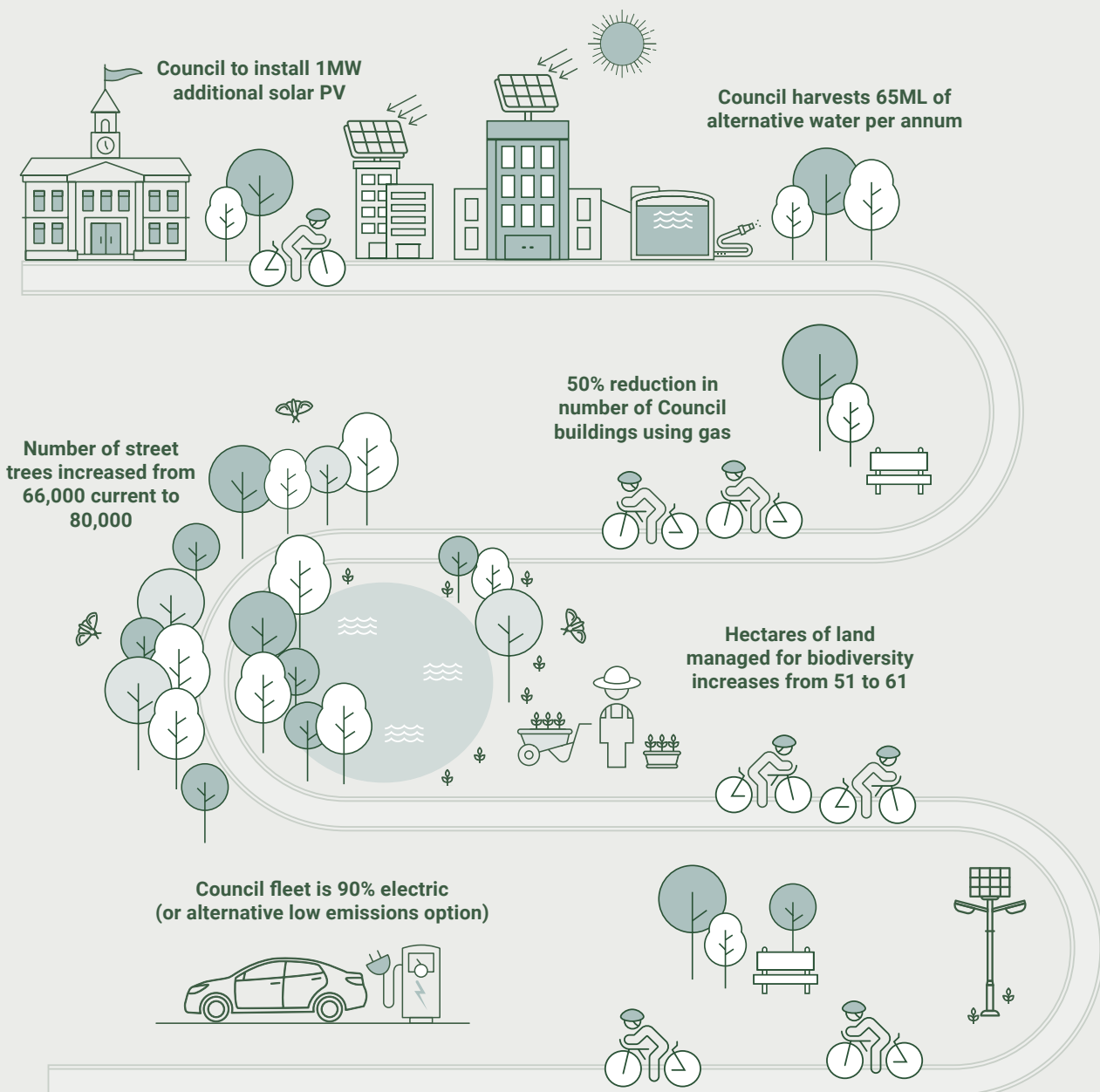


90% Council actual emission
reduction **by 2030**
(compared with FY 2007/08)

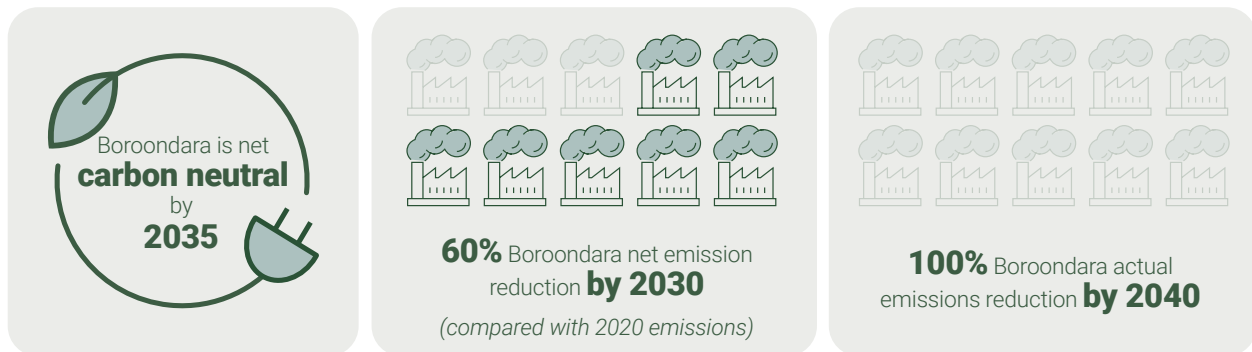


100% Council actual emission
reduction **by 2040**

Supporting measures by 2030



Aspirational community targets



Supporting measures by 2030



Actions

The actions identified in this Climate Action Plan will set the municipality on a path to meet our targets.

Some of these actions are ready to roll out, and some require more planning and development. Other actions define how new or updated policy frameworks should be developed in order to allow us to meet our objectives and targets.

These actions have been identified as achievable priorities by our community and staff, and through researched best practice to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Though some items require commitments from partners, or some technology to be more widely available, our action plan includes taking steps towards the implementation of those items when possible to do so.

As an example, around 8 per cent (based on 2007/08 levels, and making up a total of 40 per cent of emissions in 2021) of Council's greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas is used primarily to heat buildings and pools. A further 8 per cent (also based on 2007/08 levels) is from Council's vehicle fleet which includes large waste collection vehicles.

Council has set a target to halve the number of Council buildings using natural gas by 2030. This will be most readily achieved through the transition of smaller facilities and buildings to using electric

power exclusively. Council will also actively pursue opportunities to transition our larger facilities and aquatic centres off natural gas. Heat pump technology is currently the most viable solution for heating these facilities, but further work is required to demonstrate the operational and cost-effectiveness of this type of technology in the Melbourne climate. The timing for conversion of these larger facilities will mostly be determined by the development of viable technological solutions. Council will work with other Victorian councils to build knowledge and trial appropriate technologies.

Council has set a target to convert 90 per cent of our passenger fleet to electric vehicles (EVs) or an alternative low emissions technology by 2030. This transition will initially focus on light vehicles but will progressively include heavier vehicles where appropriate. Small EV and other low emissions vehicles are now readily available but further development is required before replacement of Council's larger vehicles is viable. Supporting infrastructure will also be required to make the transition feasible. Council will respond to opportunities presented by industry transformation throughout the life of the Plan.

Council's actions over the ten year life of the Plan are summarised under five key themes:



Energy efficiency and renewable energy



Biodiversity and trees



Water and waterways



Transport



Circular economy (waste)



Actions which impact on more than one theme are captured as overarching actions.

Under each theme the actions are classified as:

- Council corporate actions
- Partnership actions
- Adaptation actions
- Policy and advocacy actions

These long-term and broad actions will be supported by more detailed actions identified in the Climate Action Plan Implementation Plans, theme-specific strategies and as part of Council's annual budget process.





Energy efficiency and renewable energy

Corporate actions

- 1.1** Implement and update Council's Sustainable Council Building Policy to progressively enhance the energy performance of Council buildings
- 1.2** Expand Council's renewable energy generation capacity by:
 - installing solar PV on all suitable buildings
 - installing batteries at suitable locations
 - supporting the use of solar PV at other locations
- 1.3** Progressively transition Council buildings off natural gas
- 1.4** Offset residual Council emissions from 2022
- 1.5** Convert remaining Council legacy lighting to LED technology
- 1.6** Progressively audit Council's building stock to identify energy efficiency opportunities.
- 1.7** Progressively upgrade major road streetlights to LED (subject to State Government co-funding and an updated business case)
- 1.8** Transition Council's small machines to electric powered alternatives.

Partnership actions

- 1.9** Implement a community solar PV, battery and energy efficiency bulk buy program
- 1.10** Assist large energy users to switch to renewable energy via Power Purchase Agreement or other mechanism
- 1.11** Provide advice and support to encourage ESD standards in building, renovation and development (beyond requirements of Planning Scheme and Building Regulations)
- 1.12** Deliver energy efficiency workshops, advice and support programs for community and businesses

- 1.13** Support businesses to reduce the environmental impact of their operations
- 1.14** Encourage community to offset residual emissions
- 1.15** Develop a program to support energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades for Boroondara homes and businesses.

Adaptation actions

- 1.16** Maintain an Emergency Management Plan that considers likely impacts of climate change
- 1.17** Progressively enhance the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) in Council buildings
- 1.18** Promote the benefits of cool roofs
- 1.19** Support vulnerable and low-income residents to upgrade home energy efficiency.

Policy and advocacy

- 1.20** Support increased ESD in Council's Planning Scheme through Council policy and advocacy
- 1.21** Advocate for the enhanced environmental sustainability standards for new commercial and residential developments
- 1.22** Advocate to State and Federal Government for the adoption of ambitious emission targets
- 1.23** Develop a Natural Gas Transition Plan to bring forward the adoption of low emissions alternatives to natural gas use at Council buildings.



Biodiversity and trees

Corporate actions

- 2.1 Increase area managed for biodiversity by 10 hectares from the current 51 hectares
- 2.2 Enhance habitat for biodiversity
- 2.3 Enhanced tree planting program to support transition of our urban canopy to one that is resilient and future proofed and provides shade and urban cooling

Partnership actions

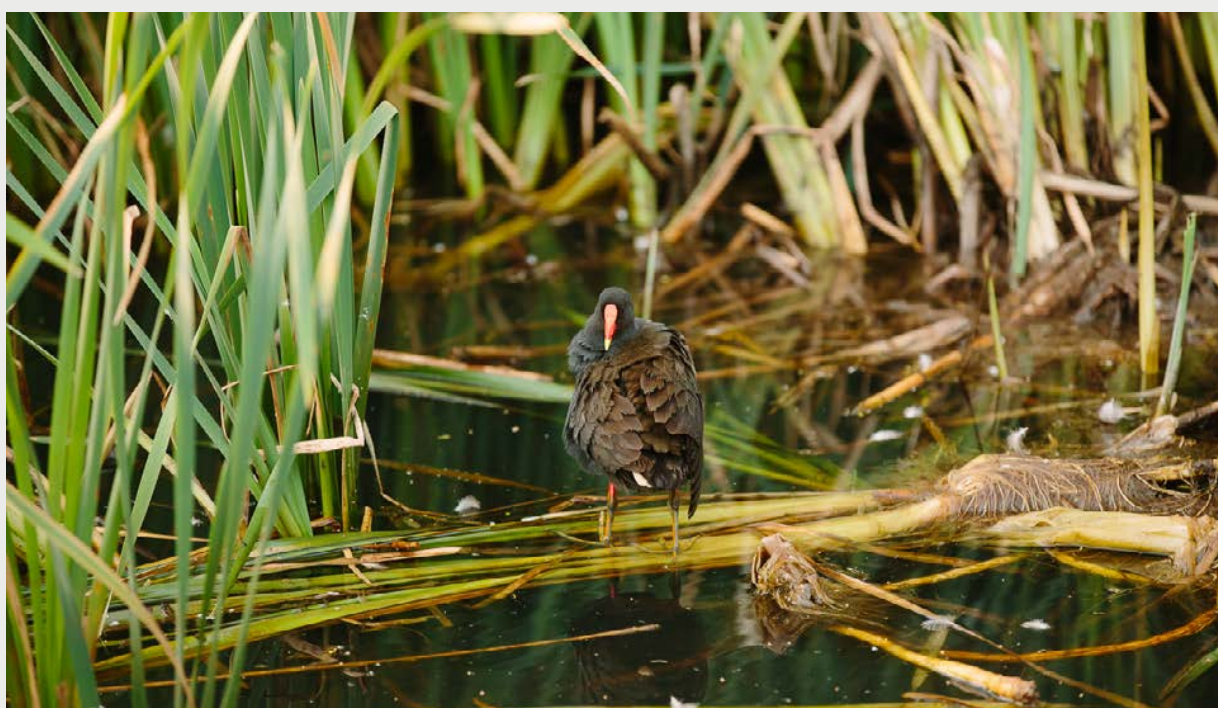
- 2.4 Provide tree giveaways to schools, community groups and residents
- 2.5 Deliver education workshops and programs that support protection and enhancement of our biodiversity.

Adaptation actions

- 2.6 Include climate change criteria in Council's tree renewal and plant selection guidelines
- 2.7 Deliver a program of habitat restoration and the installation of nest boxes
- 2.8 Provide support for increasing the number of canopy trees and shade to reduce urban heat
- 2.9 Increase open space in gap areas
- 2.10 Review the Naturestrip Guidelines to facilitate using these spaces.

Policy and advocacy

- 2.11 Develop an Urban Forest/ Urban Greening Strategy for Boroondara with an associated planting plan
- 2.12 Expand and implement policies to protect trees on private land
- 2.13 Advocate to the Victorian Government to enhance tree protection on private land
- 2.14 Expand and enforce tree protection regulations for developers
- 2.15 Update the Boroondara Open Space Strategy.





Water and waterways

Corporate actions

- 3.1** Implement and update Council's Sustainable Council Building Policy to progressively enhance efficient water use at Council buildings
- 3.2** Continue to increase water harvesting at Council buildings, parks and sports grounds
- 3.3** Develop a new Integrated Water Management (IWM) infrastructure program: a prioritised plan to develop and implement new IWM projects (stormwater treatment, harvesting and reuse, litter management).

Partnership actions

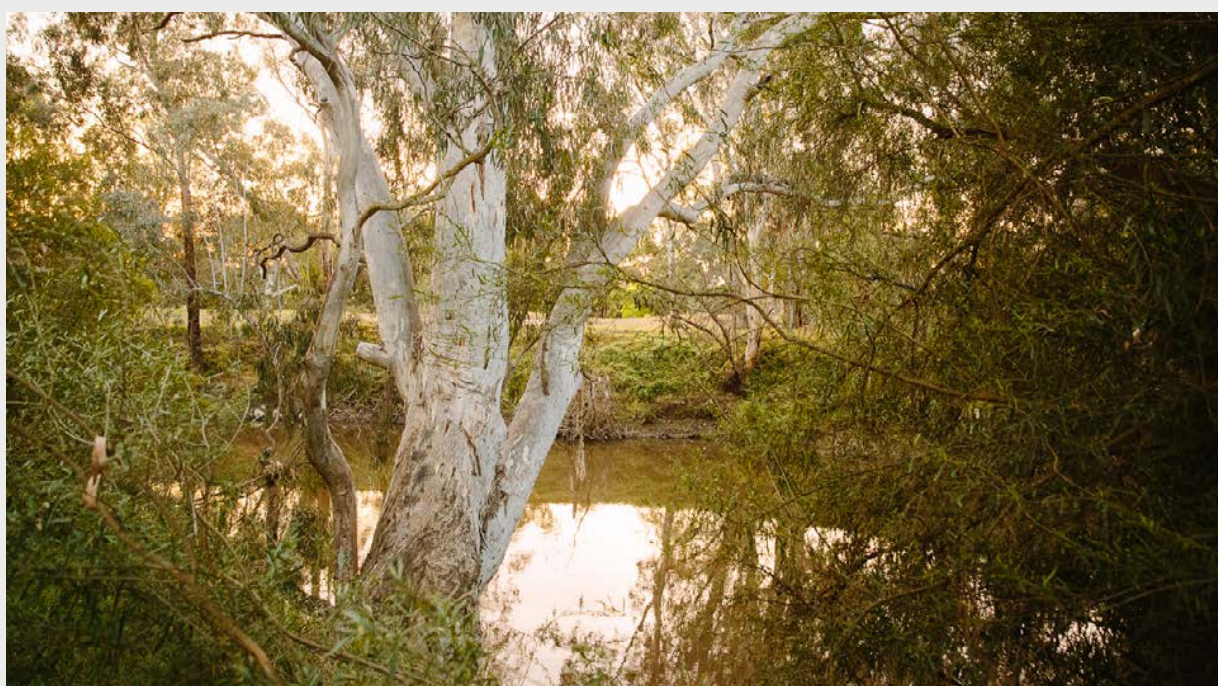
- 3.4** Deliver sustainability workshops to enhance community capacity to use water sustainably
- 3.5** Provide water efficiency advice and support programs for businesses
- 3.6** Develop a cleaner building site program, targeting sediment runoff from development sites, and an engagement and enforcement program.

Adaptation actions

- 3.7** Progressively increase harvesting of alternative water and increase efficiency of water use to reduce reliance on mains water
- 3.8** Update and implement Council's Integrated Water Management Plan
- 3.9** Continue to build capacity of our infrastructure to withstand storm and flooding events.

Policy and advocacy

- 3.10** Maintain an Integrated Water Management Strategy and Action Plan for Boroondara
- 3.11** Implement and promote actions to reduce urban stormwater runoff including permeable surface requirements
- 3.12** Improved building site management preventing pollution to our waterways
- 3.13** Develop a winter irrigation strategy for Boroondara
- 3.14** Develop and implement updated soil management and irrigation management plans for healthier open space.





Transport

Corporate actions

- 4.1** Reduce the total number of vehicles in Council's fleet and accelerate the transition to electric-powered or other low emissions options
- 4.2** Identify and set aside land for fast charging stations including car-sharing models
- 4.3** Pursue opportunities to include electric vehicle and bicycle charging in all relevant Council civil works
- 4.4** Support flexible working arrangements for Council staff to reduce trips by motor vehicles
- 4.5** Require contractors to use low emission vehicles where practicable in new contracts.

Partnership actions

- 4.6** Promote sustainability programs and events to encourage more sustainable modes of transport
- 4.7** Support installation of electric vehicle and bicycle charging infrastructure
- 4.8** Support improved off-road shared or separated bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- 4.9** Connect the off-road cycling network through new links (on and off-road) including improved crossing facilities on main and local roads
- 4.10** Investigate and support more on-road bike lane facilities
- 4.11** Create and enhance walking routes to transport hubs
- 4.12** Deliver a range of sustainable transport events and programs for schools.

Adaptation actions

- 4.13** Implement Council's Shade Policy and pursue opportunities to enhance shade on walking routes
- 4.14** Install lighting for shared paths and paths in reserves and parks to encourage walking and cycling (with consideration of adverse impacts from light pollution).

Policy and advocacy

- 4.15** Review and update Council's Integrated Transport Strategy
- 4.16** Develop a Bicycle Strategy
- 4.17** Develop a Public Transport Strategy
- 4.18** Advocate for the reduction of freight emissions including incentives for electric trucks and anti-idling
- 4.19** Advocate for all Victorian transport projects to provide ready to use electric vehicle and bicycle charging infrastructure
- 4.20** Advocate for fast charging in service stations
- 4.21** Review Council's Car Share Policy and Procedures to provide support for sustainable transport
- 4.22** Advocate for the construction of location-appropriate DDA-compliant tram stops
- 4.23** Support local business hubs which reduce commuter travel
- 4.24** Develop a Council Fleet Transition Plan to support the adoption of low emission vehicles in Council operations.



Circular economy (waste)

Corporate actions

- 5.1 Increase recycling options available to the Boroondara community and support new recycling options for items such as solar PV panels
- 5.2 Increase the use of recycled materials in Council projects and operations
- 5.3 Eliminate non-essential use of single-use plastic at Council-sponsored and organised events
- 5.4 Develop opportunities to use FOGO compost in Council's open spaces and parks
- 5.5 Investigate opportunities to expand the FOGO program.

Adaptation actions

- 5.8 Support increased home food gardening and community gardening and composting
- 5.9 Explore options for waste disposal other than landfill.

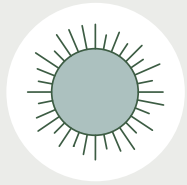
Policy and advocacy

- 5.10 Develop a Circular Economy Strategy for Boroondara to replace the current Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy
- 5.11 Advocate for greater environmental sustainability in the National Construction Code.

Partnership actions

- 5.6 Deliver workshops and support for:
 - Increased use of recycled materials
 - Reduced food waste
 - increased composting
- 5.7 Deliver business focused programs to:
 - Reduce food waste
 - Reduce packaging waste.





Overarching

Corporate actions

- 6.1** Report annually on Council's climate action performance
- 6.2** Include climate action education as part of staff induction
- 6.3** Increase funding for climate action grants as part of Council's grant program
- 6.4** Promote Council action on climate and the benefits of community action
- 6.5** Embed climate action into staff roles and responsibilities and performance management
- 6.6** Collaboration with other councils to increase collective impact
- 6.7** Introduce interim targets at least equal to those set by the State and Federal Governments
- 6.8** Consider environmental sustainability in investment decisions
- 6.9** Pursue opportunities to use smart technologies and IOT (Internet of Things) to achieve greater environmental sustainability
- 6.10** Provide training and resources for Councillors about climate change and other sustainability issues relevant to Boroondara.

Partnership actions

- 6.11** Provide workshop programs and sustainability festivals
- 6.12** Provide regular sustainability education and advice through Council's communication channels including the Boroondara Bulletin
- 6.13** Support greater sustainability measures through the planning permit assessment process including a new Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Planning Officer position at Council
- 6.14** Continue to participate in the development of an Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) policy to include in the Boroondara Planning Scheme as part of Council's membership in the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE)
- 6.15** Provide a program of sustainability support and advice for schools and young people.

Adaptation actions

- 6.16** Develop options for the use of alternative permeable and/or heat-reducing surfaces in roadways and pathways
- 6.17** Develop a Climate Action Plan/Risk Management Strategy for Boroondara
- 6.18** Implement actions to respond to climate change risks identified for Boroondara.

Policy and advocacy

- 6.19** Update our Procurement Policy, emphasising greater sustainability
- 6.20** Develop a Litter and Pollution Reduction Plan for Boroondara
- 6.21** Consider climate change impacts in relevant Council reports and decision-making
- 6.22** Embed climate action into all new and revised Council policies, processes and strategies
- 6.23** Advocate for and support greater Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) through the planning scheme
- 6.24** Pursue opportunities to improve air quality in Boroondara such as anti-idling education around schools
- 6.25** Pursue opportunities for enhanced data collection and monitoring for reporting on climate actions and impacts
- 6.26** Advocate to other levels of government and relevant agencies to provide funding for Local Government Authorities and communities to take action to respond to climate change.

How this plan links to other work and policies

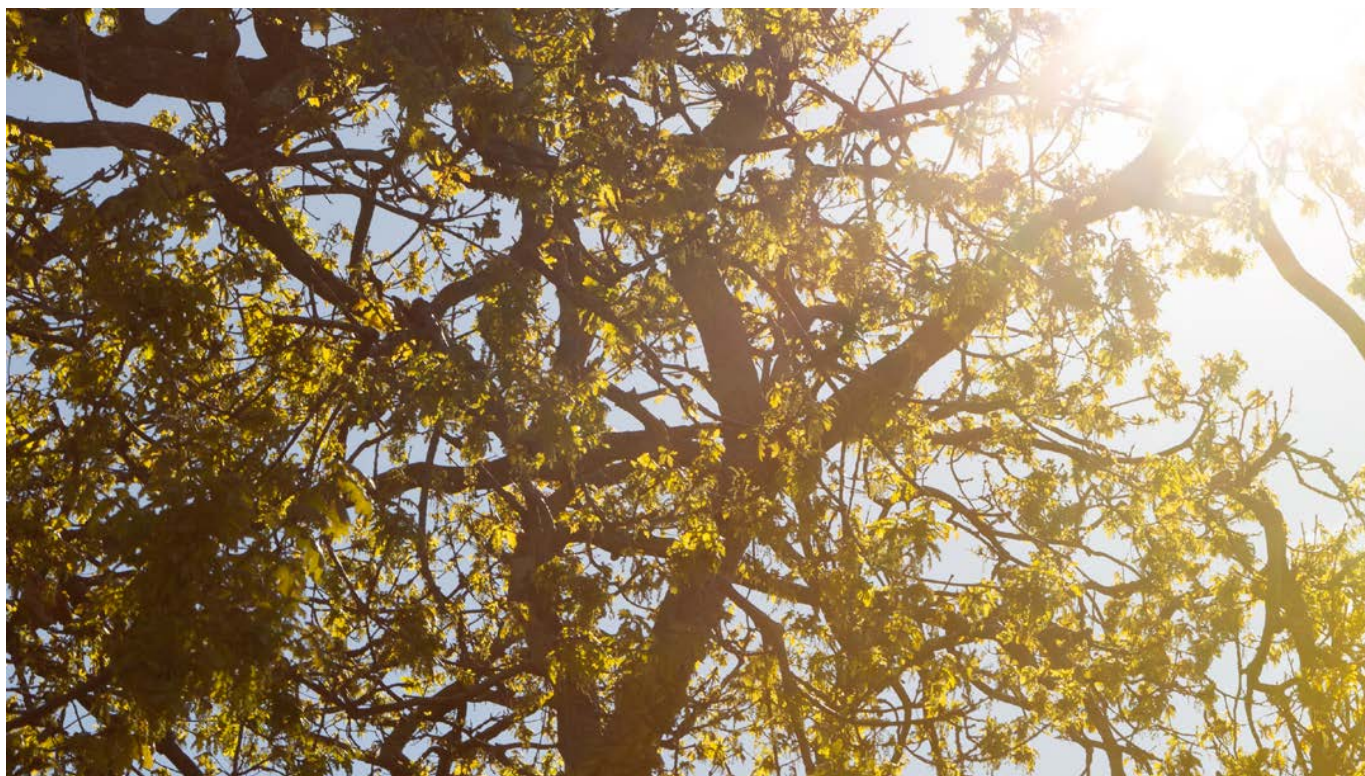
The broad nature and impact of climate change means that it is not possible to capture all actions in a single document.

The Climate Action Plan will be supported by a range of other specific strategic documents, as outlined below. Some of these strategies already exist, and others will be developed or refreshed as part of the actions of this plan.

Our Boroondara Community Plan incorporates the Health and Wellbeing Plan which is required to respond to climate change under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Strategic links will include:

- Urban Forest Strategy (New strategy as an action of this plan.)
- Open Space Strategy
- Integrated Water Management Strategy
- Urban Biodiversity Strategy
- Sustainable Transport Policy
- Public Lighting Policy (Refresh of our current policy to better integrate sustainability.)
- Sustainable Procurement (Refresh of our current policy to better integrate sustainability.)
- Council Fleet Policy (Refresh of our current policy to better integrate sustainability.)
- Circular Economy Strategy (Refresh of our Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy.)
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan (New strategy as an action of this plan.)



Monitoring and reporting on our actions

This plan will be periodically monitored to track our progress.

Annual monitoring and reporting will include:

- Greenhouse gas emissions for Council
- Snapshot emissions for community
- Waste, recycling and FOGO data
- Tree planting and renewal
- Water use and harvesting
- Biodiversity actions
- Workshops and community support programs.

The Climate Action Plan will be reviewed and updated in five years and the implementation plan will be updated every two years. These updates will include a community check-in survey.



Community suggestions for future action plans

During our consultation and planning for the Climate Action Plan, we received many ideas and suggestions from the Boroondara community, Council staff and technical experts.

Not all of these ideas could make it into the plan. Some are included, some

require further investigation and planning, some have been tried before, some are currently being tried by other Councils and others do not align with Council priorities. Whether these suggestions are able to be enacted or not, they are all worth recording for future consideration⁴.



4. Many of the comments have been paraphrased or combined with similar suggestions. Feedback opposing action was also received but has not been included in this list.

- Adapt infrastructure to climate change
- Backyard chickens
- Buying from bulk food shops
- Buying second hand
- Clean up our local waterways
- Councillors and Council staff should use sustainable transport
- Declare a climate emergency
- Divest from fossil fuels
- Dog poo composting
- Efficient glazing
- Energy efficient public lighting
- Expand FOGO
- Get rid of all plastic bags
- Growing our own fruit and vegetables
- Household batteries
- Increase permeable surfaces
- Keep cats inside at night
- LED lighting
- Less fast fashion
- More community gardens
- More focus on good building design
- More nesting boxes for biodiversity
- More sharing, possibly sharing cafes
- More sustainable planning and building controls
- Plant appropriate trees for the location
- Plant native gardens
- Promote Clean Up Australia Day
- Reduce air travel
- Reduce chemical and other pollution
- Reduce concrete use
- Reduce meat consumption
- Reduce the use of gas
- Repair broken items
- Simplify recycling
- Support a container deposit scheme
- Support bees and insects
- Support cycling
- Support edible plants on nature strips
- Support for apartment dwellers
- Support for renters
- Support schools and students
- Undertake cost benefit analysis before making decisions
- Use more renewable energy
- Using grey water
- Worm farms and home composting

Glossary

Actual carbon emissions total carbon emissions without offsets.

Carbon emissions amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by coal-fired power generators, transport, forest burning, slash-and-burn agriculture, etc.

Net carbon-neutrality a state in which an organisation or country balances its carbon emission against its carbon reductions to achieve zero net emissions of carbon dioxide.

Actual carbon emissions are defined by Council as emissions that do not include carbon emissions offsets. Actual carbon-neutrality requires all energy to be from zero carbon sources.

Circular economy an economy in which all the elements in the production cycle are reused or recycled, so that there is no pollution or waste.

Climate change a significant change in the usual climatic conditions persisting for an extended period, especially one thought to be caused by global warming.

CO₂-e or carbon dioxide equivalent a term used to describe a standard unit used to measure carbon footprint. CO₂-e includes carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other more potent greenhouse gases such as methane. These gases are expressed as equivalent (-e) to CO₂. 1kg of methane has an equivalent contribution to global warming to 25-28kg of CO₂.

Cogenerator technology that uses natural gas to generate both heat and electricity, and is significantly more efficient than using energy from a single source.

Emissions offset a reduction in emissions made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere.

Electric vehicle a car or other vehicle that is powered using an electric motor, unlike traditional vehicles that use fuel and/or gases.

ESD Ecologically Sustainable Development or Environmentally Sustainable Design. These terms or other variations are often used interchangeably.

FOGO food organics and garden organics, often referring to collection services of these items.

Greenhouse gas one of a number of gases found in the atmosphere that contribute to the retention of heat by the process known as the greenhouse effect.

IOT the Internet of Things is the network of physical objects that are embedded with sensors, software and other technologies for the purpose of connecting and exchanging data with other devices and systems over the Internet.

IWM Integrated Water Management – the coordinated management of all components of the water cycle including water consumption, rainwater, stormwater, wastewater and

groundwater, to secure a range of benefits for the wider catchment.

Net carbon emissions actual carbon emissions minus emissions offsets.

Renewable energy energy from a renewable source, such as solar energy, wind energy or biomass. Sometimes also referred to as 'green energy' or 'green electricity'.

Scope 3 emissions are indirect greenhouse gas emissions that occur as a consequence of activities. For Council these include electricity transmission losses and taxi travel. Council treats streetlighting as Scope 2. More detail is available on request or at www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/NGER

Snapshot database CO₂ emissions snapshots for municipalities in Australia at snapshotclimate.com.au

Single-use items intended for disposal after only one use.

Solar PV (also known as solar photovoltaic) is technology that converts sunlight into electricity.

Urban cooling reducing heat levels in urban areas through efforts such as increased vegetation, shade and tree canopies.

Zero net emissions achieving a balance in the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere.



Photo taken by John FitzGerald

For more information on the Climate Action Plan:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/CAP



boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au



9278 4444



Boroondara
Community Plan
2017-2027





Climate Action Plan

Implementation Plan 2021/22 and 2022/23

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Introduction

The *Climate Action Plan (2021)* sets the direction for Council's response to the challenge of climate change over a ten-year period. This Implementation Plan defines the highest priority actions for implementation over the first two years. This Implementation Plan does not duplicate background information found in the Climate Action Plan, but presents tangible actions that will be undertaken by Council either alone or in partnership with our community or other organisations over the next two years.

Actions are grouped in tables according to the key themes of the Climate Action Plan. It is acknowledged that actions may support multiple themes and targets identified in the Climate Action Plan,

however to avoid duplication actions have been nominally placed against themes they appear to be most aligned with. In some cases, where an action has strong links to multiple themes, the action has been included in the Overarching actions section.

There is also a complementary activities section which highlights some of Council's many complementary activities that are consistent with the Climate Action Plan's vision and objectives.



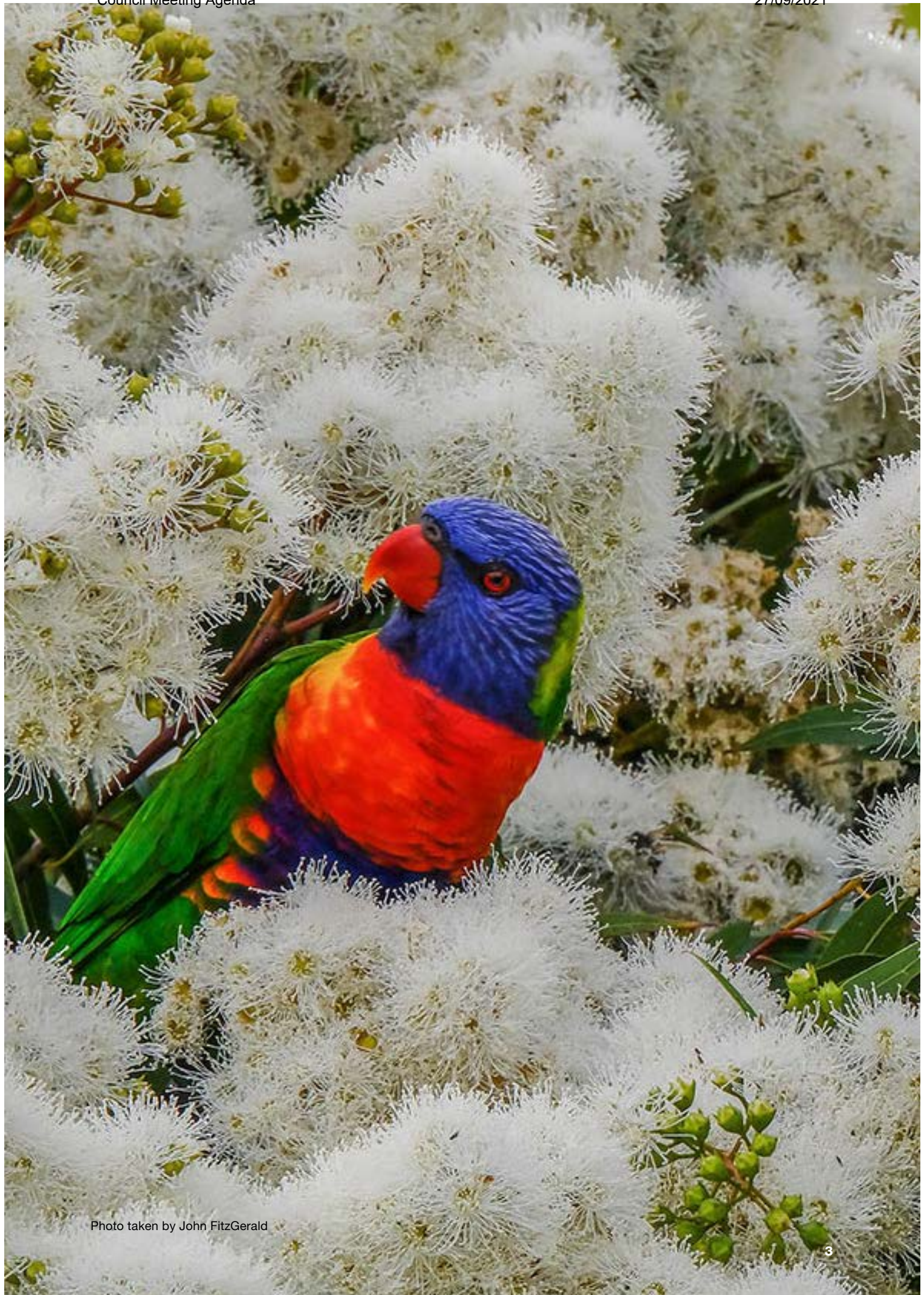
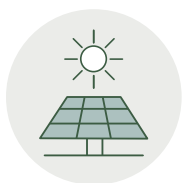


Photo taken by John FitzGerald



Energy efficiency and renewable energy

Corporate action description	Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
1.1 Offset corporate greenhouse gas emissions to meet Council's carbon neutrality commitment.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 1.4 and supports the target of Council being net carbon neutral by 2022.
1.2 Install additional solar PV on three-four buildings.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 1.2 and supports the target to install 1MW additional solar PV on Council buildings by 2030.
1.3 Implement outstanding actions from audits completed prior to 2022.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 1.5 and supports the target of 90% Council actual emission reduction by 2030.
1.4 Purchase electric small plant and equipment such as chainsaws and blowers.	21/22	This aligns with action 1.8 and supports the target of 90% Council actual emission reduction by 2030.
1.5 Implement electric upgrades at four sites (natural gas disconnection).	22/23	This aligns with action 1.3 and supports the target of a 50% reduction in the number of Council buildings using gas by 2030.
1.6 Purchase green electricity for Council's small sites (approximately 20% of electricity used by Council).	21/22	This action supports the target of 90% Council actual emission reduction by 2030.
1.7 Continue replacing residential streetlights with efficient globes and technology. Over 7000 lights have already been upgraded.	Ongoing	This action supports the target of 90% Council actual emission reduction by 2030.
1.8 Purchase 100% renewable energy for Council's main buildings and streetlights via a Power Purchase Agreement. Since July 2020, approximately 80% of Council used electricity is generated at a Victorian wind farm.	Ongoing	This action supports the target of 90% Council actual emission reduction by 2030.
1.9 Update major road streetlight feasibility study and seek State Government funding to implement.	21/22	This aligns with action 1.7 and supports the target of 90% Council actual emission reduction by 2030.

Partnership action description		Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
1.10	Implement a solar PV bulk buy program for homes and businesses. Subject to feasibility, program will include additional products such as batteries and heat pumps.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 1.9 and supports the target of 50,000kW additional solar PV (currently 27,000 kW) on buildings in the community by 2030.
1.11	Develop and deliver a home and business energy audit program.	22/23	This aligns with action 1.15 and supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.
1.12	Provide sustainability resources for loan via the Boroondara Libraries. Items including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power monitors for electricity audits • Simple thermal cameras to identify 'leaky' buildings. 	Ongoing	This aligns with action 1.12 and supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.
1.13	Provide increased support for community leadership on climate action.	21/23 22/23	This aligns with action 1.12 and supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.

Policy and advocacy action description		Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
1.14	Develop a natural gas transition plan for Council buildings with a focus on high emission sites including aquatic centres (subject to initial feasibility and analysis).	21/22	This supports target of a 50% reduction in the number of Council buildings using gas by 2030.



Biodiversity and trees

Corporate action description	Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
2.1 Develop a plan to increase tree canopy and biodiversity plantings over a two hectare area of the Freeway Golf Course and begin implementation of that plan.	22/23	This aligns with action 2.3 and supports the target for canopy cover in Boroondara to increase from 28% to 30%.
2.2 Increase the area managed for biodiversity by one hectare a year and continue maintain existing area (currently 51 hectares).	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 2.1 and supports the target to have 61 hectares of land managed for biodiversity by 2030 (compared the current 51 ha).
2.3 Undertake annual street tree planting and renewal of 1000 trees per year.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 2.3 and supports the target to increase the number of street trees to 80,000 by 2030 (compared to the current 66,000).
2.4 Undertake a review of mowing frequencies to align with good turf practices, improved turf health and reduced resource use and increased carbon sequestration. Aim to decrease mowing by approximately 40%.	21/22	This action supports the target of 90% Council actual emission reduction by 2030.
2.5 Design and rebuild Maranoa Botanic Garden office space to include an environmental education facility (will be completed 2023/24).	21/22 22/23	This action supports the target to have 3,000 annual participants in sustainability workshops/ education opportunities.

Partnership action description	Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
2.6 Provide increased support for community groups working in biodiversity areas.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 2.2.
2.7 Deliver the Backyard Biodiversity Project annually to encourage and support residents to create indigenous habitat gardens.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 2.5 and supports the target for residents and schools to plant 50,000 new indigenous plants including 10,000 trees by 2030.
2.8 Develop a self-guided walking tour for Maranoa Botanic Gardens.	22/23	This action supports the target to have 3,000 annual participants in sustainability workshops/ education opportunities.
2.9 Provide 5,000 indigenous tube stock to schools, community groups and residents.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 2.4 and supports the target for residents and schools to plant 50,000 new indigenous plants including 10,000 trees by 2030.
2.10 Develop and deliver a weed swap initiative that allows residents to access free indigenous plants in return for removing environmental weeds from their garden.	21/22	This aligns with action 2.4 and supports the target for residents and schools to plant 50,000 new indigenous plants including 10,000 trees by 2030.

Adaptation action description	Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
2.11 Undertake a comprehensive audit of Council's tree population, including canopy cover, identification of planting opportunities, and assessment of tree health. This information is essential for future renewal and planting, and the development of an effective Urban Greening Strategy for Boroondara.	22/23	This aligns with action 2.11 and supports the target for canopy cover in Boroondara to increase from 28% to 30%.
2.12 Review and promote the Naturestrip Guidelines to facilitate use of these spaces to enhance biodiversity.	21/22	This aligns with action 2.10 and supports the target for canopy cover in Boroondara to increase from 28% to 30%.
2.13 Expand our log hollow habitat enhancement for sugar gliders program to include the installation and monitoring of log hollows for hollow dependent birds.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 2.7 to deliver a program of habitat restoration and install nest boxes.

Policy and advocacy action description	Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
2.14 Engage a Landscape Compliance Officer to audit planting required on private property as per conditions of planning permits.	22/23	This aligns with action 2.14 and supports the target for canopy cover in Boroondara to increase from 28% to 30%.



Water and waterways

Corporate action description	Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
3.1 Develop a new Integrated Water Management (IWM) infrastructure program: a prioritised plan to develop and implement new IWM projects (stormwater treatment, harvesting and reuse, litter management).	22/23	This aligns with action 3.3 and supports the target that Council harvests 65 ML of alternative water per annum.
3.2 Construct Councils next priority Water Harvesting Project – nominally at Macleay Park subject to community consultation in 2021/22.	22/23	This aligns with actions 3.2 and 3.7 and supports the target that Council harvests 65 ML of alternative water per annum.
3.3 Conduct an annual program of water efficiency retrofits.	Ongoing	This action will improve water efficiency across Council buildings.

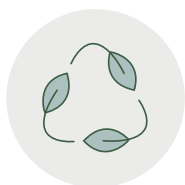
Policy and advocacy action description	Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
3.4 Develop a program of winter irrigation of parks and open space using surplus water from our current and future raingardens and water harvesting facilities.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 3.13.
3.5 Develop a cleaner building site program, targeting sediment runoff from development sites, and an engagement and enforcement program.	22/23	This aligns with actions 3.6 and 3.12 and will prevent sand, soil, cement and other building materials from reaching waterways, resulting in a healthier environment.



Transport

Corporate action description		Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
4.1	Conduct electric vehicle charging feasibility analysis at Council's Camberwell offices and Kew and Riversdale depots.	21/22	This aligns with actions 4.1 and 4.24 and supports the target that Council fleet is 90% electric (or alternative low emissions option) by 2030.
4.2	Install fast charging stations at two community locations.	21/22	This aligns with action 4.7 and supports the target that there is access to EV charging within 2 km of all activity centres by 2030.
4.3	Develop a fleet transition plan for the transition of Council's and contractor operations fleets to EV.	22/23 (scope to be determined in 21/22)	This aligns with action 4.24 and supports the target that Council fleet is 90% electric (or alternative low emissions option) by 2030.
4.4	Develop an EV charging plan for Boroondara to support uptake of EV use in Boroondara particularly for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> residents unable to access off street parking residents in multi-unit development visitors to activity centres. 	22/23	This aligns with action 4.7 and supports the target that there is access to EV charging within 2km of all activity centres by 2030).
4.5	Complete feasibility study on connecting the off-road cycling network through new links (on and off road) including improved crossing facilities on main and local roads (e.g. Box Hill to Hawthorn Trail, Back Creek Bridge investigation and design).	21/22	This aligns with action 4.9 and supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.

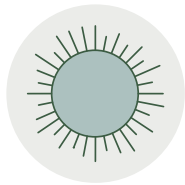
Policy and advocacy action description		Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
4.6	Release a bicycle strategy to set a framework to advance the cycling infrastructure and mode share in the Boroondara over the next 10 years.	21/22	This aligns with action 4.16 and supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.
4.7	Develop a policy position about EV and e-bike charging infrastructure in all Council, State and Federal projects in Boroondara.	21/22	This action supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.
4.8	Review Council's Car Share Policy and Procedures to identify options to support take up of EV and low emission vehicles by the Boroondara community.	22/23	This aligns with action 4.21 and supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.



Circular economy (waste)

Corporate action description		Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
5.1	Continue to implement the FOGO program and identify opportunities to expand the service.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 5.5 and supports the target of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 (currently 69%).
5.2	When tendering for kerbside recycling collection and processing contract, seek options for the supply of EV as part of the service fleet.	21/22	This aligns with action 4.1 and supports the target that Council fleet is 90% electric (or alternative low emissions option) by 2030.
5.3	Review Council's public place waste and recycling infrastructure to identify efficiencies and gaps in service delivery. Implement recommendations from review.	21/22 22/23	This action supports the target of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 (currently 69%).
5.4	Monitor the market and seek opportunities to continue to expand the use of recycled materials in asphalt roads and path projects (currently approximately 20% recycled asphalt material is used in new asphalt projects).	Ongoing	This aligns with action 5.2 and will reduce the amount of virgin materials required in our road projects.
5.5	Review and deliver additional diversion through hard waste collection service improvements.	22/23	This aligns with action 5.9 and supports the target of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 (currently 69%).
5.6	Implement standard recycling bin materials acceptance list (subject to release by State Government).	22/23	This action supports the target of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 (currently 69%).
5.7	Provide additional community support and advice through a program of circular economy education and initiatives.	22/23	This aligns with action 5.6 and supports the target of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 (currently 69%).
5.8	Deliver a Plastic Free Pilot Program in Camberwell to support approx. 15 hospitality traders to reduce and eliminate appropriate single use plastics.	21/22	This is aligned with action 5.7 and supports the target of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 (currently 69%).
5.9	Develop kerbside recycling/FOGO contamination management program.	21/22	This action supports the target of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 (currently 69%).

Policy and advocacy action description	Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
5.10 Develop a Circular Economy Strategy for Boroondara to replace the current Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy.	22/23	This aligns with action 5.10 and supports the target of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 (currently 69%).
5.11 Develop Corporate Green Event and Single Use Plastic Minimisation Policy.	22/23	This aligns with action 5.3 and supports the target of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 (currently 69%).
5.12 Advocate for Container Deposit Scheme network operator to establish Container Deposit Scheme drop off network locations in Boroondara.	22/23	This action supports the target of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 (currently 69%).
5.13 Participate in the submission process for the National Construction Code 2025.	22/23	This aligns with action 5.11 that supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.



Overarching

Corporate action description		Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
6.1	Update Council's Sustainable Council Building Policy.	21/22	This aligns with actions 1.1 and 3.1 and supports target of 90% Council actual emission reduction by 2030. The updated policy will enable progressive improvement to the environmental sustainability performance of Council buildings.
6.2	Engage an officer to increase support for community sustainability education and initiatives.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with actions 1.12, 2.5, 3.4, 4.6, 5.6, 6.11 and 6.15 and supports the target to have 3,000 participants each year in sustainability workshops or education opportunities.
6.3	Promote and provide updates on performance in delivering the Climate Action Plan.	Ongoing	This action will communicate our progress to the community.
6.4	Report annually on Council's Climate Action Plan activities.	Ongoing	This aligns with action 6.1 and will communicate our progress to the community.
6.5	Update Council's staff induction process to include climate change.	21/22	This aligns with action 6.2 and will ensure new staff are aware of climate change and Council's commitment to action.

Partnership action description		Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
6.6	Expand on the Living for Our Future workshop program, covering a diverse range of sustainability topics (circular economy, energy, electric vehicles, water, biodiversity, climate change).	22/23	This aligns with actions 6.11, 6.12, 1.12, 2.5, 3.4, 4.6 and 5.6 and supports the target to have 3,000 annual participants in sustainability workshops or education opportunities.
6.7	Increase funding for climate action grants as part of Council's grant program.	22/23	This aligns with action 6.3 and supports target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.
6.8	Provide support for Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) in private development through a program of advice and support.	22/23	This aligns with action 1.11 and supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.
6.9	Hold a Sustainable Living Festival to engage with the community.	21/22	This aligns with action 6.11 and supports the target to have 3000 annual participants in sustainability workshops/ education opportunities.
6.10	Support greater sustainability measures through the planning permit assessment process through the recruitment of an Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Officer (EFT 0.4) to implement ESD tools for the assessment of planning applications and contribute to policy development.	21/22	This aligns with action 6.13 and supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.

Policy and advocacy action description		Time frame	Climate Action Plan linkage
6.11	Develop a Litter and Pollution Reduction Plan for Boroondara including engagement activities.	22/23	This aligns with action 6.20.
6.12	Collaborate on a joint research project with twenty-seven other Victorian councils and the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) that aims to elevate Environmentally Sustainable Development targets for new development. Consider a planning scheme amendment to implement the planning policy developed as part of the CASBE joint research project.	21/22 22/23	This aligns with action 6.23 and supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.
6.13	Update Council's Procurement Policy to have a greater emphasis on sustainability.	21/22	This aligns with action 6.19 and will ensure consistency in sustainability criteria for Council purchases.
6.14	Provide a submission to the State Government with proposed Environmentally Sustainable Development standards for inclusion in Victorian Planning Schemes.	21/22	This aligns with action 6.23 and supports the target of 60% community emissions reduction by 2030.

Complementary activities

In addition to the above actions grouped by theme, we will continue to undertake complementary activities that support the broad goals and visions of the Climate Action Plan. Examples of complementary activities being undertaken by Council we will continue to undertake can be found in the table below.

Activities	Timeframe
Continue to participate in the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action.	Ongoing
Maintain our Emergency Management Plan that considers likely impacts of climate change.	Ongoing
Pursue opportunities to use smart technologies and IOT (Internet of Things) to achieve greater environmental sustainability.	Ongoing
Continue to strengthen Council's emergency management preparedness through maintaining and building on existing relationships with external emergency management and response agencies and further enhancing the resilience of our community through community engagement initiatives.	Ongoing
Progressively increase the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD), including energy efficiency and renewable energy generation, at Council buildings via Council's renewal program in accordance with Council's Sustainable Council Building Policy.	21/22
Expand monitoring and detection programs to identify and repair leaks and water use inefficiencies.	Ongoing
Conduct annual inventory of Council's water use to track the success of our actions and inform future priority actions.	Ongoing
Review how we manage the entire tree lifecycle.	21/22 22/23
Collaborate with Melbourne Water and other local Councils on a Platypus Management Plan.	21/22

Continue to deliver and expand our biodiversity citizen science opportunities.	Ongoing
Develop a plan for the Boroondara section of the Gardiners Creek Corridor and partner with other stakeholders to deliver improvements.	21/22
Continue to facilitate the Teacher Environment Network in collaboration with City of Monash.	Ongoing
Promote and showcase businesses demonstrating leadership to become more environmentally sustainable - via Council's website, social media channels.	21/22
Convene a Local Government Circular Economy Network for council officers across Victoria for the purpose of sharing ideas, information and experiences in the circular economy space.	21/22 22/23
Incorporate environmentally sustainable initiatives into placemaking projects.	Ongoing
Continue to participate in the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group South Eastern Alternative Waste Technology project.	Ongoing
Support improved off-road shared or separated bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure (Walmer St bridge, wayfinding strategy, pedestrian priority and accessibility on shared paths).	21/22 22/23
Advocate for improvements to tram stops and other public transport interchanges as part of the Glenferrie Road streetscape and station laneways upgrade.	Ongoing
Pursue opportunities to support community uptake of renewable energy or energy efficiency through Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUAs) or alternative finance mechanisms.	21/22 22/23

For more information on the Climate Action Plan:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/CAP



boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au



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BOROONDARA
City of Harmony

Climate Action Plan Research Report

November 2020 – September 2021

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 November 2020 – September 2021

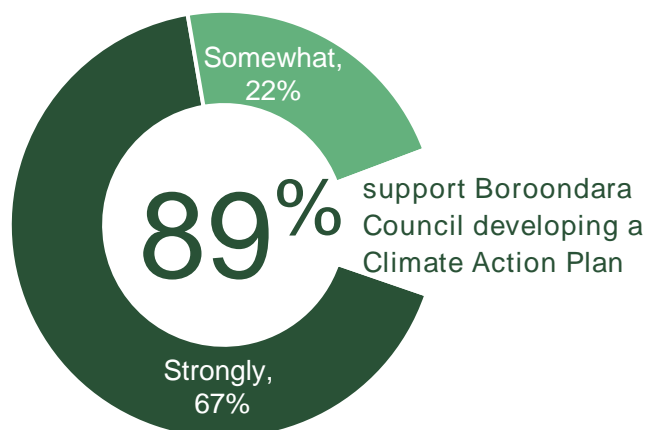
PHASE 1 - KEY FINDINGS

In August and September 2020, the City of Boroondara undertook social research to help understand community perceptions, behaviours, and aspirations regarding climate action at the local level, along with how the community sees Council's role in relation to climate action and what actions they would like Council to be engaged in moving forward. This information will be used to guide Council in developing a robust Climate Action Plan.

The research was conducted using two distribution methods and achieved a total of 1,572 responses.

Type	Method	Distribution	Notes	N=
Open access	Online	Hosted online through Council's internal surveying system. The link was distributed through a range of channels, including social media and community networks.	Provides insights into the opinions of those who are highly engaged with Council and the subject matter.	1,070
Representative	Phone	Sought through random landline number generation and a purchased list of mobile phone numbers. 78% of the sample was from mobile numbers.	Provides insights into broader community opinions and incidence.	502

Using the representative survey data (which provides insights into broader population opinions) it is clear that the majority of the community within Boroondara strongly supports Council developing a Climate Action Plan (67%, and 88% of the open access survey strongly support). This support is given due to the perception that climate change is an urgent issue and that action is required.



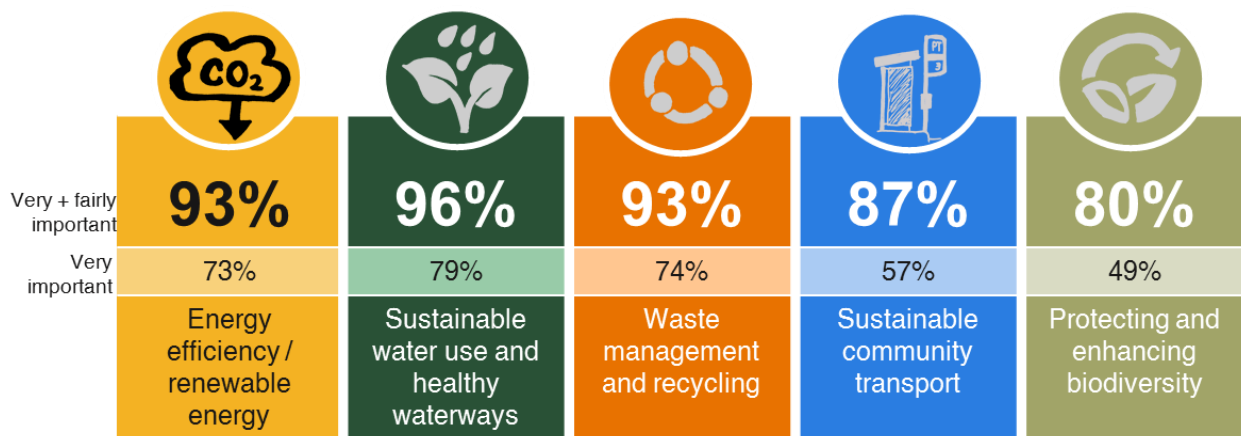
Climate change is an urgent / critical issue

Everyone needs to do their bit

Local council action is required

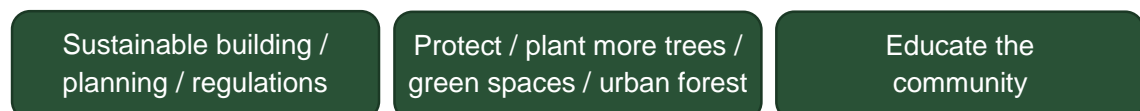
Needed for future generations

When asked to rate the importance of different aspects of environmental sustainability out of 5 (1 = not at all important and 5 = very important) most community members consider all of these to be important (rating of 4 or 5). Indeed, very high proportions assign an importance rating of 5 to sustainable energy, sustainable water use, and waste management categories.

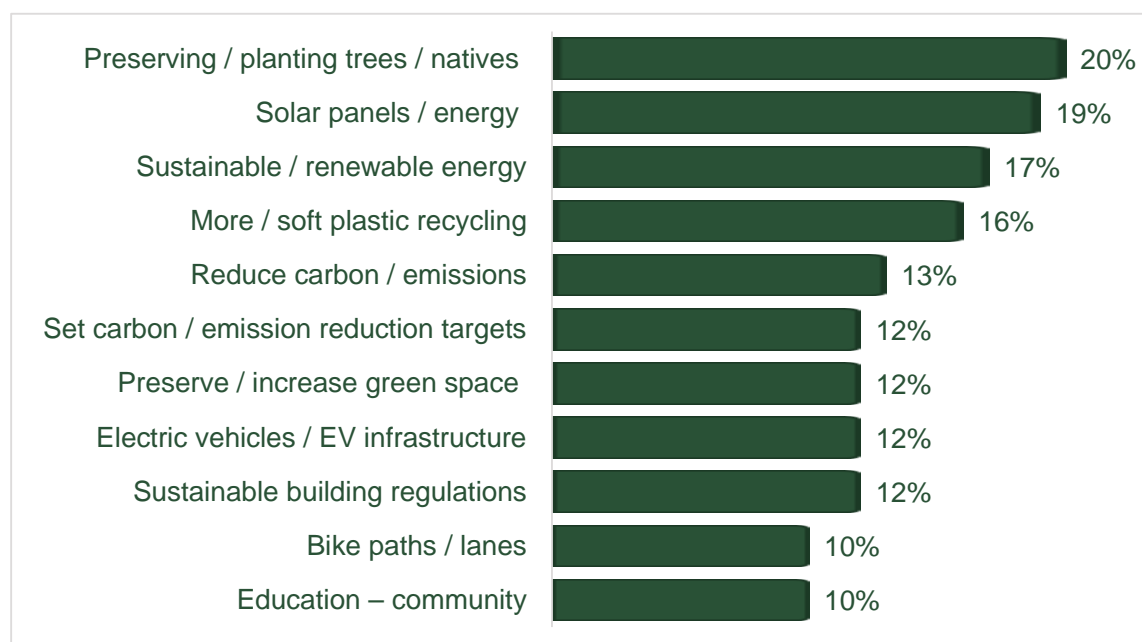


Representative sample

Other important areas of focus that were raised by the community include:

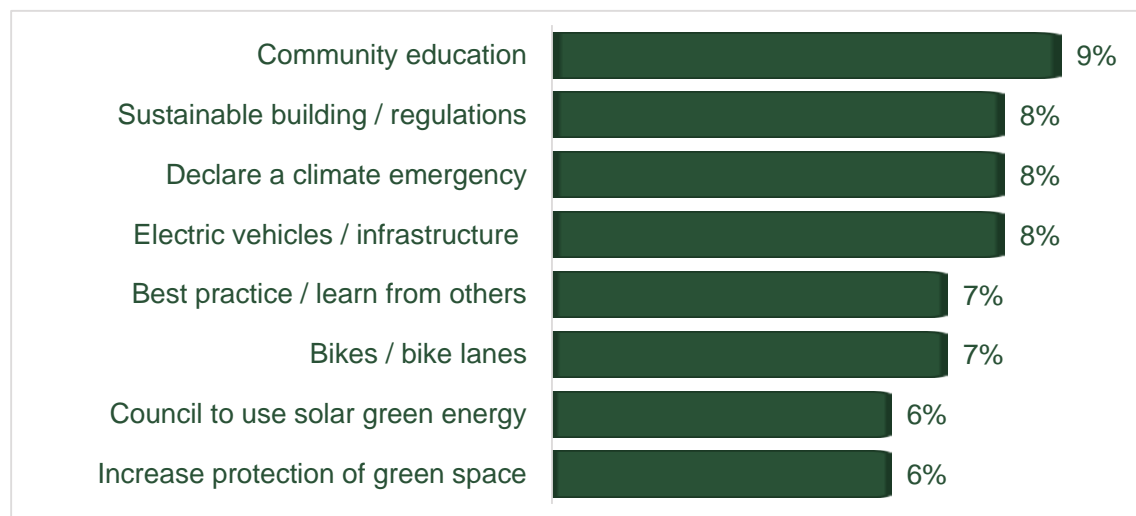


Community perceptions regarding local level climate action mostly relate to actions within energy systems, waste management, environment, and transport.



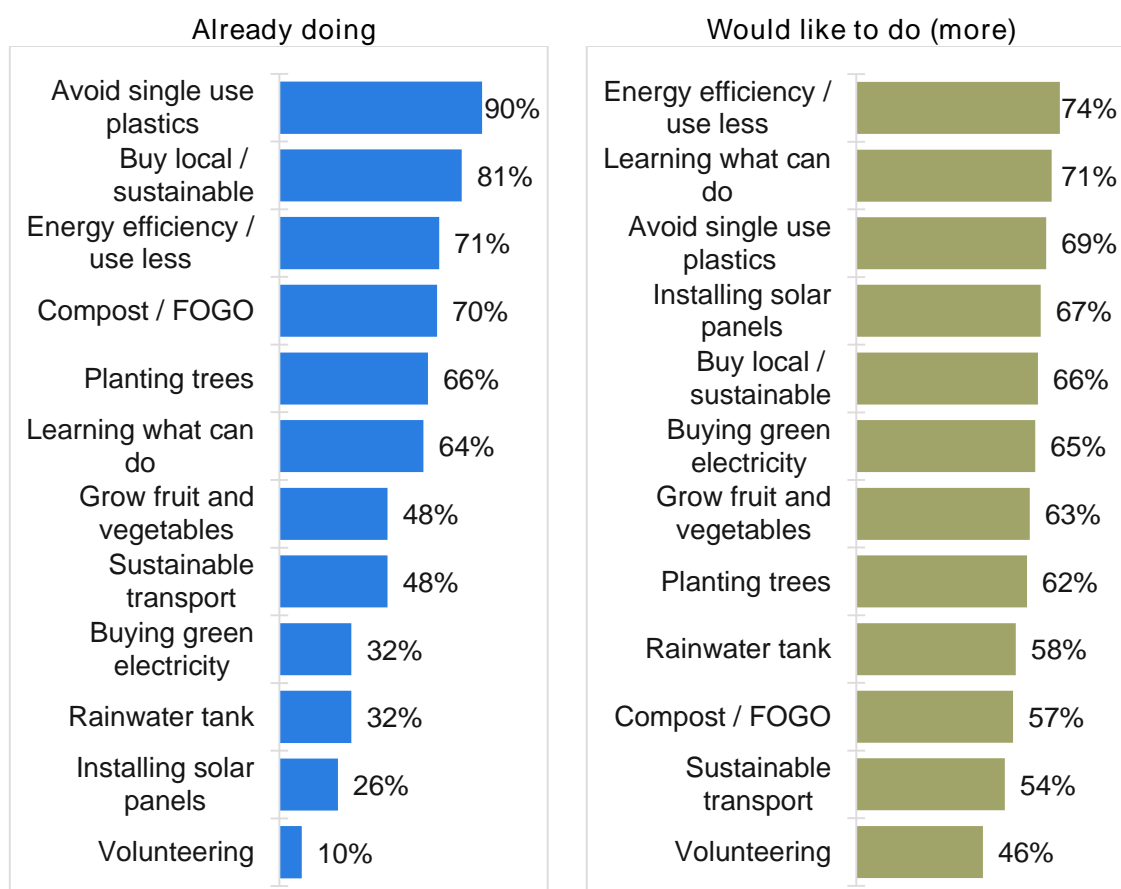
Combined representative and open access sample

A wide variety of big ideas were put forth for things Council can include in their climate action plan. The most common suggestions related to community education, sustainable planning and building, electric vehicles, and declaring a climate emergency. Declaring a climate emergency was only mentioned by those in the open access survey.



Combined representative and open access sample

In terms of current behaviours, most community members are already undertaking various actions towards sustainable purchasing and resource use.. There are also clear opportunities for the community to learn more about what they can do to further enhance or expand on their current behaviours.



1 PHASE 1 - METHODOLOGY

Boroondara City Council's (Council) current 'Our Low Carbon Future Strategy' ends in 2020. Council is committed to developing a new Climate Action Plan to replace their current strategy. To do this, Council undertook a survey inviting those who live, work, study or recreate in Boroondara to share their feedback and ideas about what they think Council's role is in climate action, what climate action looks like at a local level, and also what sustainable behaviours they undertake.

The results of this research will be used by Council to help create a plan that will identify meaningful actions and ensure the community supports Council to act on delivering a sustainable Boroondara for future generations.

For this research, two survey distribution methods were used, as follows:

Type	Method	Distribution	Notes
Open access	Online	Hosted online through Council's internal surveying system. The link was distributed through a range of channels, including social media and community networks.	Provides insights into the opinions of those who are highly engaged with Council and the subject matter.
Representative	Phone	Sought through random landline number generation and purchased list of mobile phone numbers. 78% of the sample was from mobile numbers.	Provides insights into broader community opinions.

1.1 HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

Prior to the analysis of each question, a table shows the question number, sample size (number of people who provided an answer), and notes to consider when reading the analysis and/or replicating the research in the future.

Comment boxes have been provided throughout with direct respondent quotes. Each comment is referenced with the respondents' age range, gender, and residential location.

1.1.1 THEMATIC ANALYSIS

For the questions collecting a written answer, responses have been grouped into meaningful themes to assist with analysis. Where relevant, individual comments have been assigned to multiple themes. An excel document with this thematic analysis has been provided in a separate document and allows for filtering of comments by themes.

1.1.2 STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

Results have been tested for statistical significance using the Bonferroni method at 95% confidence level. Where a statistically significant variation has been identified in the analysis, this has either been included in a written comment or demonstrated in charts and tables with arrows denoting a higher than average result (↑) or lower than average result (↓). To ensure relevance and usefulness of this report, cross analysis of variables which do not yield any statistically significant insights have not been included in the written analysis.

All findings have had significance testing conducted based on:

- Gender.
- Age.
- Locality.
- Tenure.
- Respondent type (resident, worker, visitor).

Variations have only been reported in the analysis where statistical significance has been identified.

1.1.3 GLOSSARY

Base	The number of responses used to calculate percentages / statistics.
CAP	Climate Action Plan
n=	Number of people who responded to a question. Indicates the base number when calculating percentages.
Open ended comment box	Question type where responses are recorded as written text.
Order bias	When presented with a long list of options, respondents tend to be more focussed for the first few and then become less focussed for the later ones.
Respondents	Those who participated in the survey.
Sample size	The number of people who provided an answer to the question.
Statistically significant	Highlights a phenomenon / variation in the data that one can be confident is reflective of the entire target population. For more information see section Error! Reference source not found..
Thematic analysis	Grouping of written comments into themes to assist in analysis. See section 1.1.1.

1.2 PHASE 1 SURVEY COVERAGE

For the phone survey, quotas by demographics were set as follows.

		Minimum target
Gender	Male	180
	Female	195
Age	15-24	71
	25-39	92
	40-64	141
	65+	71
Suburb	Ashburton	20
	Balwyn	30
	Balwyn North	45
	Camberwell	45
	Canterbury	20
	Deepdene	15
	Glen Iris	40
	Hawthorn	50
	Hawthorn East	30
	Kew	55
	Kew East	15
	Surrey Hills	20

The online survey recorded 8 respondents under the age of 15. Given the need for guardian consent for inclusion of responses from those under the age of 15 (not obtained) these records were deleted from the data file.

In the online survey the questions collecting information about the respondent type allowed for a single response answer, therefore the online survey sample data for type is unreliable (respondents couldn't state if they both live and work/study in Boroondara).

Table 1.2.1 Demographics

		Total	Open access	Representative		2016 Census
n=		1568	1066	502	%	
Gender	Male	624	422	202	40%	47%
	Female	905	606	299	60%	53%
	Other	1	0	1	0%	-
	Prefer not to say	38	38	0	0%	-
Age	15-24	195	122	73	15%	18%
	25-39	326	169	157	31%	23%
	40-64	610	459	151	30%	39%
	65+	428	309	119	24%	19%

		Total	Open access	Representative		2016 Census
Tenure	Owner occupier	1133	794	339	68%	64%
	Renter	272	160	112	22%	28%
Suburb	Ashburton	80	56	24	5%	4%
	Balwyn	88	56	32	6%	8%
	Balwyn North	121	58	63	13%	12%
	Camberwell	213	143	70	14%	13%
	Canterbury	59	37	22	4%	5%
	Deepdene	23	5	18	4%	1%
	Glen Iris	161	116	45	9%	9%
	Hawthorn	227	162	65	13%	15%
	Hawthorn East	150	97	53	11%	9%
	Kew	197	131	66	13%	15%
	Kew East	63	47	16	3%	4%
	Mont Albert	6	3	3	1%	0%
	Surrey Hills	105	81	24	5%	5%
	Prefer not to answer	14	13	1	0%	-
	Outside Boroondara	61	61	0	0%	-
Type (includes multiple responses)	Resident	1462	960	502	100%	
	Worker	172	38	134	27%	
	Study	56	19	37	7%	
	Visitor	99	99	-	-	

To enable more meaningful geographic analysis, suburbs were grouped into localities as follows:

Locality	Suburbs included	Sample size
North West	Kew Kew East	260
North East	Balwyn Balwyn North Deepdene Mont Albert	238
South West	Hawthorn Hawthorn East	377
Central	Camberwell Canterbury Surrey Hills	377
South	Ashburton Glen Iris	241

2 PHASE 1 - RESEARCH FINDINGS

The following table shows the incidence of respondents mentioning key topic areas in any one of the questions in the survey. It should be noted that this shows the proportion of people who thought to mention these topics in text box questions, it does not show the incidence of these topics being labelled as important.

Table 1.2.1 Incidence of respondents spontaneously mentioning key topic areas

Sustainable building and planning	19%	Mentioned by 25% of the open access sample, compared to 8% of representative. More commonly mentioned by 40-64 year olds (20%), 65+ year olds (27%) and females (21%).
Community Education	17%	Higher incidence of mentioning this amongst the open access sample (19%) compared to representative (12%). 25% of 15-24 year olds and 20% of females mentioned this.
Electric vehicles	14%	More commonly mentioned by open access respondents (19%) than representative survey respondents (4%). Mentioned by a high proportion of 40-64 year olds (15%), 65+ year olds (22%), and Males (16%),
Bikes / bike lanes	13%	More commonly mentioned in the open access survey (16%, compared to 6% representative) More commonly mentioned by those in the South West (15%) and 40-64 year olds (15%)
Declare climate emergency	10%	None of the representative respondents mentioned this throughout the survey, compared to 14% open access respondents. More commonly mentioned amongst those living in the North West (11%) and the South West (12%).
School education	3%	
Climate change denial	2%	Up to 3% amongst males (compared to 1% females)
Roads Rates Rubbish	1%	

2.1 SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

How much do you oppose or support Boroondara Council developing a Climate Action Plan?

Why do you [ANSWER] Boroondara Council developing a Climate Action Plan?

Sample: n=1,569 answered the support or oppose question

n=1,448 provided an explanation for their rating

Notes: Open access respondents saw a list of Council actions being undertaken on the page before entering the survey, therefore it is possible that their responses were influenced by this content.

In the open access survey this was presented as the first question, whereas for the representative survey it was asked after the importance rating question. This was to ensure that the representative survey respondents understood the scope of the CAP prior to providing an answer.

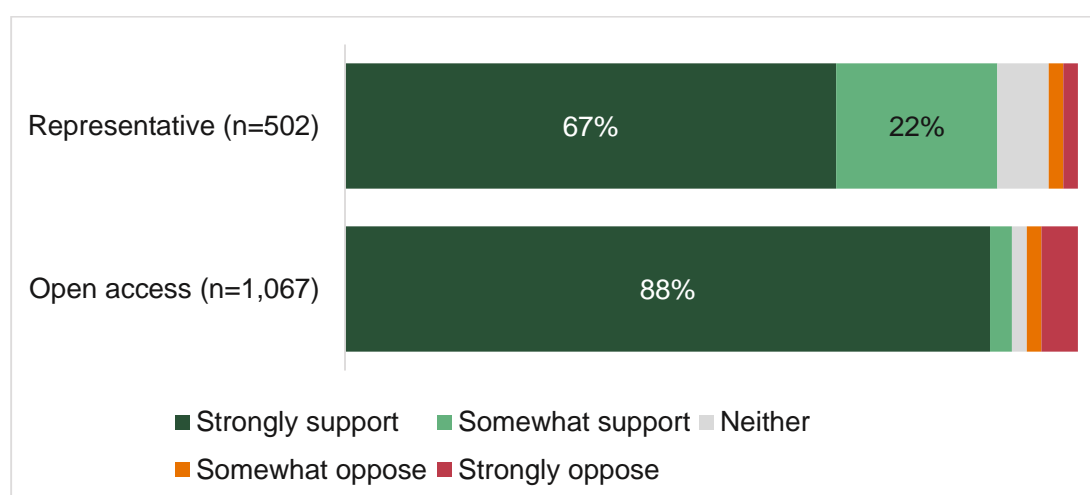
The second part of this question was recorded as text then grouped into themes for analysis.

The clear majority of the community supports a Climate Action Plan for City of Boroondara.

In social research it is typical for people to select the more moderate option in the rating scale, therefore the strength of this support is a notable feature of the research results. It is clear that the community feels very strongly about this topic area.

These findings also demonstrate that those who complete the survey online (open access), through general Council survey distribution, clearly have stronger views about the topic than the broader community (representative sample). However, in the broader community the combined level of support (strongly plus somewhat) is at a similar level (89%, 91% open access). Indeed, the level of opposition amongst the broader community (4% representative) is lower than the open access (7%), further showing that open access surveys cover those with more extreme views on a topic.

Figure 2.1.1 Support for Climate Action Plan



When analysing these ratings by demographics (representative sample) it is evident that males are more commonly opposed (9%, compared to 1% females) and less commonly show strong support (60%, compared to 71% females). Strong levels of support are more common amongst 15-24 year olds (79%, compared to 58% 65+ year olds) and renters (76%, compared to 62% owner occupiers).

When asked to explain the reason for their rating, most of those who indicated support provided a general comment about how it needs to be done (81%). Comments within this category revolve around:

- Climate change is an urgent issue (29%)
- Everyone needs to do their bit (15%)
- Local council action is important / required (12%)
- It is important (11%)

Open access respondents more often provided a general comment about it needing to be done (86%, compared to 68% representative sample), whereas the representative sample showed more people stating that they need more information (6%, 1% open access) or that it isn't appropriate (9%, 5% open access).

The primary reasons for opposition were it not being appropriate (71% of those who oppose) or a rejection of the scientific consensus on climate change (15% of those who oppose).

When calculating these as a percentage of the entire sample, only 5% said it isn't an appropriate thing for Council to be doing and 1% said they thought climate change was not real.

The CAP conflates too many issues, and is ambiguous The plan does not set a goal in what they are attempting to achieve, no clear purpose, a motherhood statement Outside their job, need to focus on roads and rubbish'
Female, 40-64yo, North West

'It's absolutely crucial that everybody does everything they can. The council is in a position to make local changes. The more that they can do, the better.'
Female, 65+yo, North West

'*Better late than never.* We can change the plan if it is not perfect. keep residents aware are where are at now and set some targets for the community. Education and awareness of climate change.'
Male, 25-39yo, Central

'Our future depends on it.. the council has the ability to educate and encourage sustainability. Basically.... we are using resources in a way that is not sustainable.. fossil fuels contribute to climate change.. and if we do not control what we are doing now.. there will not be a world for us to be in. I see more and more of the world. Sea water rising... droughts... floods.. fires.. There seems to be happening more frequently than before.. Antarctic melting of ice caps etc..'
Female. 40-64yo. North East

'It's about time we all take into account that there is climate change happening and that we all (including organisations) have a responsibility to do our share of reviewing our actions and the effect they have on climate change. Climate action will work most effectively from our backyards and in projection into that to our community. Climate action locally reduces the "big picture" excuse - i.e. "its too a big problem for me to have an effect", by concentrating on our local environment we can progress action.'
Male, 65+yo, South

'Climate change will be the number one threat to our quality of life in the coming decades. I am totally disillusioned with national leadership on remedying this situation and I believe that action at a local govt level is going to be where momentum has to start..
Female, 25-39yo, South West

2.2 SUCCESSFUL ACTION

What would successful action look like to combat the impacts of climate change in Boroondara?

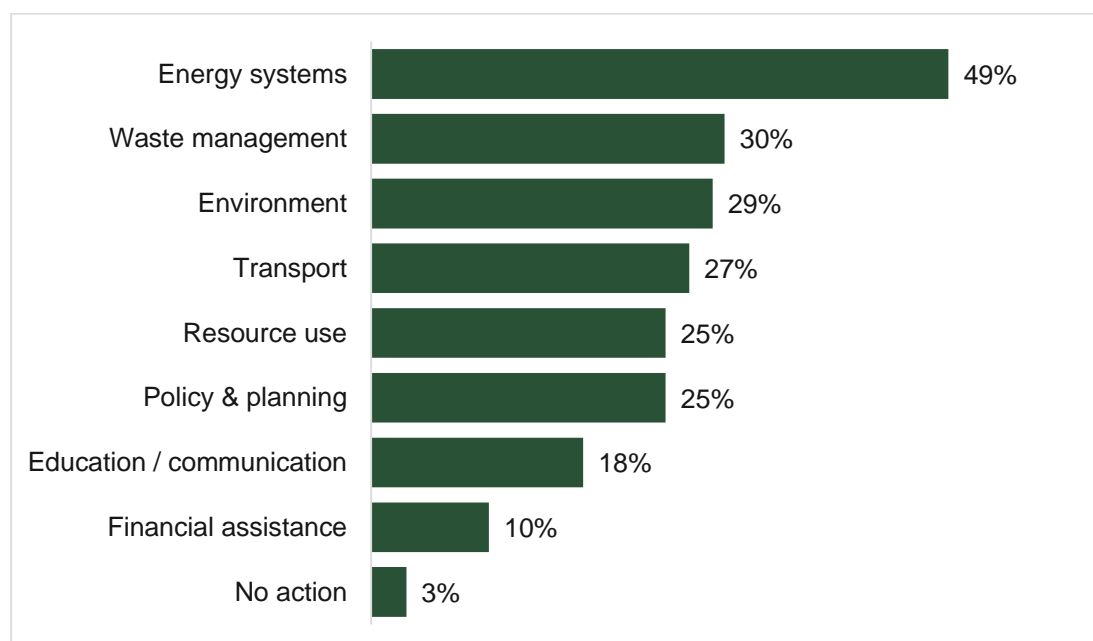
Sample: n=1,338

Notes: Recorded as text then grouped into themes for analysis.
The open access sample saw a list of Council actions being undertaken on the page before entering the survey, therefore it is possible that their responses were influenced by this content. The representative sample provides insights into top-of-mind potential actions across the broader community.

Half of suggestions made about successful actions related to energy systems. Those who mentioned no action referred to climate change not being an issue (2%), and it being too big an issue for Council (1%).

Improved recycling (including soft plastics) was mentioned by more representative sample respondents (21%, compared to 14% in the open access sample) suggesting this is a pertinent issue amongst those with lesser engagement with Council in the subject area. The financial assistance category includes things such as rebates, incentives and bulk-buying (primarily solar).

Figure 2.2.1 Successful action categories



Further detail about the types of responses under each of these categories are shown in the following table. The most commonly mentioned individual topic was preservation or expansion of trees and urban forests, including the flow-on effects for biodiversity.

Table 2.2.1 Successful action details

Energy systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar panels / energy (19%) - Most mentions of solar were general or related to households, however a third of solar panel mentions were specific to Council buildings or public lighting. Some also mentioned installing solar panels over car parks. Sustainable / renewable energy (17%) Reduce carbon / emissions (13%) Set carbon / emission reduction targets (12%) Get off gas (2%)
Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More / improved recycling / soft plastic recycling (16%) Reduce rubbish / reduce waste to landfill (6%) Mentioned FOGO bins (6%) Waste / litter management (general) (5%) More compost / green waste bins / bins for apartments (2%)
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserving / planting trees / natives (20%) Preserve / increase green space (12%) Community gardens / market gardens (3%)
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electric vehicles / EV infrastructure (12%) Bike paths / lanes (10%) More / improved active transport (8%) More / improved public transport (6%)
Resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy efficiency / efficient lighting (7%) Mentioned FOGO bins (6%) Reduce rubbish / reduce waste to landfill (6%) Reduce / ban single use plastic (5%) Water capture / recycling (4%) Water efficiency (2%)
Policy and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable building / planning regulations (12%) – key items include requiring new buildings to be more sustainable (solar, rainwater capture, building materials) and limiting the reduction of trees and green space when developing. Acknowledge / declare climate emergency / crisis (8%) Climate action plan / work with community groups (4%) Make issue a top priority across council (4%) Look at what other councils have done / work with other councils (3%)
Education / communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education – community (10%) Communication / engagement / reporting (9%) Education – schools (1%)

'Some sort of solar initiative.... all private and public residence where solar is possible. Lots of rooftops out here, in summer.. so many air conditioners because there is a lot of sun.. Recycled Water .. if we can implement for recycled water supply like in new estates.'

Male, 25-39, Central

'I think the recycling needs to be recycled. Even though I use my own bag I still accumulate a lot of plastic waste. It would be good to have incentives for business to reduce single use plastics. And council could do more to encourage recycling of plastics'

Female, 40-64yo, North East

'Declare Climate Emergency, acknowledge the need for strong goal is NOW. Council leads & sets out strong actions to reduce GHG emission. Set out ambitious goal timeline. Work with experts and community groups. Mobilizes staff and residents. Run separate workshops for staff, residents, businesses and contractors on ways to transition to Renewables. Identify local heat spots and plant suitable trees and good water fountains to provide heat relief and hydration.

We altogether use all renewables and do FOGO, *we'll reduce local heating and impacts of climate change in Boroondara. Many other councils are also doing this. Altogether we will rectify the heating problem, local and global heating and pollution will reduce and sufferings will be less.'*

Female, 65+yo, South

'Change to renewable energy, supported by carbon neutral operations. All council vehicles should be electric. Support for electric charging infrastructure around Boroondara. Increase natural habitat and biodiversity. Support recycling and composting towards net zero waste. Encourage residents to adopt renewable energy.'

Male, 25-39yo, South West

'Consulting with and listening to experts. Implementing strategies and policies that have been successful in other regions. Also an understanding of the intersections between the climate crisis and ecological decline is important. This could include rewilding of public spaces and educating/incentivising property owners on turning their land into wildlife corridors through planting of more natives. Policy to reduce light pollution at night to revive declining insect populations. Planting of nature strips into diverse, pollinator attracting eco corridors. Workshops to educate and encourage better political and scientific literacy regarding these issues. A focus on education within school curriculums.'

Female, 25-39yo, North East

2.3 IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Using a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is not at all important and 5 is very important), please tell me how important or otherwise these areas of environmental sustainability are when thinking about a Climate Action Plan for our City.

Do you have any other suggestions on areas of focus that Council should include in the Climate Action Plan?

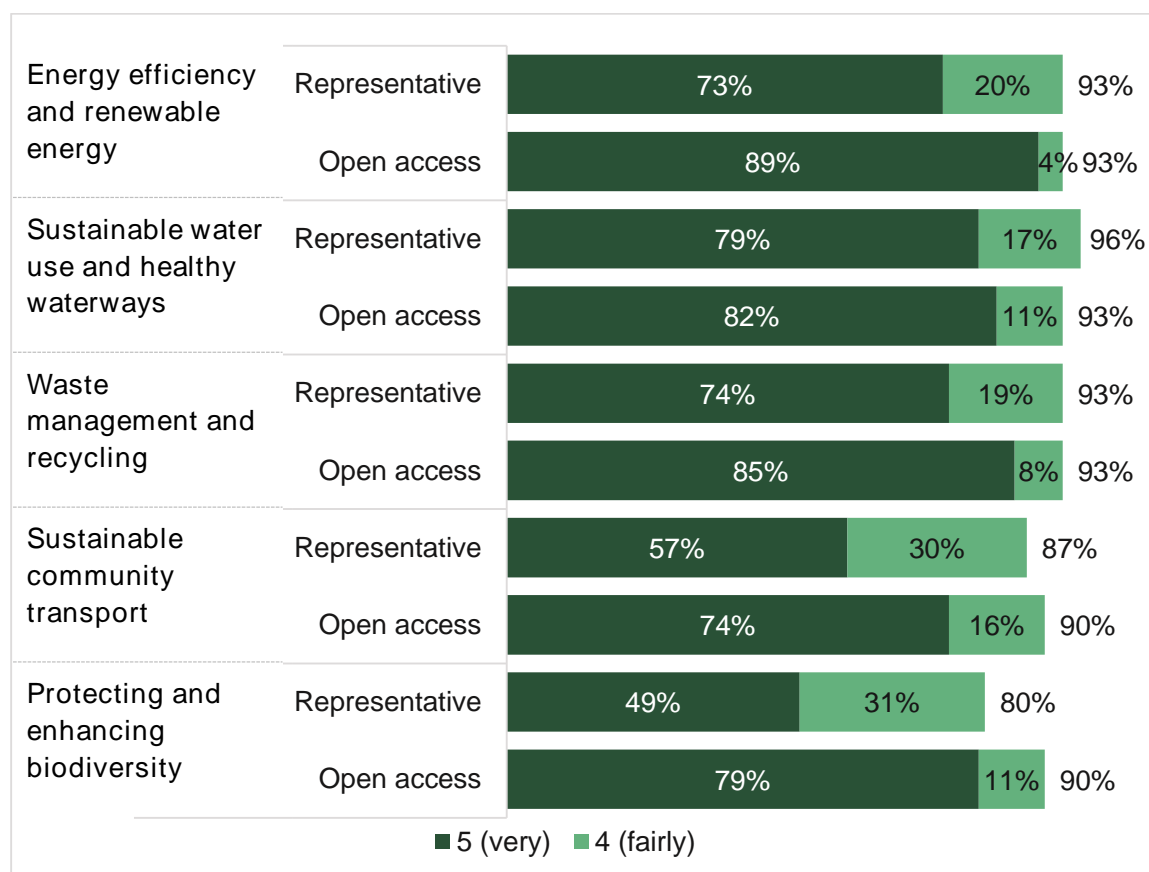
Sample: n=1,562 provided ratings
n=765 provided additional suggestions

Notes: The phone survey presented more detailed categories (9 categories) compared to online (5 categories). In the phone survey each category was accompanied by a brief description to ensure consistency of interpretation. This didn't occur online.

When asked to rate the importance of a number of aspects of environmental sustainability, it is clear that the majority of the community considers all categories important.

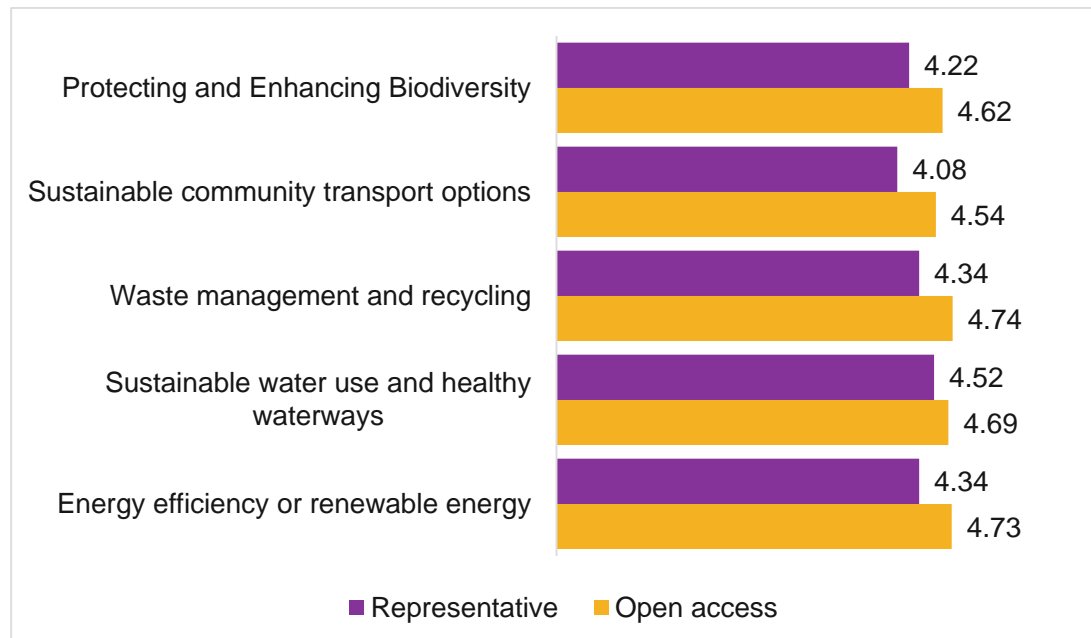
The representative survey broke a number of these categories into two to allow for different ratings of different components. For ease of comparison to the open access results, these were merged, taking the highest of the two scores for each combined category. For most categories the strength of importance was higher amongst online respondents, however the combined importance (rating of 5 or 4 out of 5) was similar. The only exception was protecting and enhancing biodiversity for which the sample acquired through Council networks (open access) more commonly rated this as important compared to the general population (representative).

Figure 2.3.1 Importance ratings (combined, using top score)



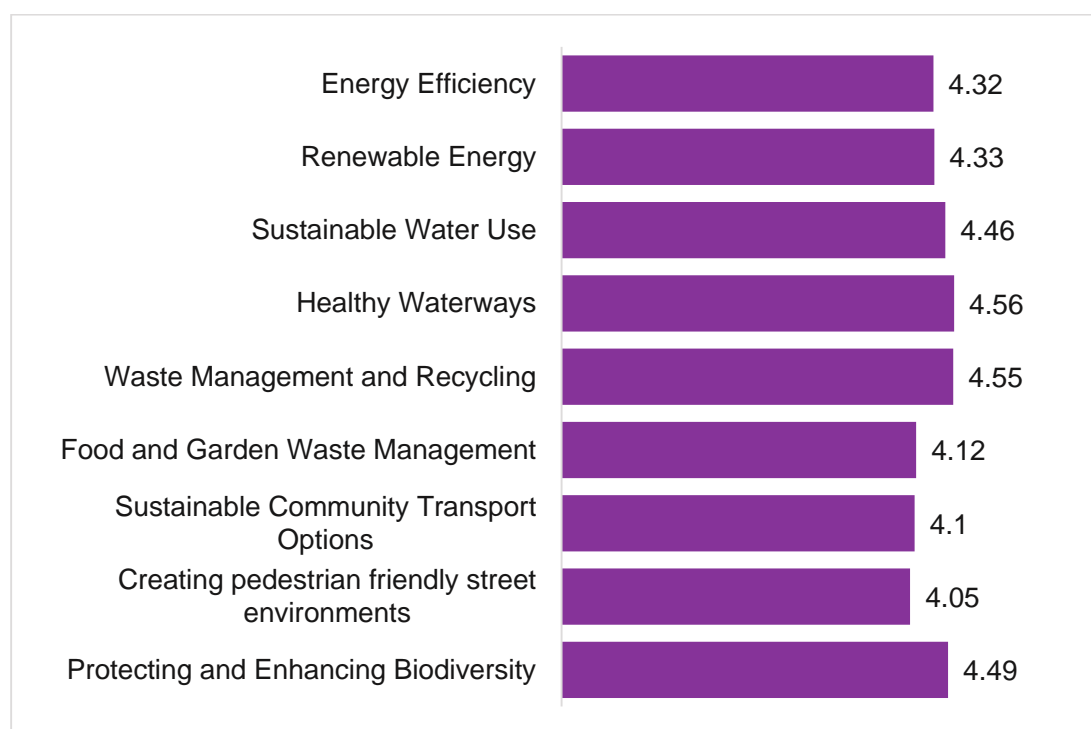
Another way of comparing the two samples is to use mean values (where there were 2 statements rated in the representative survey compared to just one in open access, the mean of the 2 categories was calculated for the representative sample). The mean amongst the open access sample is consistently higher than the representative sample.

Figure 2.3.2 Importance ratings (combined, using mean score)



Through the representative survey it is possible to understand the priority areas within some of these categories. Specifically, high levels of importance are assigned to healthy waterways over sustainable water use, and waste management and recycling over food and garden waste management.

Figure 2.3.3 Importance ratings separated (representative sample means)



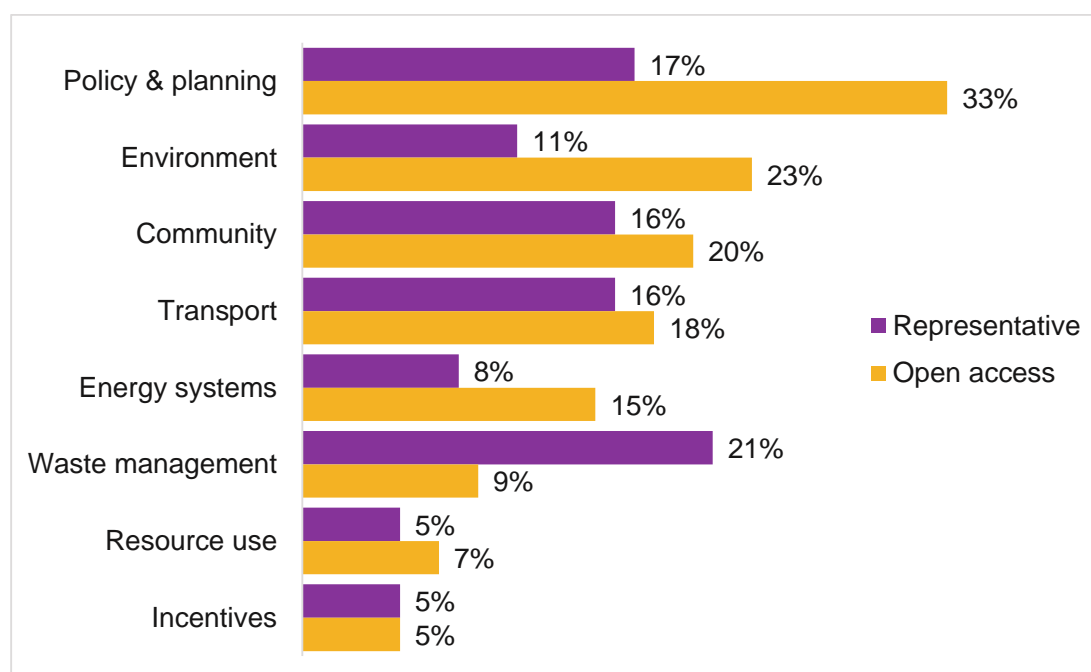
Notable variations by demographics were (representative sample, separated categories):

- Females show a higher average importance rating for all categories.
- 65+ year olds show a higher average rating for protecting and enhancing biodiversity (4.63); and
- Renters show a higher average rating for renewable energy (4.45).

Those who assigned lower importance ratings to waste management (ratings of 1-3) were mostly males (75%), young adults (30% 25-39 year olds), and more commonly feel that it isn't Council's role to do something about Climate Change (although written comments suggest they still think recycling is important).

Respondents were provided with the opportunity to write in up to three additional suggestions on areas of focus that Council should include in the Climate Action Plan. Of the 766 who put forth one or more additional suggestions, the most common amongst the representative sample was relating waste management, while the open access sample more often mentioned things relating to policy and planning and/or the environment.

Figure 2.3.4 Additional suggestions for areas of focus



The following table shows further detail about each of these categories.

Table 2.3.1 Additional suggestions for areas of focus

Policy and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable building / planning / regulations (17%) • Require sustainable business partners / procurement / investment (5%) • Mandate green space for new housing / development (3%) • Advocacy (3%) • Declare climate emergency (3%) • Set and report on goals (1%) • Work with other levels of govt / councils (1%) • Regulate businesses (1%)
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect / plant more trees / green spaces / urban forest (14%) • Protect native areas / rivers / plant more natives (5%) • Community gardens (3%)
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate the community (14%) • Get feedback from / engage / liaise with the community (5%) • Education in schools (1%) • Indigenous involvement (1%)
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric Vehicle uptake / infrastructure (8%) • Bike paths (6%) • Roads / traffic / vehicle restrictions (3%) • Walking / foot paths (3%) • Public / active / sustainable transport (3%)
Energy systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uptake of solar / renewables (8%) • Set carbon / emission reduction targets (6%) • Reduce carbon / emissions (1%)
Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling / waste management (8%) • Expand recycling / composting (4%) • Simplify recycling / waste (1%)
Resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce / eliminate single use plastics and containers (4%) • Be energy efficient / install efficient lighting (3%)

Some topics stood out for particular regions:

- Bike paths were an additional suggestion for a notably high proportion of respondents from the South West suburbs (9% of those making an additional suggestion, 5% of whole South West sample).
- A notably high 14% of those in suburbs in the South region who made a suggestion mentioned something relating to recycling or waste management (this equates to 7% of the whole South region sample).
- A notably high 10% of those from the North East region who made a suggestion mentioned something relating to mandating green space for new housing developments (this equates to 4% of the whole North East sample).

Other notable findings by demographics include:

- 29% of 15-24 year olds mentioned community education.
- 7% of 65+ year olds mentioned mandating green space.
- 10% females mentioned recycling / waste management.

Many of those who put forth additional suggestions mentioned something that couldn't be grouped with other responses (28%). These include things receiving few or single mentions such as rainwater harvesting, diversity, resilience, funding sustainable projects, reducing urban heat islands, carbon capture, bird baths, support for elderly, meat alternatives, reducing consumption, and vandalism.

'declare a climate emergency so that the first consideration in all council actions is prioritising climate action, facilitating energy efficient buildings, prioritising active transport infrastructure, providing resources for residents to implement adoption of solar panels'
Female, 40-64yo, South

'Big room to move on how to recycle better.. sometimes I cannot understand what can or cannot be recycled- more education is needed'
Male, 40-64yo, Central

'retaining and increasing the number of large trees in our streets, car parks and gardens for shade in summer. This would help to reduce use of air conditioning, keep cars cooler and make leaving the home in summer more comfortable'
Male, 65+yo, Central

'At the moment my main focus is recycling. We need receptacles for glass only. Every time my blue bin is emptied, I can hear glass breaking. Not ideal as I understand this contaminates all the other recyclable products. The fogo bin is a huge step forward. Follow it *up with glass only bins.*'
Female, 40-64yo, South

'Help those renting - non-rate payers - gain solar power benefits. Support adoption of home battery installations. Support checks on solar home installations and wiring...'
Male, 65+yo, North West

'Electric vehicle policy for council and lots of electric charging stations for residents'
Female, 40-64yo, South West

'Most important is cycling and traffic calming - Boroondara is seriously damaged by out of control traffic. Need more protection for bikes at intersections and better access in parks, one-way streets.'
Male, 40-64yo, South West

'Provision of a easily identifiable information contact point for recycling/biodiversity queries.'
Female, 40-64yo, North West

2.4 HOUSEHOLD BEHAVIOURS

Thinking about sustainable actions at a personal or household level, what best describes your current approach to each of these actions?

Are there any other environmentally sustainable actions or things you are doing, or would like to do in the future?

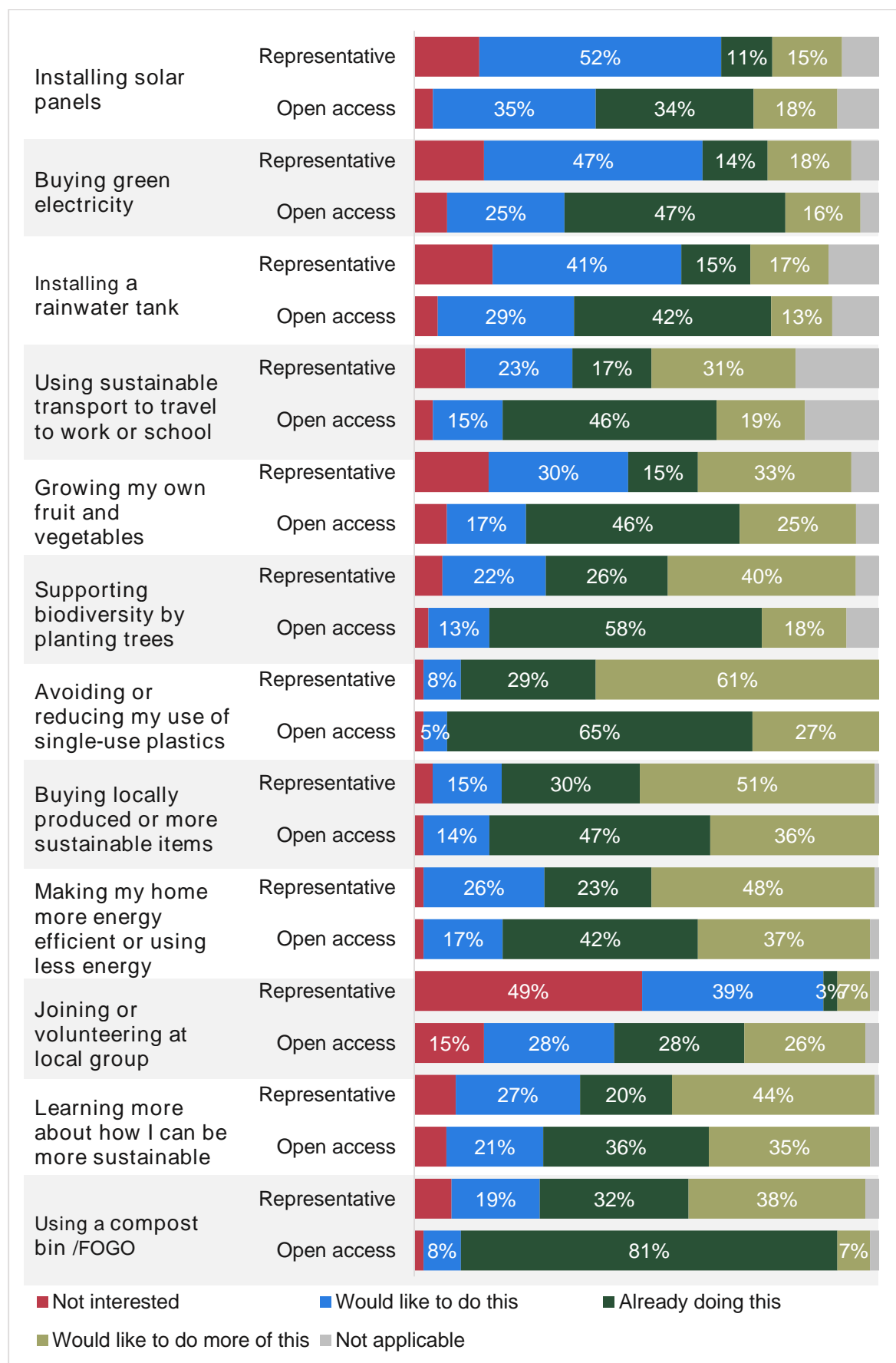
Sample: n=1,564 provided ratings
 n= provided other actions

Notes: The phone survey allowed for multiple responses for each action. This was re-calculated into a single response for comparability to the online survey.
 The phone survey recorded current and future additional actions separately whereas the online survey used a single text box that covered both. When analysing the online comments these were assumed to be 'currently doing' unless it clearly stated they were future actions.

When indicating which activities they are already doing it is clear that the respondents in the open access (online) survey are far more active than the general population (representative) with regards to sustainability behaviours and infrastructure.

A particular variation occurs for the FOGO bin rating. This may be due to people better recognising the initiative when seeing the acronym written down (shown on the screen for online) than when it is pronounced / read out (for the representative phone surveys).

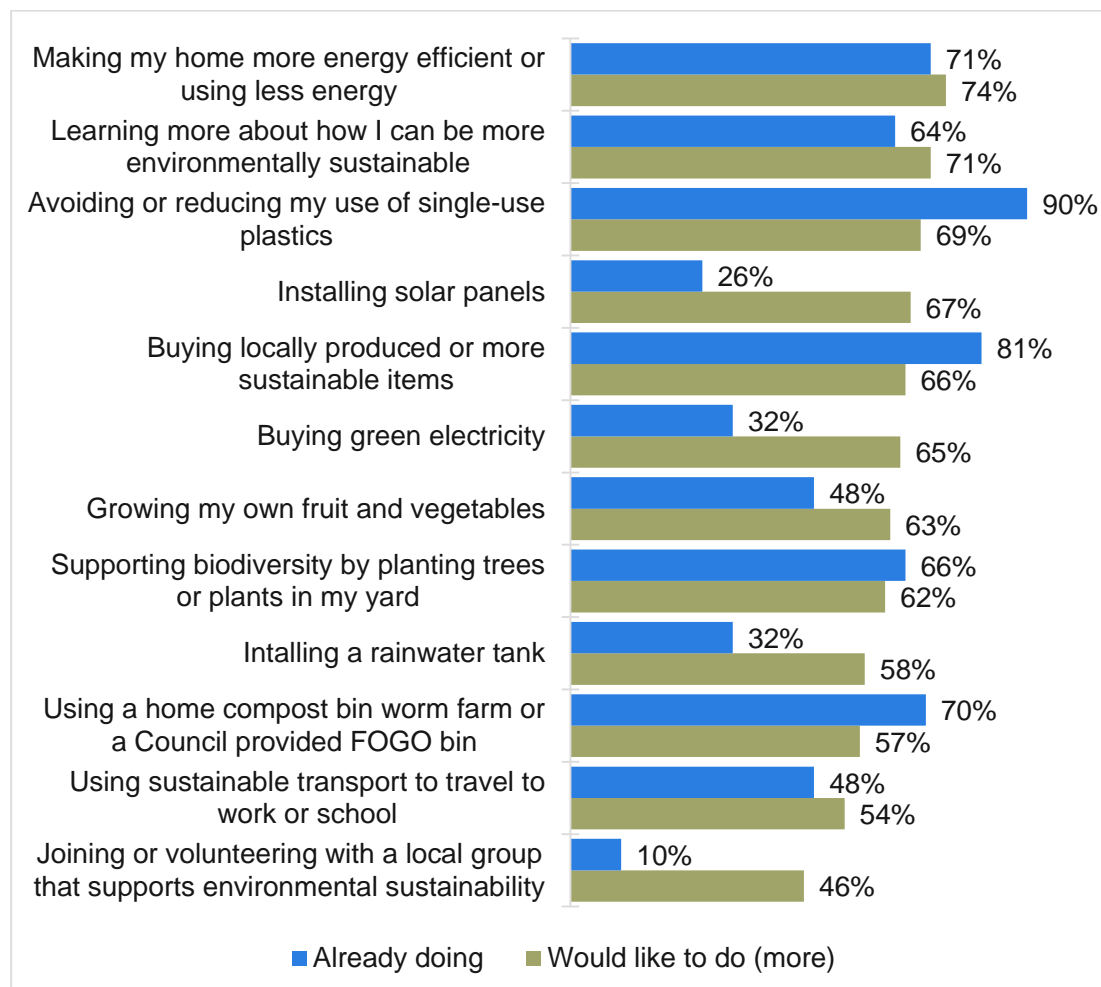
Figure 2.4.1 Household behaviours



The representative findings show a truer picture of the likely behaviours throughout the broader community. The following chart shows the percentage of respondents in the representative sample who said they were already doing this (already doing + like to do more) or could be converted (want to do this + like to do more). Findings show that the actions with the greatest potential for behaviour change are being more energy efficient, learning more about what can be done and avoiding single use plastics.

A number of actions have relatively low levels of uptake, but some clear potential for increasing this; specifically installing solar panels, buying green electricity and volunteering.

Figure 2.4.2 Current and potential environmentally sustainable behaviours (representative sample)



Using the representative sample, the following behavioural traits are evident amongst the community.

Table 2.4.1 Behavioural traits by demographics

Installing solar panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% of those in the Central region said they would like to do this (compared to 41% in the South suburbs). Desire to do this is more common amongst those under 65 years of age (Over half 15-64 year olds, compared to 34% 65+ year olds). 65+ year olds are more commonly not interested (25%, compared to less than 15% amongst 15-64 year olds).
Buying green electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18% of 15-24 year olds said this wasn't applicable to them (living with parents so don't make the decision). Half of 15-64 year olds said they would be interested in doing this, compared to just 29% of 65+ year olds. 18% of owner occupiers said they weren't interested (compared to 7% renters). Females show a higher instance of wanting to do this (51%) than males (40%).
Installing a rainwater tank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over half (54%) of renters said they would like to do this (compared to 38% of owner occupiers) More owner occupiers already do this (16%) than renters (8%).
Sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46% of those in the North West region would like to do more of this, compared to just 21% in the North East and 22% in the South. 15-24 year olds more often are already doing this and want to do more (45%) whereas many 25-64 year olds don't currently do this but would like to start (28%). 45% of renters would like to do more of this (compared to 27% owner occupiers). This was rated as not applicable by high proportions of those who live in the North East (28%), 65+ year olds (50%) and owner occupiers (22%).
Growing my own fruit and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38% of renters would like to start doing this (compared to 25% of owner occupiers). 15% of those over the age of 65 rated this as not applicable. 36% of 15-39 year olds would like to start doing this.
Supporting biodiversity by planting trees or plants in my yard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46% of those in the North East would like to do more of this and 33% of those in the South West would like to start doing this. Many 65+ year olds said they are already doing this (38%), whilst younger people would like to start (32% 15-24 year olds). In line with age, renters show a high instance of being keen to start doing this (37%) whilst many owner occupiers said they already are (29%). Males show a higher instance of not being interested (9%, compared to 4% females) whilst a high proportion of females said they would like to do more (44%, 33% males).

Avoiding or reducing my use of single-use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More males specified a lack of interest in this (4%, compared to 1% females). • A high proportion of those in the South region (43%) said they are already doing this (compared to 21% in the North West).
Buying locally produced or more sustainable items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High percentages of wanting to start doing this were recorded amongst 25-39 year olds (21%), males (20%) and renters (22%), while 57% of females said they want to do more of this. • High instances of already doing this occurs amongst 65+ year olds (39%) and owner occupiers (31%).
Making my home more energy efficient or using less energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37% of 15-24 year olds and 34% of renters said they would like to start doing this. • 30% of 65+ year olds said they are already doing this.
Joining or volunteering with a local group that supports environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notably high instances of not being interested in this are recorded amongst males (56%, compared to 44% females) and owner occupiers show (52%, 40% renters). • 43% of females said they are not currently doing this but would like to (compared to 32% males). • Rates of already doing this are higher in the South region (16%). In the North West, all of those who said they are currently doing this would like to do more (15%).
Learning more about how I can be more environmentally sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A third (32%) of 25-64 year olds would like to start doing this.
Using a home compost bin worm farm or a Council provided FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11% of males said they wouldn't be interested in this (compared to 4% females). • A notably high proportion of people in the South West region said they would like to start doing this (33%), and a high proportion of those in the Central region are already doing this (42%). • The desire to start doing this is more common amongst renters (36%) and 25-39 year olds (31%). A high proportion of 40-64 year olds said they are already doing this (39%).

Overall, 27% indicated they weren't interested in one or more of these activities (excluding volunteering). This is higher amongst the representative sample (47%) than the open access sample (18%). Only 7 respondents indicated they weren't interested in any of the listed items.

When grouping together infrastructure actions and purchasing actions, it is clear that large proportions of the community are interested in taking up, or doing more in terms of infrastructure and purchasing. These figures are consistently higher amongst the broader population (representative sample), due to lower instances of already doing these things.

Table 2.4.2 Net infrastructure and purchasing behaviours

	Includes	Take up	Do more
Infrastructure	Install rainwater tank	59%	49%
	Grow own fruit and veg		
	Plant trees in yard		
	Install solar		
Ethical purchasing	Avoiding single use plastics	41%	57%
	Buy local		
	Buy green electricity		

Respondents were provided with the opportunity to share any other behaviours that they are currently doing or would like to do in the future.

Most of the suggestions were things that Council could do (rather than households) and are repeats of the topics already covered in the other sections of the survey.

Many suggested things already covered by the main question, such as improving energy efficiency or buying local.

New ideas put forth included:

- Electric vehicle (61 mentions, mostly for the future).
- Use active transport (51 mentions).
- Financial related actions such as divestment and donations (47 mentions).
- Reuse, repair, recycle and buying second-hand (33 mentions).
- Reduce meat consumption (30 mentions).
- Waste less / buy less (29 mentions).
- Water conservation / recycling (29 mentions).
- Soft plastics recycling (18 mentions).
- Install batteries / off grid (21 mentions all in future actions).

'Supermarkets have more packaging around fruit and vegies than before. govt should pressure them not to'

Male, 40-64yo, South

'I would like council to provide an advisory service to ratepayers (especially new arrivals to our country) about planting gardens resistant to increasing temperatures, how to drought-proof our gardens and ways to manage water. For example, how to capture water from the downpours we have when there is too much for a water tank to cope with and the gutters overflow. It seems like such a waste to see it run off into the gutters. Council regulations for installing downpipes with much larger diameters would help enormously.'

Female, 65+yo, location unknown

'Not buying unnecessary things. Choosing organic, locally grown produce where possible. Not eating meat and limiting dairy foods. Taking reusable produce bags to the shops. Taking my soft plastics to a Red Cycle collection station (and hoping that they will actually be recycled). Using rechargeable batteries. Recycling broken/old electronics. Selling or donating good quality unwanted items instead of throwing them out. Donating to environmental causes.'

Female, 40-64yo, North West

'Using carbon offsetting programs where available e.g. air travel. Recycling timber and other product where possible.

Mending / repairing clothing and other products where possible. Donating usable products to second hand stores and buying secondhand when available. Clean Up

Australia Day'

Male, 40-64yo, South

'Walking is my main way of getting around my neighbourhood with public transport to go further afield. Joining local groups, using the library and shopping locally helps me feel part of a community.'

Female, 65+, North West

2.5 BIG IDEAS

Do you have a big idea that you would like to see included in Boroondara's Climate Action Plan?

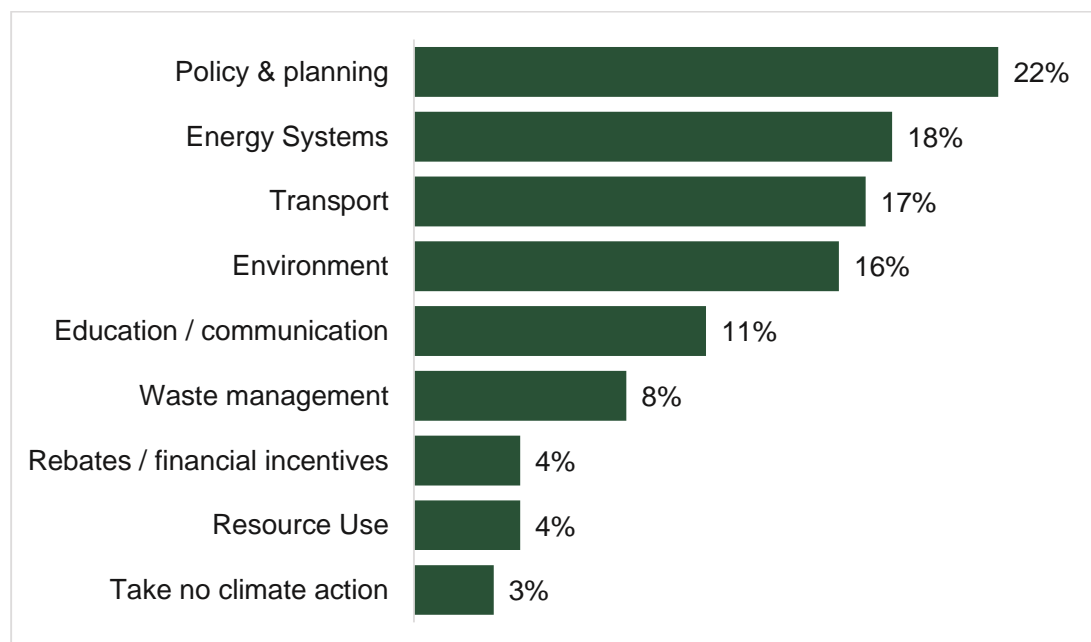
Sample: n=893

Notes: Recorded as text then grouped into themes for analysis.

A very broad and detailed list of ideas was put forth by respondents, often covering more than one idea, and frequently repeating thoughts recorded in previous sections of the survey. Of the 893 people who specified an idea, around a third were relatively unique and couldn't be grouped into a theme for coding. Those that could be grouped often put forth ideas relating to policy and planning, energy systems and/or transport.

The representative sample more often put forth ideas relating to education and communication (15%, compared to 9% open access) and resource use (7%, compared to 3% open access), while high proportions of open access respondents put forth ideas relating to transport, energy systems and/or policy/planning.

Figure 2.5.1 Big ideas categories



The following table outlines further detail about the types of ideas put forth under these themes.

Table 2.5.1 Big ideas

Policy and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable building / planning / regulations (8%) • Declare a climate emergency (8%) • Best practice / work with and learn from others (7%) • Work with / learn from first nations (1%)
Energy systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to use solar green energy (6%) • Set carbon emissions target (6%) • Households to use solar green energy (4%) • Local grid / micro grid (3%) • Solar bulk buy (1%)
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric vehicles / infrastructure (8%) • Bikes / bike lanes (7%) • Car free zones / reduce car use (3%) • Walking footpaths / trails (1%)
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase protection of green space (6%) • Community gardens (4%) • Waterways (2%) • Protect / plant natives (3%)
Education / communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education (9%) • Education in schools (2%)
Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve / expand recycling (3%) • Ban / reduce single use plastic (3%) • Recycle soft plastic (2%)
Resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water harvesting / conservation (2%) • Recycle soft plastic (2%)

Other ideas include:

- Energy audits.
- Reduce carbon emissions (no target specified).
- Allow planting on nature strip.
- Community engagement.
- Lobbying / advocacy.
- LED / efficient lighting / energy efficiency.

A selection of some of these ideas follows. For a full listing please see the separate comments coding document (Excel).

Education (community)

- Community education around plants, native birds and insects (Female, 15-24, North East).
- A public forum or community center meeting with a Scientist speaking to help to educate the people or at the local schools and invite people to hear. I am sure there would be community and school interest. If you teach children it is important (Female, 65+ Central).
- In Boroondara, 50% of people are renting, and a lot of apartments or units. So it is up to the body corporate, if we can make it more attractive for property owners through subsidies.. to install solar panels etc.. . Also I am a new migrant to Australia, when you first arrive in Australia.. we are only thinking of how we can survive and not thinking of sustainability.. I think there should be more focus on teaching migrants how to recycle for instance.. they have no idea what parts go where.. we also have to understand how the world is suffering to take action and to take the effort to do things correctly. They could work together with groups that they are not working with currently to get the message through, for e.g., church groups etc. to get them get the message across or have articles in newspaper.. everything we contribute is good... and when things work.. we must be shown it works in order for us to keep doing it until it becomes habit. Council may already have database how to reach immigrants.. so send them emails or mail.. but make it interesting to read (Male, 40-64, North East).

Sustainable building regulations

- I would like to see whenever council gives out building permits, I would like to see trees and shrubs put into the plan so it's not just the house that occupies the whole block but also greenery especially trees for birds and so on (Female, 40-65, Central).
- Sustainable building standards, Review every council policy against a climate emergency background, Review all public buildings including all schools to assess their suitability for use during extended heatwave periods. Health and emergency services plan for the elderly during extended heatwave periods (Male, 65+, Central).
- To make sure that when building homes that the building should be off set by trees. If you're building a home there should be a regulation that you need to have a certain amount of tree for the size of the build. (Female, 25-39, North West).

Council to use solar / green energy

- Install solar panels on all sports clubs or at least heavily subsidize that being done (Male, 65+, South).
- A commitment that Boroondara will run on 100% RE by X date would be awesome!! Then strong advocacy to State and Fed Government to make it happen. Focus on one thing and go hard publicly - get the community on board via education/awareness/PR campaign - and build momentum for change (Female, 40-64, North West).
- I would like solar panels mandated on ALL new buildings - domestic and commercial. I would like the percentage of permeable land on properties increased (Female, 40-64, North West).

Electric vehicles

- Plans with target dates and budgets for converting council properties to renewable energy. Similarly targets and budgets for changing the council vehicle fleet to electric. Also allowing for electric vehicle charging stations (Male, 40-64, South West).
- I think the conversion of buses, garbage trucks and council vehicles to electric is a big idea. Also introducing wind generation in suitable areas like parks and ovals, waste management sites - anywhere that is suitable (Female, 65+, Central).
- Is that the council adopt in its Climate Action Plan a goal to transition the community bus fleet and all council vehicles to electric vehicles by 2025. There are a high number of private and government schools in the area and these should also be part of this transition plan (Female, 40-64, North West).

Best practice / work with others

- Having a local climate conference with business, politicians, community members etc. to explore ideas would be good. Margaret River did this very successfully (Female, 40-64, Central).
- Work with the state government to allow only electric vehicles to be purchased by 2030 and similar for commercial vehicles by 2035. Work with surrounding local councils to collectively respond to the climate emergency (Male, 65+, South).
- Partner with the local Climate Emergency Action groups to work collaboratively and reach more of the community. Port Phillip Council has done this with PECAN (Port Phillip Climate Emergency Action Network) to run community forums and encourage residents to commit to a series of climate actions in their own lives. This is a really sweet idea and can bring the community together with shared, tangible goals (Female, 25-39, South West).

Bike lanes / paths

- Encourage cycling- people are using back streets to bypass Camberwell intersection and big intersections. Something needs to be done to make back streets not accessible for cars (Female, 40-64, South West).
- Build the Hawthorn to Box Hill trail to provide a safe path free from vehicles where children can learn to ride and families can go for recreational bike and walking trips. This path will provide safe local travel between Hawthorn, Camberwell, Glenferrie Road, Maling Road, Surrey Hills, Mont Albert and Box Hill along with connections to the Main Yarra, Anniversary and Box Hill to Ringwood shared use paths. There are over twenty schools and other education institutions close to the trail. More people riding bikes and walking will reduce traffic congestion on roads, reduce carbon emissions and provide a safe and healthy travel for local communities (Male, 40-64, Central).
- I think one key element which could enable many more people to ride their bike is by increasing the safety of riding bikes. This can be achieved by increasing the number of bike paths and establishment of protected bike lanes on busy roads. A simple line on the road is insufficient. Riders need physical protective barriers as has been established by the Melbourne City Council. In lieu of the covid crisis they have created tens of kilometres of protected bike lanes. By doing this, more people are likely to ride their bike on a greater number of trips on a significant scale. In turn this would result in less carbon emissions being released by car transportation and cleaner air for us and local flora and fauna to benefit from (Male, 15-24, South).

'I want a complete rejection of all fossil fuel companies and companies who support fossil fuels. I want to see businesses who support sustainability and climate change promoted and recognised and businesses that show limited action or no support towards climate change play limited roles in the community. I want to see diversity in the climate change movement in that I want indigenous people to be uplifted and empowered when talking about caring for the environment.'

Female, 15-24yo, South

'I would like to see Boroondara start a healthy competition with other councils, especially like metropolitan councils, to the most carbon reduction per person. That is start a scoreboard of actions and impacts and publicly plot the progress against other LGAs.'

Female, 40-64yo, Central

'Close Kew junction to cars once a month for a community festival connecting people to each other and promoting food, music, art and sustainable practices of Boroondara residents who are Indigenous Australians, members of culturally diverse groups, members of LGBTIQ+ community etc'

Female, 40-64yo, North West

'A council-sponsored sustainability assessment (and perhaps rewards) for households and other premises in Boroondara:

- voluntary participation - at least to begin with :-)
- periodic assessment, perhaps annually
- the result is provided with practical suggestions for improvements
- nominal reward for sustainability achievements or improvements - optional list on council website, vouchers for use in Boroondara (retailers may offer these free to get some publicity when prizes are announced), council compost bins etc or small rates reduction.'

Male, 65+, Central

'A community garden would be good as I used to live in Fitzroy and they had one and it worked really well. I think there just needs to be more education and information available in the community to help people know what to do.'

Female, 15-24, North West

'I would like to see Boroondara Council get serious with the necessary planning ordinances so that planting of trees, shrubs/ greenery on a significant percentage of redeveloped private's land is mandatory. What is happening at the moment is an indictment of current, council policies. You only have to walk the streets of Boroondara to see this. What will current generations think of what you/we are doing..'

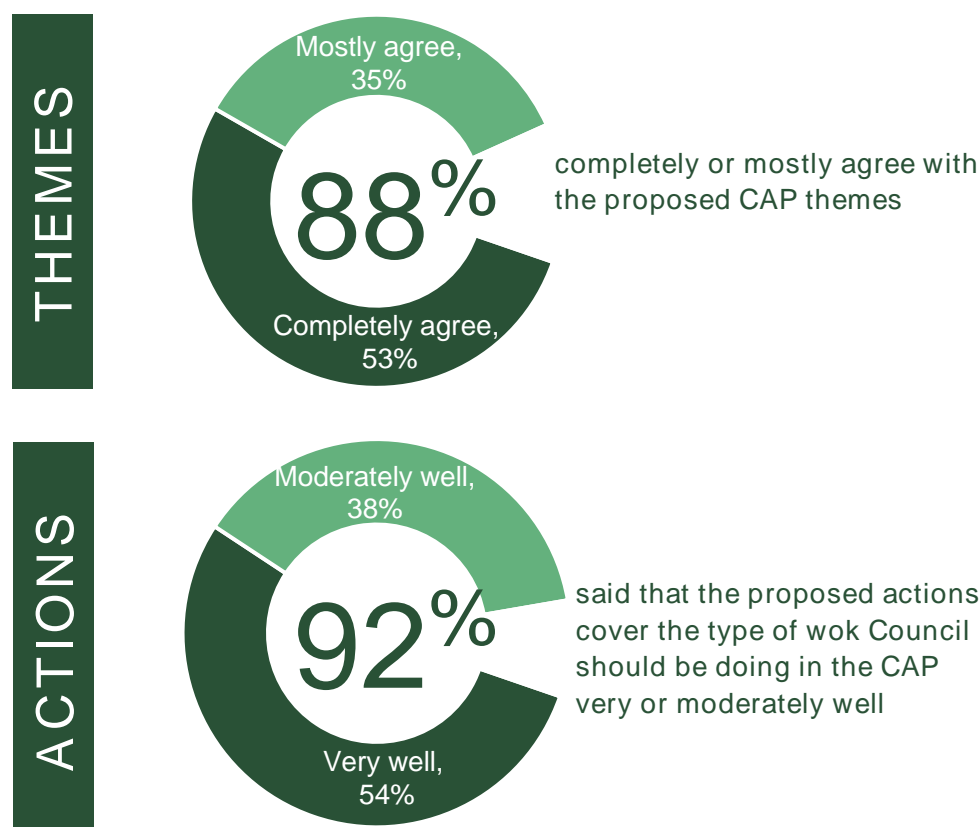
Male, 65+, South West

3 PHASE 2

3.1 KEY FINDINGS

Phase 2 of the research was designed to check back with the community to ensure that the planned themes and actions for City of Boroondara's Climate Action Plan (CAP) were in line with community priorities and opinions. This research follows on from a phase 1, representative community survey conducted in 2020, the results of which were used to develop these themes and actions (see sections 1 and 2 of this report).

This phase of surveying doesn't reach a representative sample, however it provides those with an interest in the subject matter the opportunity to provide feedback. The survey was completed by 183 individuals in March 2021, through the 'Have your say' form on Council's website.



Based on the suggestions put forth, the CAP needs a clear aim overarching these themes and actions, which refers to an emissions reduction target and adaptation strategy (potentially with a Climate Emergency declaration which was suggested by 14% of respondents). Actions need to be adequately covered in the budget and integrated into planning across Council; and there needs to be clear measures of progress that are regularly reported back to the community.

Specific action items commonly mentioned were:

- Sustainable building / planning (through advocacy to State Government as well as updating local planning documents);
- Electric vehicles (Council fleet, incentives for community to buy and public charging stations);
- Bike infrastructure; and
- Protecting and planting trees.

3.2 METHODOLOGY

In August and September 2020, the City of Boroondara undertook social research to help understand community perceptions, behaviours, and aspirations regarding climate action at the local level, along with how the community sees Council's role in relation to climate action and what actions they would like Council to be engaged in moving forward.

This information was used to guide the development of key themes and types of actions for Council's Climate Action Plan.

A second phase of research was conducted to test these themes and actions with the community, as summarised in this addendum.

The survey was programmed and hosted using Council's online 'Have your say' page. The survey was promoted through social media, Council networks, and to those who registered their interest in further participation through the first phase of the research. The survey collected responses from 17-31 March 2021.

3.2.1 COVERAGE

After the removal of records that were clearly duplicates, there were 183 valid responses to the survey. The sample was mostly residents and had a good balance of respondents by gender, but was heavily skewed towards those aged 40 years or over.

		Count	%	2016 Census
Gender	Male	76	42%	47%
	Female	105	57%	53%
	Other	1	1%	-
	Refused	1	1%	-
Age	15-24	10	5%	18%
	25-39	26	14%	23%
	40-64	81	44%	39%
	65+	66	36%	19%
Tenure	Owner occupier	144	79%	64%
	Renter	29	16%	28%

		Count	%	2016 Census
Suburb	Ashburton	10	5%	4%
	Balwyn	6	3%	8%
	Balwyn North	7	4%	12%
	Camberwell	31	17%	13%
	Canterbury	15	8%	5%
	Deepdene	1	1%	1%
	Glen Iris	16	9%	9%
	Hawthorn	41	23%	15%
	Hawthorn East	9	5%	9%
	Kew	22	12%	15%
	Kew East	6	3%	4%
	Mont Albert	0	-	0%
	Surrey Hills	11	6%	5%
	Refused	3	2%	-
	Outside Boroondara	3		-

3.3 RESEARCH FINDINGS

3.3.1 REVIEW OF PROPOSED THEMES

To what extent do you agree or disagree with these themes for Boroondara's Climate Action Plan?

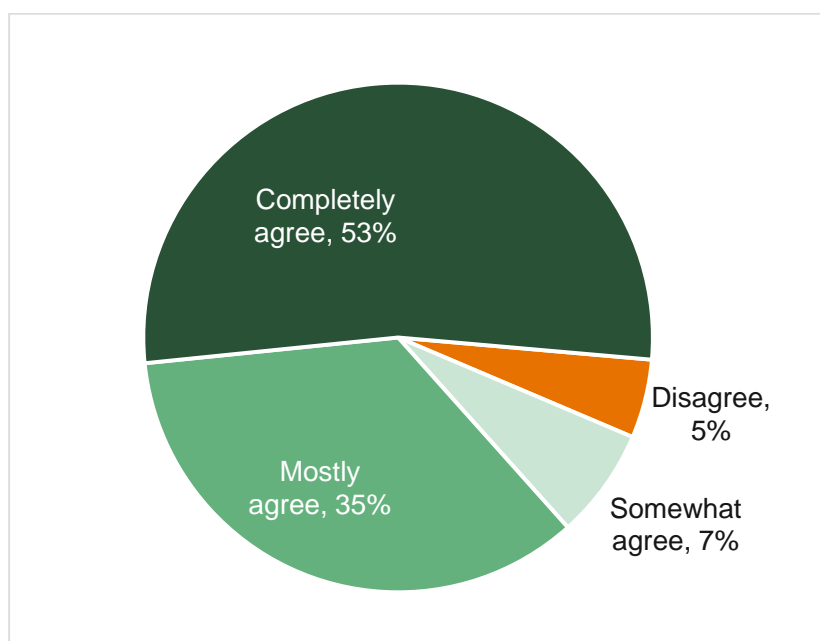
Sample: n=183

The survey commenced with a description of the key findings from phase 1, followed by the proposed themes for the Climate Action Plan based on these findings, as follows:

- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy;
- Biodiversity and Trees;
- The Circular Economy (Waste and Recycling);
- Sustainable Water use and Healthy Waterways; and
- Sustainable Transport.

Almost all of those who participated in the survey indicated completely (53%) or mostly (35%) agreed with the proposed themes for Boroondara's Climate Action Plan.

Figure 3.3.1.1 Agreement with proposed CAP themes



Females more often indicated complete agreement (60%, compared to 45% males).

Those who disagreed (n=10) indicated that this disagreement was due to the perception that Council should be focussing on other areas (4 mentions), it is not appropriate for Council to be focussing on these themes (3 mentions) and it is not enough with critical themes missing (2 mentions).

When those who disagreed were asked what different themes should be included, the main other themes mentioned were:

- Need more of a focus on nature restoration (more trees, Restoring Nature (European Environmental Bureau), Making Peace With Nature (UNEP)) (2 mentions); and
- Need to focus on carbon emission reduction / net zero emissions (2 mentions).

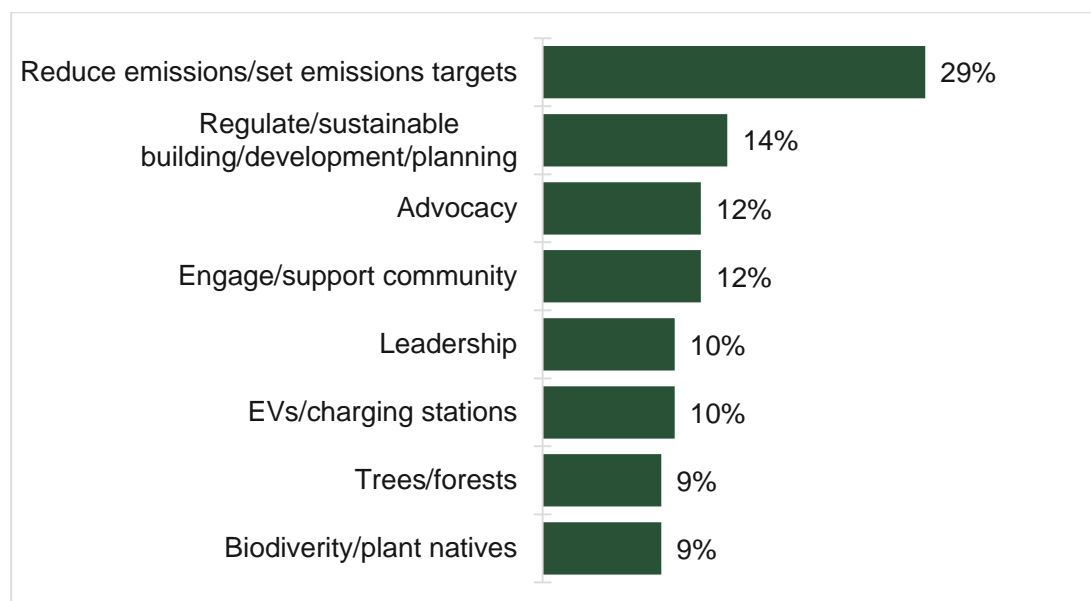
What different key themes do you think should be included in Boroondara's Climate Action Plan?

Sample: n=105

Notes: Recorded as text then grouped into themes for analysis.

Of the 105 respondents who suggested a different key theme that should be included in Boroondara's Climate Action Plan, most comments were covering aspects that would be likely to fall under one or more of the already proposed themes. The most commonly mentioned topic was the need to reduce carbon emissions, for both Council and the community, with some suggesting this should be the overarching aim of the CAP.

Figure 3.3.1.2 Suggestions for additional themes



The following table presents further insights into these suggestions, grouped under the proposed CAP themes.

Table 3.3.1.3 Additional suggestions under each theme

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	<p>Reducing emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For many, this is the most important thing. • Reduce emissions quickly. • Set a target - aim for zero emissions by 20xx. • Leadership and advocacy. • Council and community emission reduction. • Community education. • Regular reporting on progress. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition away from gas. • Solar street lights. • Support community energy projects.
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Biodiversity and Trees	<p>Regulations to ensure sustainable building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't let development take away open space. • More green area required in new house builds to mitigate heat islands. <p>Trees / forests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant more trees / increase green cover. • Don't cut down large trees / maintain tree canopy cover. • Increase fine for tree removal. <p>Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-wilding. • Plant natives. • Manage pests.
The Circular Economy (Waste and Recycling)	<p>Reduce, reuse, recycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to repair. • Zero waste strategies / reduce consumption. • Information on recycling. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of toxic chemicals. • Ban synthetic grass. • Eliminate single use plastic.
Sustainable Water use and Healthy Waterways	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public water fountains.
Sustainable Transport	<p>Electric vehicles and charging stations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Council operated vehicles switch to electric. • Charging stations in shopping centres. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated bike lanes / improved cycling infrastructure. • Turn off vehicle engines when stationary.

Six respondents said that Council should declare a Climate Emergency. Other suggestions that span across all of the CAP themes were as follows:

Table 3.3.1.4 Additional suggestions for CAP

Regulate sustainable building / development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some mentioned that there needs to be a change to planning so that new buildings are more sustainable (energy star rating, bike parking, sustainable materials used, built so they don't need air conditioning). • Don't let development take away open space. • More green area required in new house builds to mitigate heat islands.
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Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating to all levels of Government. • Advocating on topics of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate emergency; ○ Emissions reduction; and ○ Community action.
Engage / support community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help the community reduce emissions. • Encourage behaviour change (programs and incentives). • Support community action / community groups taking action.
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often grouped with advocacy and governance. • Leading by example.
Educate community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangers of climate change. • Recycling. • Value of trees. • Climate action.
Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will also need to adapt to changes in climate that can no longer be prevented. • Risk mitigation.
Set goals / targets / assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set targets. • Measure progress. • Report on progress.
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring internal structures are in place to achieve goals. • Robust procedures.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable procurement. • 20 minute neighbourhoods / live near work. • Recognise achievements.

Main focus should be reducing emissions & adapting to climate change. Concerned that other sustainability themes distract from the main purpose. I think Council's leadership and advocacy to other levels of government and educating the community about the climate emergency are important themes too.
Female, 40-65yo, South

Heat retention reduction ie most new homes have minuscule amount of green area and are mostly paved or concrete. Council should majorly raise the fine for tree removal increase requirement for green free space. Wattle Park needs top class care and no concrete paths!
Female, 65+yo, Central

leadership & advocacy. Engaging and supporting the community to reduce climate change. Strong council procedures to drive climate action.
65+yo, Central

More specific plans around sustainable transport including electric car charging station plans for shopping, civic and recreational precincts and destinations. Male, 40-64yo,

Council to:
Declare Climate Emergency, Lead & advocate on addressing the climate crisis,
Reduce Council emissions,
Engage & support community action. Male, 40-64yo, Central

3.3.2 REVIEW OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

Q4 How well do you think this covers the main types of sustainability actions and topics Council should be focusing on?

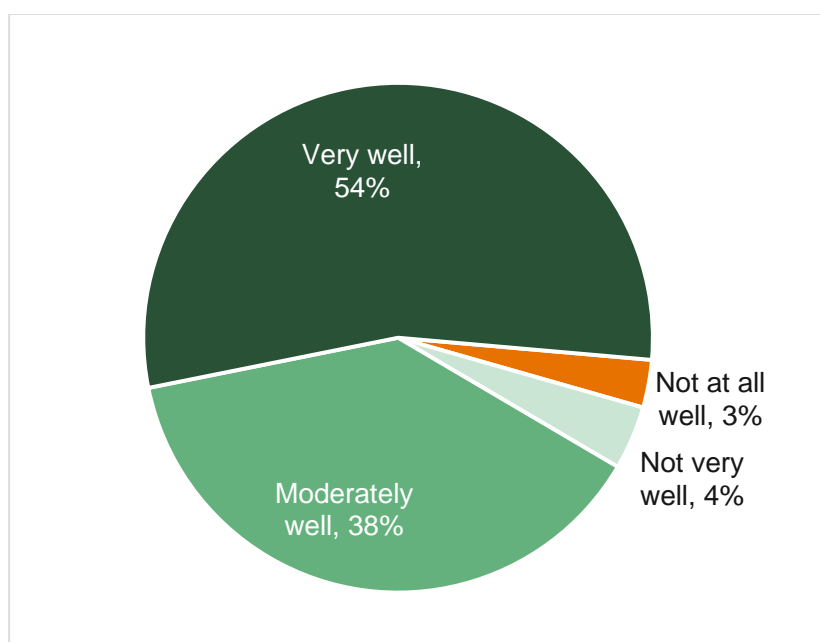
Sample: n=180

Next, respondents were shown a list of some of the main actions and topics identified in the previous consultation which Council plans to focus on within the Climate Action Plan. The correlating theme/s were also presented for each:

- Solar panels (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy);
- Better recycling (The Circular Economy);
- Protect and plant more trees (Biodiversity and Trees);
- Reduce carbon emissions (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and The Circular Economy);
- Preserve green space (Biodiversity and Trees);
- Electric vehicle infrastructure (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy);
- Sustainable buildings (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Sustainable Water use and Healthy Waterways);
- Bike paths (Sustainable Transport);
- Educate the community about sustainability (all Themes);
- Community engagement (all Themes);
- Sustainable water use (Sustainable Water Use and Healthy Waterways); and
- Active transport options including cycling and walking (Sustainable Transport).

Almost all of those surveyed said that these proposed actions cover the main types of sustainability actions and topics Council should be focusing on very well (54%) or moderately well (38%).

Figure 3.3.2.1 How well proposed actions cover what Council should be focussing on



The young people who participated (15-24 year olds, n=10) mostly rated the proposed actions as moderately well (80%) rather than very well (20%), suggesting that there is potentially an opportunity to better cover issues of importance to youth.

Of the 10 people who provided ratings of 'not well' or 'not at all', three mentioned addressing inappropriate development as another action (and the resulting destruction of trees/amenity). Other suggestions made by those who provided a 'not well' or 'not at all' rating were as follows (each only mentioned by one person):

- Needs more of a focus on cutting carbon;
- Remove bike paths action;
- Climate change denial;
- Stick to roads, rates and rubbish;
- Needs a better hierarchy of small to large actions, with a clear vision;
- Repair cafes; and
- Needs more consideration for pedestrians.

Q5. Are there any other types of sustainability actions you think Council should be doing?

Sample: n=114

Notes: Recorded as text then grouped into themes for analysis.

When asked to suggest other actions Council should be doing, most of the 114 comments provided further details about already listed actions (see following table).

Table 3.3.2.2 Additional suggestions for CAP actions

Solar panels	Local / community power generation / batteries (4 mentions)
Better recycling	<p>Reduce / reuse / recycle (12 mentions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate community on what can be recycled. • Reduce waste (2 mentions). • Monitor and enforce cross-contamination. • Repair cafes. • Container deposit scheme. • Organic waste recycling for businesses. <p>Ban plastic / single use plastic (6 mentions)</p>
Protect and plant more trees / preserve green space	<p>Trees / forests (12 mentions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect large trees, canopies and parks. • Plant trees / more urban forests. • Prevent removal of trees from private property. • Remove environmental weeds. <p>Green space / parks / gardens (11 mentions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community gardens (nature strips) (4 mentions). • Protect parks / open space (2 mentions). • Porous surfaces instead of concrete. • Increase green space. <p>Biodiversity / plant natives (5 mentions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pest management (Mynas). • Cat curfew. • Remove environmental weeds. • Restore ecosystems.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant natives.
Reduce carbon emissions	<p>Transition from gas (15 mentions) - Council and community</p> <p>Reduce emissions / set emissions targets (14 mentions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce carbon emissions (3 mentions). Zero net emissions (3 mentions). Set targets (2 mentions). Council and community emissions. <p>Renewable energy (12 mentions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives to use renewables (4 mentions). Community solar. Council purchase 100% green energy. Help residents install solar (particularly renters). Solar panels over car parks. <p>Set goals / targets / assessment (7 mentions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline measures. Integrate data into planning. Compare data to other Councils. Include CAP KPIs in CEO contract. Emission reduction targets. Monitor progress.
Electric vehicle infrastructure	<p>EVs / charging stations (17 mentions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives for electric vehicles (EVs), such as parking concessions (8 mentions). Convert Council fleet to EV (5 mentions). Public charging stations (5 mentions). Bulk buying deals available to residents.
Sustainable buildings	<p>Regulate / sustainable building / development / planning (18 mentions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop over-development with no open space / trees (5 mentions). Embed sustainability into planning scheme (5 mentions). Advocate to state government for more sustainable planning regulations. Better insulation. Allow people to build without gas connections.
Educate the community about sustainability	<p>Educate the community (6 mentions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education in languages other than English. Educate on recycling. Day for community to come together to plant trees. Education on reducing waste. Education on improving insulation.

Community
engagement

Engage community / support community (6 mentions)

- Support community energy projects / action.
- Help community improve energy efficiency.
- Force or incentivise sustainable behaviour.
- Keep community informed and updated.

Active transport
options including
cycling and walking
/ bike paths

Active / public transport (7 mentions)

- Advocate for improved public transport (routes and access).
- Encourage active transport (infrastructure and incentives).
- Community transport.

A number of those who provided a comment suggested that Council needs to declare a climate emergency (7%, 8 mentions). Other suggestions have been summarised below.

Table 3.3.2.3 Other suggestions for CAP actions

Advocacy

Advocate with other levels of government (4 mentions), in collaboration with other Councils (3 mentions) for:

- More sustainable building regulations (2 mentions).
- Improved transport infrastructure (public and active) (3 mentions).

Sustainable
procurement /
investment /
divestment

- Divestment (5 mentions).
- Sustainable procurement (3 mentions).

Air quality/reduce pollution (3 mentions).

Helping people get off gas. Good baseline measures of emissions. Giving incentives for electric vehicles like free and longer parking. Supporting community energy projects. Advocacy to other levels of government on planning and transport. Helping vulnerable people managing stress. Female, 40-64yo, North East

Council climate advocacy, transitioning from gas, EV incentives, energy efficiency and renewable incentives, Council procurement policies
Male, 65+yo, Central

Definitely protect large native trees and parks and definitely more education of people, including in foreign languages as we now have a lot of foreign language speakers who are residents Female, 40-64yo, Central

Supporting the development of Community based renewable energy. Solar battery hubs. Supporting the planting of productive community nature strips/open space. Free plants for residents or council organised community planting days. Pressuring Govt to adopt more sustainable building regulations. Female, 65+yo, Central

Banning single-use plastics
Declaring a climate emergency (ie Stonnington) to places pressure on other local/state govs
Advocating public transport.
Male, 15-24yo, South

Transition away from gas
Advocacy with other levels of government
Incentives to use electric vehicles and bicycles (eg parking & concessions).
Female, 40-64yo, North West

3.3.3 OTHER FEEDBACK

Q6. If you have any other comments or ideas you would like to put forward for **Boroondara's Climate Action Plan**, please comment in the space below.

Sample: n=95

Notes: Recorded as text then grouped into themes for analysis.

At the end of the survey 95 respondents provided additional comments, the most common being:

- Declare a climate emergency (21 mentions);
- Set emissions targets (17 mentions);
- Have clear goals, measures and targets for the actions and assess these regularly (11 mentions);
- Sustainable development and planning (9 mentions);
- Bike paths (9 mentions);
- Set budget for actions (7 mentions); and
- Electric vehicles (6 mentions).

4 PHASE 3

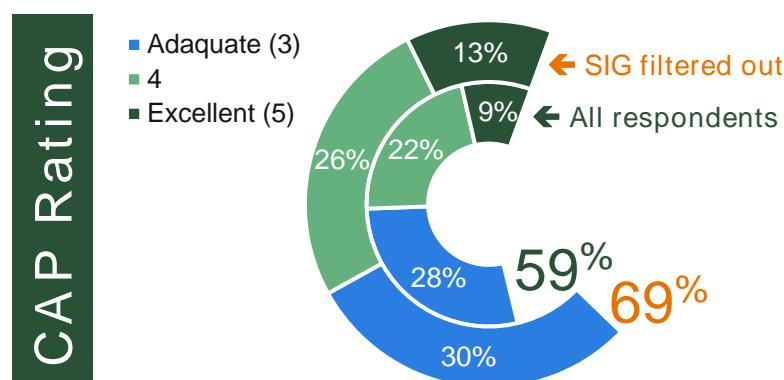
4.1 KEY FINDINGS

This research was designed to check back with the community to test how well the City of Boroondara's Climate Action Plan (CAP) meets community needs. It is phase 3 of a research program that also included a representative community survey conducted in 2020, the results of which were used to develop themes and actions, and a test of the themes and actions which occurred in March 2021 (phase 2).

This phase of surveying doesn't reach a representative sample, however it provides those with an interest in the subject matter with the opportunity to provide feedback. The survey was completed by 276 individuals in July - August 2021, through the 'Have your say' form on Council's website.

It was identified that a climate action community group distributed a PDF of potential survey answers, with 83 survey responses attributed to this group (determined through matching comments to the PDF talking points). A further grouping of 4 responses were received in close succession expressing the view that climate action was not an appropriate Council activity, suggesting distribution through a network. The data has been analysed inclusive of both of these Special Interest Group (SIG) responses.

Overall, the majority rated the Draft CAP as adequate or better (3-5 out of 5). The SIGs see more opportunity for improvement, whilst of the broader community are more often happy with it.



The main criticisms of the CAP mostly related to the need for it to be more detailed (show the actions attributed to each goal), strengthen emissions targets, do more sooner, show budgets and timelines, and/or address specific topics of importance to individuals such as increasing trees and development rules. There were only 18 comments suggesting that it is inappropriate for Council to be developing a CAP (6% of the sample).

The top 3 most important parts of the CAP were identified as trees and biodiversity, renewables and solar, and emissions reduction. When asked which were the least important aspects, most respondents outside of the SIG contributions said that it was all important (those within the SIG named very specific aspects that aligned to their distributed briefing document, which were not picked up by any respondents outside of the SIG).

When asked if there was anything missing, the most common responses by the SIG were declaring a climate emergency and timing and budgets, while the non-SIG sample commonly raised development rules (to encourage more environmentally friendly building and maintain trees) and strengthening targets.

4.2 METHODOLOGY

In August and September 2020, the City of Boroondara undertook social research to help understand community perceptions, behaviours, and aspirations regarding climate action at the local level, along with how the community sees Council's role in relation to climate action and what actions they would like Council to be engaged in moving forward. This information was used to guide the development of key themes and types of actions for Council's Climate Action Plan. A second phase of research was conducted to test these themes and actions with the community, which contributed towards the development of a draft Climate Action Plan (CAP). A third phase of research (reported below) went back to the community with the draft CAP to test whether the draft meets community needs and priorities.

The survey was promoted in the July/Aug Boroondara Bulletin (hard copy to 75,000 households and digital copy to 40,000 subscribers), an email invite to 503 'Keep informed' subscribers, promotion on Council's 'Messages on hold', and social media promotions. The survey was programmed and hosted using Councils online 'Have your say' page and collected responses from 5 July to 5 August 2021.

4.2.1 COVERAGE

There were 276 valid responses to the survey. The sample was mostly residents and had a good balance of respondents by gender, but was heavily skewed towards those aged 40 years or over.

		Count	%	2016 Census
Gender	Male	112	41%	47%
	Female	148	54%	53%
	Other	0	0%	-
	Refused	12	4%	-
Age	15-24	14	5%	18%
	25-39	29	11%	23%
	40-64	121	44%	39%
	65+	102	37%	19%
	Refused	7	3%	-

		Count	%	2016 Census
Suburb	Ashburton	22	8%	4%
	Balwyn	16	6%	8%
	Balwyn North	17	6%	12%
	Camberwell	40	15%	13%
	Canterbury	16	6%	5%
	Deepdene	1	0%	1%
	Glen Iris	36	13%	9%
	Hawthorn	39	14%	15%
	Hawthorn East	14	5%	9%
	Kew	38	14%	15%
	Kew East	11	4%	4%
	Surrey Hills	17	6%	5%
	Outside Boroondara	8	3%	-

Half of respondents (50%) indicated that they had participated in a prior engagement on this topic for Council, the most common being completion of the previous surveys (online or telephone, 41%).

There were two sets of responses that appear to be prompted by a call to action amongst the community:

1. 12-13 July there was a block of 4 responses saying that the CAP is not within Council's responsibility.
2. There were 83 responses which were identified as being prompted by a submission guide distributed by the 'Lighter Footprints' group (identified through use of similar comment structure, terms and phrases; see appendix for copy of distributed PDF guide). The PDF was published on social media on 3 August and shared 18 times including other Facebook groups:
 - a. Kooyong Votes Climate;
 - b. Australian Greens politics, news and discussion;
 - c. StopAdani Kooyong;
 - d. Kooyong Votes Climate;
 - e. Eastern Melbourne Climate Alliance; and
 - f. Boroondara votes climate (6 shares).

It is important that the views of these SIGs are considered in the analysis. Where the broader community outside of these SIGs show different findings, this has been covered in the analysis.

4.3 RESEARCH FINDINGS

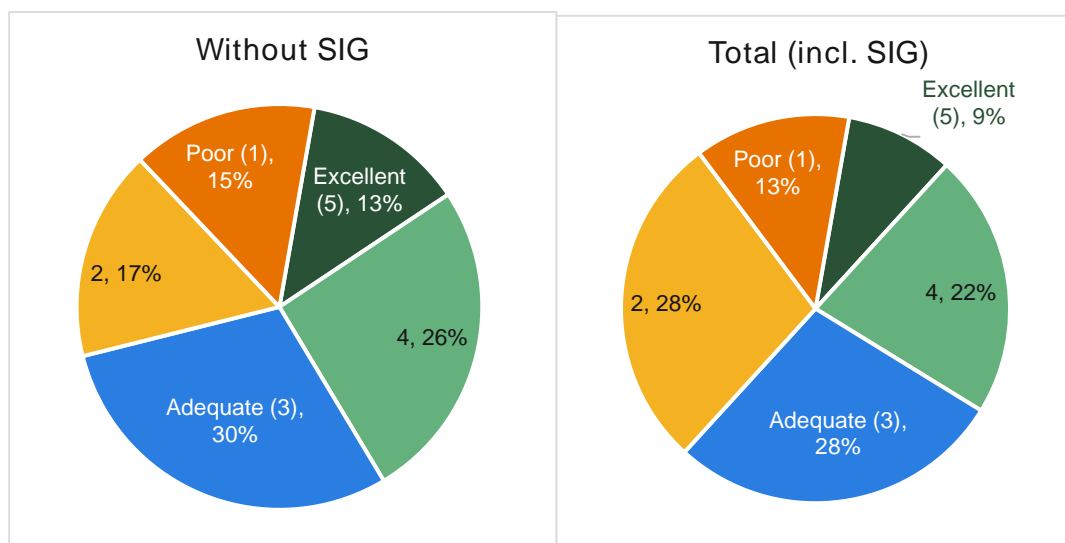
4.3.1 RATING OF DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Q5. Overall, how would you rate the Climate Action Plan?

Sample: n=273

More than half of those surveyed rated the draft CAP as adequate or better (3-5/5). The Special Interest Group (SIG) contributions mostly providing ratings of 2 or 3 out of 5, suggesting that those in the local community who are heavily invested in the topic see more opportunity for improvement.

Figure 4.3.1.1 Rating of draft CAP



There were no statistically significant variations in responses by demographics.

Q6. Can you tell us why you gave the draft Climate Action Plan this rating?

Sample: n=276

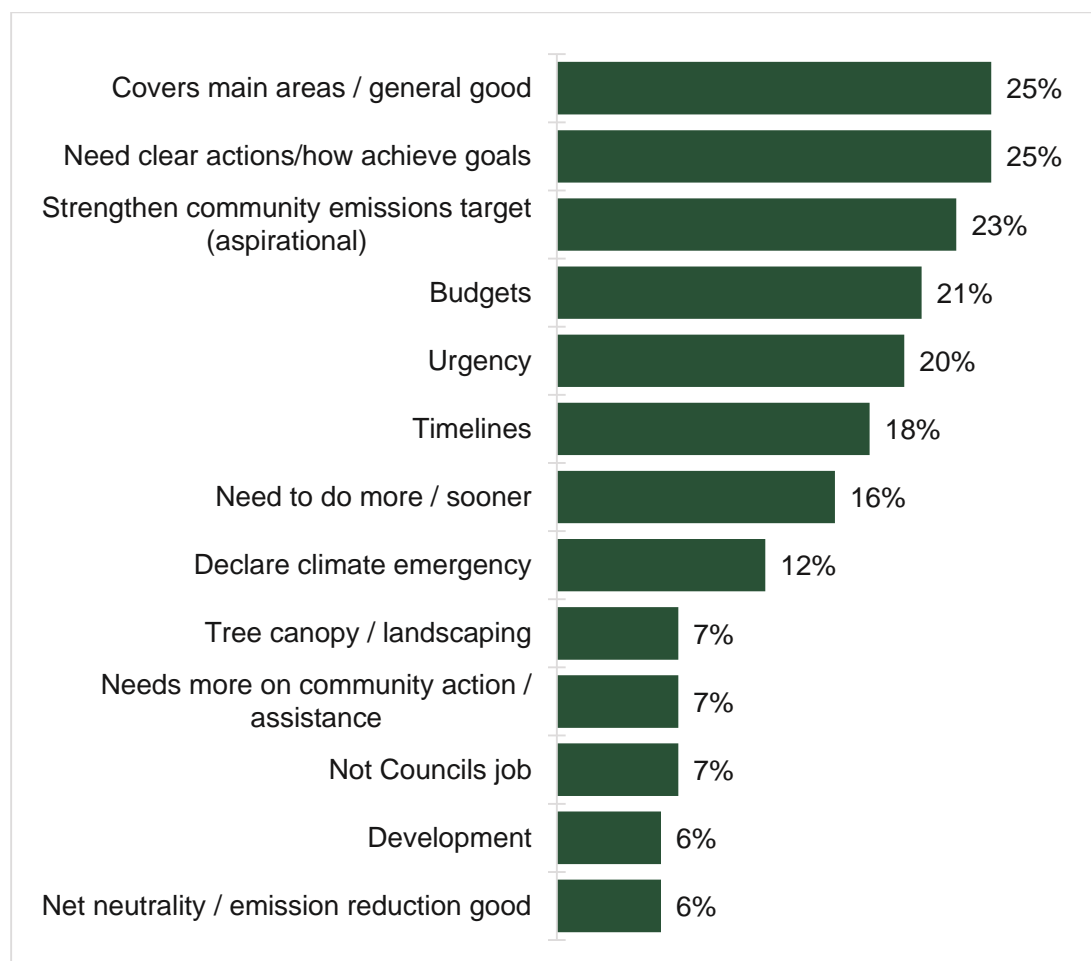
Notes: Recorded as text then grouped into themes for analysis.

The main reasons put forth by the SIG contributors were:

- Need to strengthen emissions targets;
- Community targets need to be more than just 'aspirational';
- Lack of urgency; and
- No timeline or budget.

Other respondents often said that the reason for their rating was that the document covers the main areas it needs to cover and is generally good. Some of the other suggestions put forth include clearly showing how goals were going to be achieved (potentially through detailing actions), and the need to do more, sooner.

Figure 4.3.1.2 Reason for rating



The main two topic areas where suggestions were put forth for further detail were:

- Tree canopy and landscaping – Comments included the need for more trees, maintaining current trees, native planting to increase biodiversity, and creating more green spaces.
- Development – Comments suggested that more needs to be done to ensure new developments have more sustainable build quality (star ratings) and maintain green spaces and trees.

Among those who provided a low rating (1 or 2) outside of the SIG responses, the most common reasons put forth were a need to do more sooner, not Councils job, needs more urgency, and needs to do more to protect tree canopy / landscaping.

Those who provided a high rating (4 or 5) mostly said they gave this rating due to it covering the main areas and being generally good, although some said it needs clearer targets and actions.

I'm impressed with the ambition and scope of Council's GHG reduction targets. I like that the plan builds on a track record of monitoring, improving and reporting climate data, and so feels achievable, and that it addresses the many facets of emissions sources and related sustainability and community issues. I think this is a clear and thoughtful guiding document for Boroondara..

Female, 25-39yo, South West

The "Plan" relies on a collection of previous documents and includes lots of aspirational targets, but is very light on an actual "plan" on how & when these targets will be achieved - which is going to make the 2 yearly review hard to conduct. A "plan" needs to clearly set out the steps to be completed in the time frame. Perhaps it is just the wrong title?

Female, 40-64yo, Central

It doesn't address climate change as an emergency. Everything suggested is a half measure and tokenistic. There are no real measures to encourage behavioural change within the local community that is very car reliant and consumeristic. Female, 40-64yo, Central

There is no indication of Life Cycle costing. The environmental standard ISO 14001 requires life cycle considerations when assessing the aspects and impacts of operations on the environment. This should be applied to PV panels and E vehicles as a minimum.

The embedded carbon and costs should be determined with the considerations and decisions made. Include all transport costs.

Male, 65+yo, Central

I support the objectives of the plan and congratulate the Council on this initiative.

However, I see a lack of detailed actions that can be monitored and progress reported regularly. Also I would like a budget allocation of financial expenditure on achieving the objectives of the plan.

Female, 65+yo, South West

There were several aspects missing from the draft Climate Action Plan. Some have been noted for future research (e.g., risks management) however other need more tangible goals to ensure accountability. These include Climate Active certification, additional bike lane km to be built, why net zero from 2022 and not now, budget for offsetting, carbon neutral development (e.g. new builds)

Female, 25-39+yo, South West

I think it is aspirational and has some good goals and principles in it but also is hard to visualise some of the tangible outputs that will be achieved. Feels like it needs some more memorable and iconic initiatives that set an inspirational level to rally support behind (i.e., whole fleet of rubbish trucks electric or a large community green army of tree planters)

Male, 25-39yo, Central

4.3.2 TOP THREE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE CAP

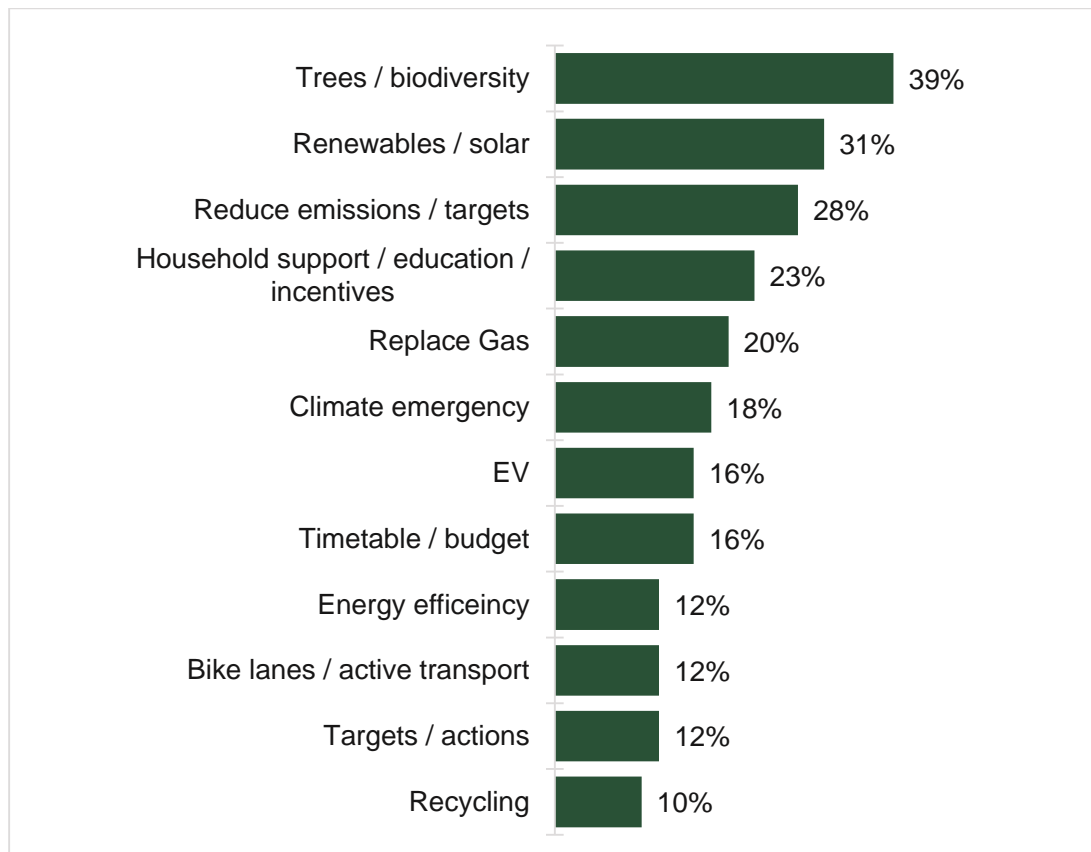
Q7. Regarding the draft Climate Action Plan, what are the top three actions or parts you think are most important to be included?

Sample: n=275

Notes: Recorded as text then grouped into themes for analysis.

The most commonly mentioned top areas of the draft CAP were relating to trees and biodiversity, renewables and solar, and reducing emissions targets.

Figure 4.3.2.1 Top three most important parts of the CAP



Within the special interest group the talking points provided for this question were:

- Declare a climate emergency (seldom mentioned outside of the SIG responses);
- Emissions targets for Council and community;
- Detailed targets;
- Timetable and budget;
- Advocacy;
- Engaging and partnering with the community;
- Incentives for households;
- Community bulk buy program;
- Households transition from gas;
- Free household energy audits;
- Incentives to increase active and public transport and EVs; and
- Increase tree canopy cover.

Table 4.3.2.1 Most important actions in the CAP

Trees / biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase tree canopy. • Plant more trees. • Use nature strips better. • Urban forests. • Biodiversity.
Renewables / solar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community electricity solutions. • Large energy users switch to renewable. • Transition to renewable. • Community bulk-buying. • More solar take-up (household and Council buildings).
EV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change fleet to EV. • Encourage households to get EVs. • EV recharging stations.
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce waste. • FOGO. • Clarification about recycling behaviours. • Use recycled materials for infrastructure and building.

I think infrastructure investments and incentive programs to enable community members to switch from gas (especially heating) to electricity in the home, to reduce individual car usage (to PT, riding, etc.) and to install home solar and batteries are the most important ways for Council to support emissions reductions in the community.

1. Develop a program to support energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades for Boroondara homes and businesses (focus first on vulnerable residents)
 2. Support improved off-road shared or separated bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
 3. Increase recycling options available to the Boroondara community and support new recycling options for items such as solar PV panels
- Female, 25-39yo, South West

Electric vehicles - Support installation of electric vehicle and bicycle charging infrastructure and Pursue opportunities to include electric vehicle and bicycle charging in all relevant Council civil works

Enhanced tree planting program to support transition of our urban canopy to one that is resilient and future proofed and provides shade and urban cooling

All corporate actions under Energy efficiency and renewable energy

Female, 40-64yo, Central

Continuing to educate the community

Implementing a circular economy in all Council buildings and programs

Mandating change where possible - e.g. city wide plastic bag ban.

Female, 40-64yo, Central

Cost effective upgrade of infrastructure.

Undertake cost benefit analysis before making decisions.

Focus on good building design (I see this is in part improved resilience to climate change as well as an opportunity to reduce impacts)

Male, 40-64yo, North East

Immediately ban all car trips to and from school, as has been done in parts of UK. This will improve air quality and create generational change as to how we approach transport. It is pathetic to see the queue of cars at my local primary school during afternoon pickup with their engines idling. This needs to stop now - not next week, not next month, *not next year. Now. It's frustrating the lack* of political will to do this when it has been achieved in other countries.

Male, 40-64yo, South

4.3.3 LEAST IMPORTANT ACTIONS OR PARTS OF THE PLAN

Q8. Regarding the draft Climate Action Plan, what are three actions or parts you think are least important to be included?

Sample: n=275

Notes: Recorded as text then grouped into themes for analysis.

When asked which sections were least important, the most common responses amongst respondents outside of the SIG responses were that it was all important (34%) or that they didn't know (12%).

The Special Interest Group talking points were as follows:

- Eliminating single-use plastic at Council events;
- Business focused programs to reduce food and packaging waste;
- Workshops to enhance community capacity to use water sustainably; and
- Supporting increased home food gardening.

Generally, there were a broad range of suggested topics of least importance, with the main ones covered in the following table.

Table 4.3.3.1 Least Important actions of the CAP

Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce transport trips by staff. • Advocate for all Victorian Transport projects to provide EV and bicycle charging infrastructure. • Investigate and support more on-road bike lane facilities. • Only explore fast charging stations and off-road cycling connections if it doesn't interfere with other public land uses (parkland, pedestrian paths). • EV charging stations can be privately funded. • EV fleet may be expensive while it is still new.
Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education workshops considered ineffective.
Report design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid repetition. • Compact it (make it shorter). • More logical order of infographics. • Too much background / process information. • History pre 2007 not needed. • Less photos and more data. • Only include actions that can be measured. • Group list on p33 by themes. • Firm commitments rather than aspirational. • Wording too vague.

Strategy review /
development

- Use existing state government strategies (bicycle, public transport) rather than developing new ones.
- Nature strip guidelines review not needed.
- Corporate planning doesn't need to be included (e.g. car share policy review).
- Need a winter irrigation strategy and update open space strategy.

Specific items

- Tree giveaways (3%).
- Aspirational (rather than set targets, 3%).
- Flexible working arrangements for staff (2%).
- Internet of things (2%).
- Growing food (2%).
- Meat consumption (2%).
- Waste management (2%).

Waste (purely because it's only 3% of community emissions). Love the work that Boroondara do across circular economy/waste but it's got a relatively low emission impact

Male, 25-39yo, Central

Requires a whole mix of initiatives - therefore can't say that some are least important than others

Male, 65+yo, Central

Provide tree giveaways to schools, community groups and residents.

Embed climate action into staff roles and responsibilities and performance management. Pursue opportunities to use smart technologies and IOT (Internet of Things) to achieve greater environmental sustainability..

Male, 15-24yo, North West

I wouldn't be too quick to adopt an entire fleet of electric cars as they will be very expensive while technology is so new.

All other initiatives are important, so no further response

Female, 65+yo, South

I'm sorry it is ALL important.... we need to contribute as much as we can; especially as we are one of the areas in the world that takes so much and should give back.

Female, 40-64yo, Central

1. Glorifying recycling plastics - just stop their production
2. Saying it's a federal responsibility - the Paris Agreement has a clear focus on subnational entities of which Boroondara is one
3. Targets like "reduce" without a "by x%" or "by the following actions"

Female, 25-39yo, South

Sorry, I can't answer this, as I believe every single effort will help, and I can't dismiss any effort as too small or unimportant..

Female, 65+yo, South

4.3.4 ANYTHING MISSING

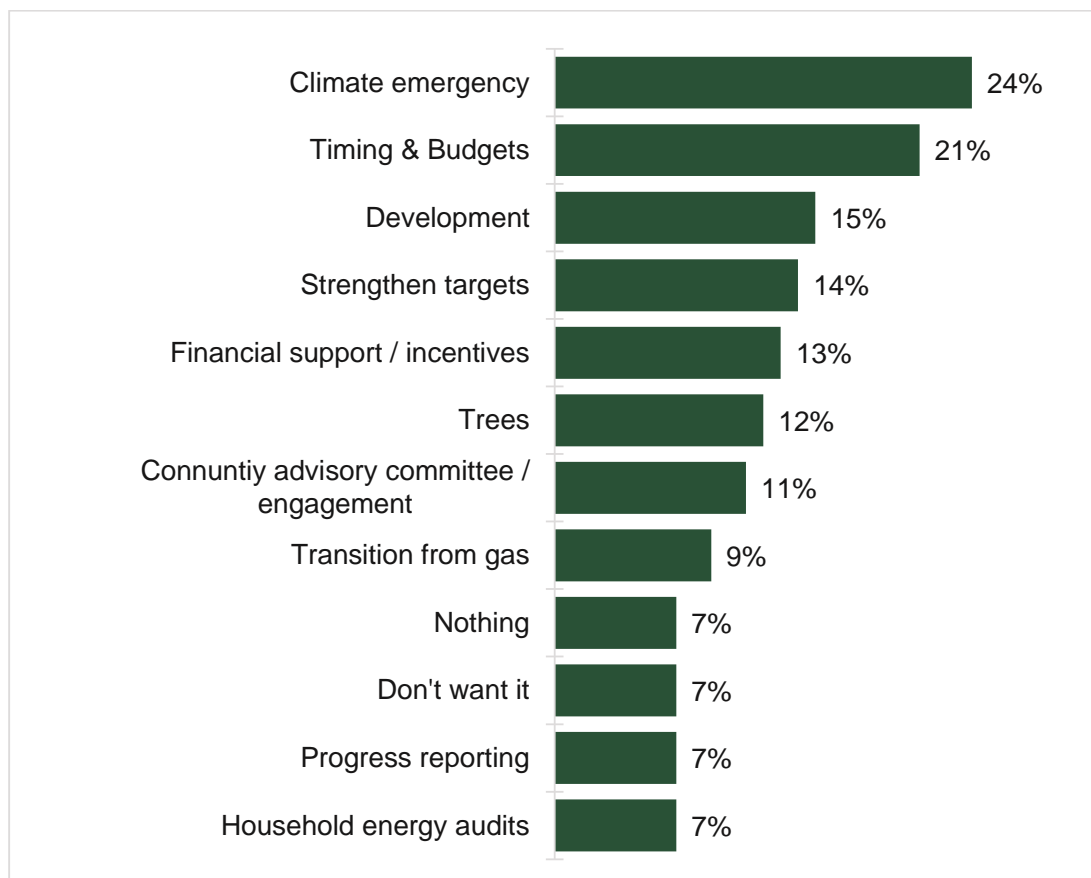
Q9. Is there anything you think is still missing from the draft Climate Action Plan that you feel needs to be addressed? Please suggest up to three actions you feel are missing from the Draft Climate Action Plan.

Sample: n=261

Notes: Recorded as text then grouped into themes for analysis.

Outside of the SIG comments, the most commonly mentioned topics under which further actions were suggested included development, strengthening targets and trees.

Figure 4.3.4.1 Actions Missing from CAP



The Special Interest Group talking points for this question were:

- Declare a climate emergency;
- Timetable and budget;
- Stronger sense of Council leadership;
- Strengthening targets;
- Additional targets for programs and actions;
- Additional resources;
- Community advisory group;
- More engagement with the community;
- Free energy audits for households;
- Finance household sustainability upgrades;
- Transition from gas;
- Bulk buy program for batteries and heat pumps;

- Electric vehicle incentives; and
- Incentives to increase tree planting on private land.

The main community suggestions under each theme were as follows.

Table 3.3.1.3 Additional suggestions under each theme

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening targets – Council and community.
Biodiversity and Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees. Some suggestions made in addition to the SIG list include giving away free native plants, incentives to maintain tree canopy on private land, planting more native trees and shrubs, and more trees on public land. • Community gardens.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric vehicles, including converting rubbish trucks to EV, incentives to buy EV, Council replace fleet with EV, and requiring new building to have EV charging points. • Bike paths, including more protected bicycle lanes and separated bike paths. • Other transport related comments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce areas of vehicle use. ○ Fewer cars. ○ Address diesel emissions. ○ Safe active travel to schools.
The Circular Economy (Waste and Recycling)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste management, with mention of the need for educating people on recycling, better waste options for renters, converting garbage trucks to EV, more recycling, and banning plastic.
Overarching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare a climate emergency. • Development, including reducing the removal of trees during development, more sustainable building designs and materials, review of heritage overlays to allow solar, permeable surfaces, and higher star building standards. • Financial support and incentives for households to change behaviour / infrastructure. • Community advisory committee. • Progress reporting.

A sense of urgency. A declaration of Climate Emergency. Young children are facing a future where they will live in an unknown climate. Fossil fuels must be phased out, starting immediately. Action must occur. On page 21, the heading is 'Aspirational'. That's not enough. Make a target, plan how to achieve it and have a timetable to get it done. What is the budget? What happens if the target is not met? More rewards and incentives. Can residents be rewarded by 'sale' price on their rates if they change to all renewables? How to reward schools should they become solar? Can they enjoy some bike path benefit? We are so far behind Europe and the UK in bike use! Much bigger target for increasing tree canopy and rewilding for insects - particularly bees. Tangible action to protect the climate together with education and information sharing about hitting targets and making change.

Female, 40-64yo, North West

More Community Gardens

Repair/sharing cafes

Focus on tenants to ensure they have access to energy efficiency/Council initiatives too.

40-64yo, South West

There needs to be a new building code to stop housing being built that is not energy efficient. Tree cover is being lost at an alarming rate and industrial size air con units are being craned in to newly built homes with no eaves or verandas.

Female, 65+yo, Central

1. It lacks detail on progress monitoring and reporting. Referring to my earlier comments regarding the need to declare a Climate Emergency to convey the urgency of global warming, reviewing and updating the Climate Action Plan very five years is nowhere near ambitious enough. To say that the Plan will be reviewed periodically is not good enough. It needs to be reviewed annually and adjusted according to real data that has been collected to monitor progress.

2. Further to point 1 and while the Plan details targets, it doesn't provide enough detail about how progress will be measured against those targets and what data will be collected.

3. While there is mention of building site contamination of waterways, there is no mention of the terrible waste that is evident on all building sites. Much of the material that goes into residential housing construction is not sustainable. Not only are many of these materials manufactured in unsustainable ways, the waste goes to landfill which is also unsustainable. The Council should require much higher standards in building design and development to ensure the buildings use sustainable materials, recycle waste and use energy efficiently.

Male, 65+yo, South

I know it is mentioned in the community suggestions section but I really think more support need to be provided to renters to better recycle. the number of renters is extremely high and many of them are unable to recycle properly purely because they cannot obtain the correct bins.

Female, 25-39yo

APPENDICES

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TARGETED PROGRAMS

- Help those under the age of 65 to switch to green power.
- Target renters to encourage more sustainable transport, growing fruit and vegetables (perhaps through community gardens), buying local, FOGO.
- Better promote FOGO in the South Western region and amongst 25-39 year olds.
- In the next survey ask for property type (stand-alone, unit, apartment) as this will help better understand capacity to undertake behaviours.

PHASE 1 QUESTIONNAIRE

There were slight variations in approach and wording between the online and phone versions of the surveys. The phone survey was revised to meet a best practice research approach for a telephone environment.

Phone introduction

Hello, this is (...) calling on behalf of Boroondara Council from the Local Government Research Group. How are you? (acknowledge what they say)

So you know the reason for this call...the council wants feedback and opinions from residents to deliver a sustainable Boroondara for future generations. It is a 5-10-minute study. We would appreciate it if you could help ... you can always choose to discontinue the study at any time...

[IF MOBILE] As you are on your mobile, is it safe to talk now?

Council would like feedback from people aged 15 years or over. Do you live in the Boroondara Council area? [CONTINUE IF YES]

[IF ASK WHAT IT IS ABOUT]

Council's current 'Our Low Carbon Future Strategy' ends in 2020. Council is committed to developing a new Climate Action Plan to replace our current Strategy.

Over the coming months Council will be asking the community how they create a plan that will identify meaningful actions and ensure the community supports Council to act on delivering a sustainable Boroondara for future generations.

This survey asks questions to find out what environmental sustainability looks like to you at a local level, what you think Council's role is in environmental sustainability, and also what sustainable behaviours are happening in the community.

[IF ASK WHERE DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?] We got your number from commercially available databases, like Sample Pages (who provides all bona fide market research companies with sample of up to 7 million residential numbers, updated monthly.)

[IF ASK I AM ON THE NOT TO CALL REGISTRY! WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME!?] Do not call Registers only block telemarketing calls but as a Social Research company, we are exempted ... we collect information from the community to assist government with decision making... we are happy to remove your number from our list if you want but that does not mean it will be removed from other call centres that the government may hire to conduct a project.

[IF WANT TO KNOW MORE] Please Contact Mathew Dixon, Coordinator of Environmental sustainability on 9278 4533 or email environment@boroondara.vic.gov.au.

For further information visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/CAP

[IF THEY WANT PROOF WE ARE A LEGITIMATE COMPANY] We are a division of Market Solutions, please go to marketsolutions.com.au, on the first page you can check the 'did we call?' section and you will see my number listed there

Online Introduction

[PAGE WITH DETAIL ABOUT COUNCIL ACTIONS]

Council's current 'Our Low Carbon Future Strategy' ends in 2020. We are committed to developing a new Climate Action Plan to replace our current strategy. To do this, we are

inviting everyone who lives, works, studies or recreates in Boroondara to share their feedback and ideas. Over the coming months we will be asking you how we can create a plan that will identify meaningful actions and ensure the community supports Council to act on delivering a sustainable Boroondara for future generations. In this stage of consultation, we want to know what you think Council's role is in climate action, what climate action looks like to you at a local level, and also what sustainable behaviours are happening in our community. We will share the feedback we receive and will check back in to make sure we have heard you correctly and to provide opportunities to further explore what is important to you. This survey will take around 10 minutes to complete. We would love to hear from all members of our community but please ask a parent or guardian for permission to complete this survey if you are under 15 years.

Q1. What would successful action look like to combat the impacts of climate change in Boroondara? [TEXT BOX]

[PHONE] Q2. I am now going to read out 9 areas of environmental sustainability with some examples for context.

Using a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is not at all important and 5 is very important), please tell me how important or otherwise these areas of environmental sustainability are when thinking about a Climate Action Plan for our City.

[IF NEEDED] To help us get through these quickly, please note that we do not have space to write comments yet, that will come later. For now please only provide a rating. For each area, I will read out what it involves and at the end I will ask you to rate from a scale of 1 to 5, please wait until I ask for your rating. Firstly...?

[IF NEEDED] We will be asking later whether council should be doing this, but first we want to find out how important you think different aspects of environmental sustainability are.

[RANDOMISED ROWS]

	1 – Not at all important	2	3	4	5 – Very important	Don't know
Energy Efficiency – such as LED lighting, energy efficient street lighting, and building or renovating to a high sustainability standard.						
Renewable Energy – such as solar panels or purchasing green electricity. [GREEN = WIND, SOLAR, % GREENPOWER THROUGH ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER]						
Sustainable Water Use – such as harvesting rainwater and stormwater and using water efficiently at buildings, gardens and sportsgrounds.						
Healthy Waterways - such as: preventing pollution from our						

streets entering our waterways and Port Phillip Bay.						
Waste Management and Recycling - both kerbside and depot-based.						
Food and Garden Waste Management – such as kerbside collection, subsidised worm farm or composting equipment, and community education on this topic.						
Sustainable Community Transport Options – such as providing and upgrading cycling and walking paths.						
Creating pedestrian friendly street environments by better managing traffic, public transport, cycling and walking on congested roads.						
Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity (native plants and animals) – such as looking after existing vegetation and planting more vegetation in public open space and home gardens.						
Other (specify)						
Other (specify)						
Other (specify)						

[ONLINE] Q2. How important are the following areas of environmental sustainability when thinking about a climate action plan for Boroondara?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Important	Fairly important	Very important
Energy efficiency and renewable energy					
Sustainable water use and healthy waterways					
Waste management and recycling					
Sustainable community transport options					
Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity					

Q2a. Do you have any other suggestions on areas of focus that Council should include in the Climate Action Plan? [ONLINE] If so, please list up to three and provide a rating for each. [PHONE] And how would you rate the importance of that out of 5? [OPEN ENDED WITH RATING BOX FOR EACH]

Q3. [PHONE] How much do you oppose or support Boroondara Council developing a Climate Action Plan? [ONLINE] How supportive are you of Council developing a Climate Action Plan? [ASKED FIRST FOR ONLINE SURVEY]

Strongly oppose

Somewhat oppose

Neither support nor oppose

Somewhat support

Strongly support

[PHONE] Don't know

Q3a. [PHONE] Why do you [ANSWER TO Q3] Boroondara Council developing a Climate Action Plan? [ONLINE] Can you explain your reason for providing the answer above. [TEXT BOX]

Q4. [PHONE] I am now going to read out a list of 12 sustainable actions that people **can do personally, or in their household. Please note that we don't have space to** write comments, but for each please tell me if you are not interested, would like to do it, are doing it already, and if so if you would like to do it more in the future. [ONLINE] Thinking about sustainable actions at a personal or household level, what best describes your current approach to each of these actions?

[ONLINE SINGLE RESPONSE, PHONE MULTIPLE RESPONSE]

[PHONE HAS RANDOMISED ROWS]

	Not interested	Would like to do this	Already doing this	Would like to do more in the future	Not applicable
Install solar panels					
Buy green electricity					
Install a rainwater tank					
Use sustainable transport to travel to work or school					
Grow your own fruit and vegetables					
Support biodiversity by planting trees or plants in your garden					
Avoid or reduce use of single-use plastics					

Buy local or choose more sustainable options					
Make your home more energy efficient or use less energy					
Join or volunteer with a local group that supports environmental sustainability					
Learn more about how you can be more environmentally sustainable					
Use a compost bin, worm farm, or a Council provided FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) bin.					

Q5 Are there any other environmentally sustainable actions or things you are doing, or would like to do in the future [\[ONLINE\]](#) that are not listed above? [\[TEXT BOX\]](#)

[\[ONLINE SINGLE TEXT BOX\]](#)

[\[PHONE SEPARATE TEXT BOXES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE\]](#)

Q7. Do you have a big idea that you would like to see included in Boroondara's Climate Action Plan? [\[SINGLE RESPONSE\]](#)

[\[ONLINE\]](#) Q6. Which of the following best describes you?

I live in City of Boroondara (rent)

I live in City of Boroondara (own or purchasing)

I work in City of Boroondara

I study in City of Boroondara

I visit the City of Boroondara

Other (specify)

Q8. [\[PHONE\]](#) What gender do you identify as? [\[ONLINE\]](#) What is your gender?

Male

Female

Prefer to self-describe (specify)

Prefer not to answer

Q9. What is your age group? [\[PHONE - ASKED AT BACK OF THE SURVEY UNTIL QUOTAS STARTED FILLING UP, THEN MOVED TO THE FRONT. SAME QUESTION WAS PRESENTED IN ONLINE SURVEY, AT THE END OF THE SURVEY FORM\]](#)

15-24 years

25-39 years

40-64 years

65 and over

Prefer not to answer

[PHONE] Q10. Do you work or study in the City of Boroondara?

[IF WORKING FROM HOME DUE TO COVID AND DON'T USUALLY DO SO, GO BY WHERE THEIR BUSINESS LOCATION IS]

	Yes	No, do this outside of Boroondara	Not applicable / don't do this	Prefer not to say
Work				
Study				

[PHONE] Q11. Thinking about your home, do you...?

Own it outright

Own with a mortgage

Rent

Other (specify)

I'd prefer not to say

Q12. In which suburb do you live? **[PHONE - ASKED AT BACK OF THE SURVEY UNTIL QUOTAS STARTED FILLING UP, THEN MOVED TO THE FRONT. SAME QUESTION WAS PRESENTED IN ONLINE SURVEY, AT THE END OF THE SURVEY FORM]**

Ashburton

Balwyn

Balwyn North

Camberwell

Canterbury

Deepdene

Glen Iris

Hawthorn

Hawthorn East

Kew

Kew East

Mont Albert

Surrey Hills

Other (specify)

I'd prefer not to say

[PHONE] My name is (...), please call our office if you have any questions.

Would you like our office number? [03 9372 8400]- ask for Alex or Belinda during business hours)]

Would you like to be kept informed about this project including the next phase of consultation? Your contact information is stored in a separate form to your survey responses to maintain anonymity. (the name given in the survey was)

[IF YES] Thank you. What is the most appropriate way to keep you informed?

These details will be provided to Council but they will not be linked to your survey responses nor used for any other purpose.

Privacy Policy: <https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/about/privacy-statement>

[RECORD NAME, EMAIL, PHONE]

Thank you for your time.

PHASE 2 QUESTIONNAIRE

In August and September 2020, we undertook community consultation to help better understand community perceptions, behaviours, and aspirations regarding sustainability at the local level. We also wanted to better understand the role the community sees us playing in relation to climate action and what actions we should take moving forward.

The findings showed that the majority of the community (89%) support us in developing a Climate Action Plan, with the most important aspects of this plan being energy efficiency, and sustainable water use and healthy waterways.

The purpose of this check-in survey is to test if our understanding of community feedback is correct or if we missed anything.

A detailed report on the findings from the consultation is available for download and review at www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/CAP

This survey will take about 5-10 minutes to complete and your responses will remain anonymous.

Proposed themes

Based on what the community has told us so far, we understand that most people within our community (89%) want Council to have a Climate Action Plan.

When asked to rate the importance of different aspects of environmental sustainability, we found the responses below.

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy 89 per cent said very/fairly important
- Sustainable water use and healthy waterways 89 per cent said very/fairly important
- Waste management and recycling 83 per cent said very/fairly important
- Sustainable community transport 75 per cent said very/fairly important
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity 80 per cent said very/fairly important

In response, we plan to develop a new Climate Action Plan based on the following themes:

- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Biodiversity and Trees
- The Circular Economy (Waste and Recycling)
- Sustainable Water use and Healthy Waterways
- Sustainable Transport

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with these themes for Boroondara's Climate Action Plan?

Completely agree
Mostly agree
Somewhat agree
Disagree
Don't know

Q2. Can you tell us why do you disagree with this approach? [TEXT BOX]

Q3. What different key themes do you think should be included in Boroondara's Climate Action Plan? [TEXT BOX]

Actions and topics for focus

The following list are some of the main actions and topics identified in the previous consultation which we are able to focus on within the Climate Action Plan. For each, we have also suggested its correlating theme/s:

- Solar panels (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy)
- Better recycling (The Circular Economy)
- Protect and plant more trees (Biodiversity and Trees)
- Reduce carbon emissions (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and The Circular Economy)
- Preserve green space (Biodiversity and Trees)
- Electric vehicle infrastructure (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy)
- Sustainable buildings (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Sustainable Water use and Healthy Waterways)
- Bike paths (Sustainable Transport)
- Educate the community about sustainability (all Themes)
- Community engagement (all Themes)
- Sustainable water use (Sustainable Water Use and Healthy Waterways)
- Active transport options including cycling and walking (Sustainable Transport)

Q4. How well do you think this covers the main types of sustainability actions and topics Council should be focusing on?

- Very well
- Moderately well
- Not very well
- Not at all
- Don't know

Q5. Are there any other types of sustainability actions you think Council should be doing? [TEXT BOX]

Q6. If you have any other comments or ideas you would like to put forward for **Boroondara's Climate Action Plan**, please comment in the space below. [TEXT BOX]

A bit about yourself

To make sure we get feedback from a wide range of people throughout our community, we would appreciate it if you could answer the following questions. Please note these are optional.

Q7. Which of the following best describes you?

- I live in the City of Boroondara (rent)
- I live in the City of Boroondara (own or purchasing)
- I work in the City of Boroondara
- I study in the City of Boroondara
- I visit the City of Boroondara

Q8. Which suburb do you live in?

- Ashburton
- Balwyn

Balwyn North

Camberwell

Canterbury

Deepdene

Glen Iris

Hawthorn

Kew

Kew East

Mont Albert

Surrey Hills

Other (specify)

Prefer not to say

Q9. What is your age?

Under 15 years

15 - 24 years

25 - 39 years

40 - 64 years

65 years and over

Q10. What is your gender?

Male

Female

Prefer to self describe (please specify below)

Prefer not to say

Privacy Statement

The information requested on this form is being collected by the City of Boroondara for the purpose of developing a Climate Action Plan. The information will be used solely by the City of Boroondara for that primary purpose or directly related purposes. No identifying information will be published. Respondents may apply to the City of Boroondara for access to and/or amendment of the information. Requests for access and or correction should be made to the Privacy Officer, City of Boroondara, Private Bag 1, Camberwell, 3124. Tel: 9278 4444

PHASE 3 QUESTIONNAIRE

Q1. What is your age?

- Under 15 years
- 15-24 years
- 25-39 years
- 40-64 years
- 65 years and over
- I'd prefer not to say

Q2. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say

Q3. Which suburb do you live in?

- Ashburton
- Balwyn
- Balwyn North
- Camberwell
- Canterbury
- Deepdene
- Glen Iris
- Hawthorn
- Hawthorn East
- Kew
- Kew East
- Surrey hills
- Other

Q4. Did you provide feedback during the previous community consultation regarding the development of the Climate Action Plan?

- I completed the previous survey/s (online or telephone)
- I participated in one of the online forums/workshops
- I completed the previous survey/s and took part in a online forum/workshop
- This is the first time I have shared my feedback
- Other

Q5. Overall, how would you rate the draft Climate Action Plan?

- 1 – Poor
- 2
- 3 – Adequate
- 4
- 5 - Excellent

Q6. Can you tell us why you gave the draft Climate Action Plan this rating? [TEXT BOX]

Q7. Regarding the draft Climate Action Plan, what are the top three actions or parts you think are most important to be included? [TEXT BOX]

Q8. Regarding the draft Climate Action Plan, what are three actions or parts you think are least important to be included? [TEXT BOX]

Q9. Is there anything you think is still missing from the draft Climate Action Plan that you feel needs to be addressed? Please suggest up to three actions you feel are missing from the Draft Climate Action Plan. [TEXT BOX]

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP SUBMISSION GUIDE

Tips on the Boroondara Climate Action Plan Survey

The Boroondara Council has now released its long-awaited [draft Climate Action Plan](#) for consultation. You can complete an on-line survey [here](#) or email your views to boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au.

The closing date for survey responses and submissions is Wednesday 4 August 2021.

Tell the Council what you think!

We will be living with this plan for a long time, so please read it, form your own view and tell the Council what you think. The survey provides only limited opportunity to provide feedback, so it is **good to make a personal submission** if you can. However, the Council will be gathering statistics about community views from the survey results, so **even if you make a submission, please also complete the survey**. It doesn't take long!

Some suggestions for the survey

Note that for the greatest impact, it is best to personalise your response, so it's best not to just copy and paste our suggestions. There are four introductory questions, followed by five questions about the content of the draft plan.

Q5 Overall, how would you rate the draft Climate Action Plan?

There are a variety of views within Lighter Footprints as to what overall rating to give this plan. The survey allows you to slide the ball from 1-5 giving a rating from poor (1) through to excellent (5). The plan's strength is that it puts in place science based zero emission targets for Council and Community which is a big step for the City of Boroondara and Council should be applauded for this.

The plan's weaknesses include that the community target is "aspirational", the plan lacks interim sector based targets and the 2030 target for community leaves too much of the heavy lifting to later years. The plan is generally "high level" and lacking in detail. We understand there is a two year implementation plan being developed which will hopefully resolve some of these issues. Crucially, the plan does not address any budget and we are concerned that inadequate funding will inhibit plan implementation.

Having said this, we think the Council is on the right path and with the support and encouragement of the community we think this plan offers great potential.

Q6 Can you tell us why you gave the draft Climate Action Plan this rating?

You have 400 characters to answer this question. Points you could consider include:

- On the positive side, the targets for zero emissions for Council and community are consistent with what the climate science tells us needs to be done
- The 2030 emissions targets for both the Council and the community should be strengthened
- The community emissions targets are only 'aspirational'
- There is a general lack of urgency and the detail needed to show how the targets will be achieved
- There is no timetable or budget specified in the plan and the 2021-2022 allocation for the plan in Council's budget is inadequate

Q7 Regarding the draft Climate Action Plan, what are the top three actions or parts you think are most important to be included?

You have 1,200 characters here. High priorities you could consider mentioning include the following (not all of them are in the draft plan):

- A climate emergency declaration
- Emissions targets for Council operations and the community
- Detailed targets to track the effectiveness of individual actions
- An implementation timetable and expenditure commitment
- A strong advocacy program for better State and Federal climate related policy
- Engaging and partnering with the community to drive change
- Incentives (e.g. access to finance) for household energy efficiency and renewables upgrades
- A community bulk buy program for solar panels, batteries and heat pumps
- Program to help households transition from gas
- Provision of free comprehensive energy audits to households
- Incentives (including additional infrastructure) to increase use of active transport, public transport and electric vehicles
- Increasing tree canopy cover on public and private land

Q8 Regarding the draft Climate Action Plan, what are the top three actions or parts you think are least important to be included?

You have 1,200 characters to answer this question. This is a very difficult question to answer, because it is hard to identify anything in the plan which is not worth doing. We suggest that responses should focus on actions that will have limited impact on emissions or climate adaptation (though important for other reasons).

- Eliminating single-use plastic at Council events
- Business focused programs to reduce food and packaging waste
- Workshops to enhance community capacity to use water sustainably
- Supporting increased home food gardening

Q9 Is there anything you think is still missing from the draft Climate Action Plan that you feel needs to be addressed? Please suggest up to three actions you feel are missing from the Draft Climate Action Plan.

You have 1,200 characters to answer this question. Points you could consider include:

- A climate emergency declaration
- A timetable and budget providing a clear framework for plan implementation
- A stronger sense of Council leadership and commitment (including e.g. removing the description of community targets as 'aspirational')
- Strengthening of the targets for the supporting measures (e.g. canopy cover increase is only 2% by 2030)
- Additional targets related to specific programs and actions (e.g. for reduction in community gas use, reduction in emissions from major emitters)
- Additional resources for further development of the plan and implementation
- A representative community advisory group on the environment/climate (well resourced, calling experts)
- Greater engagement with the community to promote change (including e.g. an outreach program, more frequent reporting, greater involvement in reviews/updates)
- Provision of comprehensive energy audits to households at no cost
- Provision of access to finance for residents for sustainability upgrades (energy efficiency, solar panels, heat pumps), to be paid back via rates
- A program to help residents and businesses transition from gas
- A community bulk buy program for batteries and heat pumps
- Electric vehicle incentives (e.g. parking concessions, free charging stations)
- Incentives to increase tree planting on private land

Please note that, other than Question 5, these tips were created with the assistance of the Kooyong Climate Change Alliance.

ATTACHMENT 4 - SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK AND RESPONSES - CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

This table provides a summary of detailed comments and feedback provided during consultation about the draft Climate Action Plan. This summary should be read in conjunction with the consultation report and the Implementation Plan. The consultation report includes quantitative analysis reflecting the number of comments about particular issues.

Much of the feedback about the Climate Action Plan has been addressed by the Implementation Plan which supports the first two years delivery of the Climate Action Plan.

Council has received many very similar proposals and feedback. Similar feedback has been collated and in some cases paraphrased and a single response provided. Where consolidation has been considered to compromise the feedback, the original statement has been retained. All feedback has been reviewed and considered.

Feedback	Response
<p>The Climate Action Plan does not include enough detail.</p> <p>Proposals for more clear actions.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plan is designed to be a broad strategic document to guide Council's direction over the next ten years. This document will be supported by a series of two-year implementation plans which will include further details on actions and timeframes.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan, detail about actions is provided in the Implementation Plan</p>
<p>Proposals to strengthen community and corporate emissions targets and add new targets.</p> <p>Proposals to add additional interim targets and show more urgency.</p>	<p>Multiple proposals for new and expanded targets are noted.</p> <p>In response to feedback we have increased the interim target from 30% to 60% reduction in community emissions.</p> <p>Additional details about the baselines for targets and actions is provided where feasible.</p> <p>Additional targets will be considered as part of future updates to the Climate Action Plan.</p>

Request to provide more detail about budget allocations for Climate Action Plan actions	<p>Feedback is noted. Details of budget allocations are provided as part of Council's regular budget process however feedback to provide more details on budget is noted.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes more detail on the timing and scale of actions. Evaluation may include reporting on expenditure.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Proposal to expand community gardens	<p>The CAP includes the action to support increased home food gardening and community gardening and composting. The Implementation Plan includes an action to engage an officer to increase support for community sustainability education and initiatives which includes supporting community garden groups.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>Further actions to support community gardening will be considered as part of future Implementation Plans.</p>
Proposal for further action to support sustainable development	<p>The Climate Action Plan includes the following development related actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support greater sustainability measures through the planning permit assessment process including a new Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Planning officer position at Council • Continue to participate in the development of an Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) policy to include in the Boroondara Planning Scheme as part of Council's membership in the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) • Advocate for, and support greater Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) through the planning scheme

	<p>A new action has been added to the Climate Action Plan to provide advice and support to encourage ESD standards in building, renovation and development (beyond requirements of Planning Scheme and Building Regulations).</p> <p>Actions to support sustainable development are included in the Implementation Plan.</p>
There were 18 comments suggesting that it is inappropriate for Council to be developing a CAP	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made in response to this feedback.</p>
The top 3 most important parts of the CAP were identified as trees and biodiversity, renewables and solar, and emissions reduction.	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan and Implementation Plan include actions consistent with this feedback.</p>
When asked if there was anything missing, common responses were relating to development rules (to encourage more environmentally friendly building and maintain trees), strengthening targets, and waste management.	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan and Implementation Plan include actions consistent with this feedback.</p> <p>The interim target has been increased from 30% to 60% reduction in community emissions.</p>
Community targets need to be more than just 'aspirational'	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan recognises that Council is not able to control community emissions.</p> <p>The interim target has been increased from 30% to 60% reduction in community emissions.</p>

When asked which sections were least important, the most common responses amongst respondents were that it was all important or that they didn't know.	No actions have been removed from the Climate Action Plan
<p>When asked what was missing the most common responses were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare a climate emergency • Provide more detail on timetable and budget • Stronger sense of Council leadership • Strengthening targets • Additional targets for programs and actions • Additional resources • Community advisory group • More engagement with the community • Free energy audits for households • Finance household sustainability upgrades • Transition from natural gas • Bulk buy program for batteries and heat pumps • Electric vehicle support • Incentives to increase tree planting on private land. 	<p>The feedback to Declare a Climate Emergency is noted.</p> <p>The proposal to provide finance for households will be considered as part of future Implementation Plans.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes an action to pursue opportunities to support community uptake of renewable energy or energy efficiency through Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUAs) or alternative finance mechanisms.</p> <p>Actions supporting other feedback are included in the Climate Action Plan or the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Details of budget allocations are provided as part of Council's regular budget process however feedback to provide more details on budget is noted.</p>
When the next iteration of the draft plan is completed, the authors and Councillors invite all local state and private high schools and universities within Boroondara to receive a presentation outlining the plan and seeking feedback.	This suggestion has been noted.
Recommendation - Experts should be engaged to guide the development of the 4 above headings (The situation today, The options, The analysis, The recommendation) and thereafter to monitor the plans execution.	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>Expert input has been provided in development of the Climate Action Plan and the Implementation Plan.</p>

<p>Recommendation - The Council should engage professional advisors who can guide the scientific approach of the plan and its execution.</p>	<p>Council will continue to engage professional advisors to support the considerations of the Climate Action Plan Advisory Group as required, and the execution of the Climate Action Plan and the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>Recommendation - The Council includes information in the final version of the Action Plan identifying where proposed actions will have an impact and detailing why specific actions have been recommended.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>Some detail on the basis for actions is included in the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>The proposed information is complex and not considered suitable for the Climate Action Plan and Implementation Plan. Further detail about actions will be provided via the Boroondara Bulletin, Council's website, social media, project updates, and evaluations or on request.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>Recommendation - Council engages with all private schools, universities, churches and other significant to set up individual agreements to monitoring/ reducing their position. The plans and ongoing results to be monitored and made publicly available.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Officers are investigating opportunities to engage with education and other providers within Boroondara so support actions consistent with the Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>Actions will be considered for future Implementation Plans.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>Recommendation - The Climate Action Plan requires Council to actively collaborate with both State and Federal entities locate within Boroondara and to support the development of individual action plans with all schools, universities, hospitals etc. In due course these plans are presented to Council and made public.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan and Implementation Plan include actions to advocate to and collaborate with other levels of government.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>

Recommendation - The Climate Action plan includes a model that divests some of the responsibilities to each Councillor in relation to their ward.	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>In particular, I would really like to see a strong leadership display and aspiration, making it very clear that all Council decisions will be made with consideration to climate change as a top priority.</p> <p>The other aspect to that is making clear a transformational change is required. At the Council meeting there was mention that this plan is building on the great work that Boroondara has done (which is true!) and that climate action is business as usual - that was not a great thing to hear! BAU thinking is what has got us to this point, and we need to rapidly and urgently decarbonise and adapt all aspects of our community.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Plan includes a range of statements and actions that demonstrate that Council will take a leadership approach, acknowledges transformational change is required and will make climate change a priority:</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
The Plan should highlight social justice element, there's significant risk that some communities, businesses and people will be left behind in a transition (e.g. solar penetration of residential properties, EV capital cost barrier, and age/disability/indigenous/other factors being an indicator for disproportionate impacts from climate change. Possibly best addressed in the vision?	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Plan includes the action to <i>Support vulnerable and low-income residents to upgrade home energy efficiency</i>.</p> <p>Social Justice will continue to be an important factor in developing Implementation Plans to support the Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
The community needs to be given greater responsibility, support and resources. Council has limited direct influence on these emissions, but can have a very powerful effect on building community, empowering action and changing social norms around sustainability and environmentalism.	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Community support and education is a very important aspect of the plan.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes a number of actions to support community emission reductions.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
Overall comments about some areas that I think are missed and worth including:	Feedback is noted.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Divest all Council financial assets, and provide education for staff community to do the same -Carbon sequestration/drawdown opportunity/target, especially tied with tree planting -Discussion on health and wellbeing impacts (including mental health), importance of youth action -Emergency management and risk minimisation could be expanded further, especially talking about increased extreme heat days, storms, blackouts, etc -Discuss food security, especially focusing on local, sustainably sourced and plant based food, both for Council operations, events and as education for the community -look at opportunities and threats to local businesses and industries, with a particular focus on transition all parts of the economy to zero carbon (some businesses won't be viable, but there will be massive opportunity for new ones -procurement policy is mentioned, but not much detail, this is a huge opportunity to build capacity in all contractors and consultants. Suggest breaking this down a little further in this doc, e.g. carbon neutral contracts, sustainability in the evaluation of tenders, gathering data on and reducing contractor fuel use -educate staff and community on climate science and how to understand and make decisions based on projections. -include climate risk analysis in all risk management plans 	<p>The Climate Action Plan and the Implementation Plan respond to many of these suggestions.</p> <p>Further actions will be considered as part of future implementation Plans</p>
<p>Further clarification and detail is required about reporting and review of the Climate Action Plan</p> <p>Proposals that the Climate Action Plan be updated more frequently.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Reporting on actions, emissions and other environmental metrics will be undertaken on an annual basis. Reporting data will be made available through Councils website.</p> <p>A review will be conducted every two years as part of development of a new Implementation Plan.</p>

	<p>The Climate Action Plan will be refreshed in five years and updated or replaced in ten years.</p> <p>Allocations for projects and programs will be considered as part of Council's annual budget process.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
Proposal to include an 'impacts' section. For example giving local projections for temperature, extreme heat days, extreme storms, rainfall/drought, mental health/wellbeing and something on vulnerable communities.	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan is not intended to present climate change science or impacts. The Climate Action Plan and Implementation Plan outline Councils response to these issues.</p> <p>Data about Climate Change and impacts is readily available directly from expert sources.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Feedback questioned meeting the community target from the Our Low Carbon Future Strategy.	Council supported programs to reduce community carbon emissions by over 50,000 tonnes CO2-e during the life of the Our Low Carbon Future Strategy. Details of these activities are included in the Our Low Carbon Future Strategy Action Plan Update 2017-2020. This document is available for download from Council's website.
Proposal for targets around co-corporate leadership and advocacy	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
Question about buildings off gas target - What does this mean in # buildings?	Council currently has 83 buildings connected to natural gas.
Proposal that the canopy target provide more clarity about actual increase.	Further details about numbers of trees is provided in the Climate Action Plan.
Question about hectares of land target - What is this currently? good to have context	The current number of hectares has been added to the plan

Target opportunity - Another opportunity here is re-use of material in council projects, e.g. C&D materials, plastic, rubber, glass, providing a demand to support circular economy	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>We have an action to <i>Increase the use of recycled materials in Council projects</i>, however we have not set a target in this area.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
Question about fleet target. Why not 100%? Is there 10% of the fleet that can't be switched for practical reasons?	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Due to the uncertainty that all specialist vehicles utilised by Council will have viable electric or other alternative low emission options, we have retained the 90% target for Council fleet. We note that with continuing advancement in EV vehicles there may be the opportunity for Council to go beyond the 90% target, and having this target will not preclude us from going beyond it.</p> <p>Council is investigating the opportunity to transition our waste collection and other commercial vehicles to EV. The learning from trials by the City of Casey and commercial applications are being considered in this process.</p> <p>The majority of Council fuel use is for non-passenger vehicles.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
Question about community target 2035 - Great target, what is the expected mechanism for carbon neutrality when there is still residual emissions? Will Council pay for offsets?	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Council's priority is to support the community to reduce actual emissions and energy use.</p> <p>Council has no proposal to pay for community offsets.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
Question about 30% community target. I thought the baseline was 2007/08?	<p>The baseline of 2007/08 is for corporate emissions.</p> <p>The baseline for community emissions is 2020 as we do not have earlier accurate data available.</p>

Proposal for a public transport or alternative transport target, e.g. 'x% increase in trips taken/kms travelled via public transport, cycling or walking.	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>This may be considered as a future update to the Climate Action Plan however the availability of data is a key issue in identifying appropriate targets.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
Feedback on 10000 tree target - Also good to talk about biodiversity here, in particular protecting existing remnant vegetation and high value areas	<p>There is a target in the Climate Action Plan regarding the area managed for biodiversity. The target has also been expanded to include 40,000 indigenous plants.</p>
Feedback that the 28-30% canopy target is too low	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Any increase in urban canopy is challenging in face of increasing pressure for private development, major road development and electrical line clearance requirements.</p> <p>Additionally there is a substantial delay between tree planting and trees reaching sufficient size to contribute to canopy coverage.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
Question about water target - is residential use the major source, or would it be commercial/industrial/irrigation?	<p>Based on data provided by Yarra Valley Water for 2020/21</p> <p>Council water use was 251 ML p/a</p> <p>Commercial Water use was 1600 ML p/a</p> <p>Residential Water use was 13,322 ML p/a</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
Proposals to rename the Climate Action Plan	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
Proposal to require carbon neutrality for Council contractors	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan includes an action to update our Procurement Policy, emphasising greater sustainability.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>

<p>Proposal to consider Virtual Electricity Networks (VEN) or Virtual Power Plants (VPP).</p> <p>Feedback that Solar batteries are not mentioned in the Climate Action Plan</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Council is aware of these opportunities to virtually share solar PV generated electricity between Council buildings.</p> <p>This may be considered as part of future implementation plans.</p> <p>Reference to batteries for Solar have been included in the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Question about streetlight upgrade - Hasn't this already been done? Is there many left to upgrade?</p>	<p>Residential Streetlights in Boroondara have been upgraded to T5 fluorescent or LED.</p> <p>Major Road Street Lights have different operating requirements and have not yet been upgraded.</p> <p>Further detail is available at https://eaga.com.au/projects/major-road-lights/ or on request.</p>
<p>Question about whether we already have an Urban greening strategy</p>	<p>We do not currently have an Urban Greening Strategy.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>Proposal about action to transition Council's small machines to fuel efficient and less polluting alternatives.- Assuming this is things like mowers, leaf blowers, etc, why not zero-emissions alternatives? Surely electric ones exist for all major sources?</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plan has been amended to clarify this detail.</p>
<p>Proposal to expand solar bulk buy to split systems, batteries and heat pumps</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plan has been amended to include additional items in a solar bulk buy, battery and energy efficiency program.</p>
<p><i>Proposal that the gas transition plan also supports transitioning community gas use.</i></p>	<p>In our first two year implementation plan we have an action to develop a natural gas transition plan for Council buildings, and also actions to support the community such as develop and deliver a home and business energy audit program and increase community education. The suggestion will be considered for future implementation plans.</p>

	No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.
Proposal for Council to offer Environmental Upgrade Finance (EUF)	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Environmental Upgrade Finance (or Agreements) is not included as a definite action in the Climate Action Plan or the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes an action to pursue opportunities to support community uptake of renewable energy or energy efficiency through Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUAs) or alternative finance mechanisms.</p>
Supporting energy efficiency in the community action - feedback recommends specifically noting the concern for renters and vulnerable communities, this is a major challenge.	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan includes the action to <i>Support vulnerable and low-income residents to upgrade home energy efficiency</i>.</p> <p>Actions directly supporting renters and vulnerable communities will be considered as part of the development of future implementation plans.</p>
<i>Water harvesting action</i> - feedback recommends addressing more than water harvesting and the inclusion of treatment, flood mitigation and reuse	<p>These types of actions will be covered by the following action: Develop a new Integrated Water Management (IWM) infrastructure program: a prioritised plan to develop and implement new IWM projects (stormwater treatment, harvesting and reuse, litter management).</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Feedback recommends educating developers around stormwater treatment requirements in the planning scheme?	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>This will be considered as part of future implementation plans.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>

Feedback recommends working with businesses to find circular economy solutions for inputs and outputs (e.g. food waste processed for compost).	Feedback is noted. We have several actions focused on business support, which will be outlined in more detail in future implementation plans. No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.
<i>Consider environmental sustainability in investment decisions</i> - Please strongly consider making this much strong and 'divesting all Council financial assets from climate damaging sources' or something like that	Feedback is noted. No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan
<i>Consider climate change impacts in relevant Council reports and decision-making</i> - Suggest 'require climate change impacts considered in all Council reports' or something like that	Feedback is noted. No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan
<i>Develop a cleaner building site program, targeting sediment runoff from development sites, and an engagement and enforcement program</i> - Wouldn't this be in the water or waste section?	This action has been moved to the Water and Waterways section
Would be great to specifically reference the CASBE Elevating Targets project that Boroondara is involved in, give weight to any decision to sign on to the planning amendment in the future.	Feedback is noted. This is included in Implementation Plan. No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.
Would be good to see some references. Climate Action needs to be solidly evidence based and justifiable.	Feedback is noted. This Climate Action Plan includes footnotes and references where data needs to be referenced. Most of the data presented in the Climate Action Plan is Council derived data. Details are available on request.
Proposals for additional Council planning levies for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The connection of natural gas to new premises. • Developments without installation of a solar PV system to new premises. • Climate Emergency Levy 	Feedback is noted. No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.

Proposal that no new service stations or service station upgrades should be approved without the inclusion of renewable energy powered electric vehicle fast-charging services.	Feedback is noted. No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.
The Boroondara Bulletin contains a section titled "Explaining how your rates are spent" - see page 4 of the July 2021 edition. The graphic shows clearly what component of every \$100 of council revenue is spent on each of 13 separate categories. I suggest that a 14th category be added, with the symbol of the globe, and titled "Addressing the Climate Crisis".	Feedback is noted. No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.
Feedback that the title is misleading and the focus is actually on improving amenity. Feedback that Council actions have no effect on the climate. Criticism of Council for pursuing climate change action. Feedback that anthropogenic climate change is not real/should not be responded to by Council.	Feedback is noted. No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.
The target of 2040 is too late. We need a zero emissions target by 2025.	Feedback is noted. The interim target from 30% to 60% emissions reduction for the community.
Council needs to explain the difference between carbon ' <i>neutrality</i> ' and ' <i>zero</i> ' emissions.	Further detail has been added in the glossary of the Climate Action Plan.
The CAP hasn't conveyed in detail how it will permeate every level of decision-making within Council in order to reduce emissions and reach zero targets.	Feedback is noted. Further detail of activities is included in the Implementation Plan. No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.
What steps is Council taking to put pressure on the State government to purchase EV's for public transport?	Feedback is noted.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing the issue within a risk paradigm is important so people can see the justifications for prioritizing reductions in green house gas emissions. • The council should encourage citizens to form a climate assembly of diverse community members to regularly discuss options with the Council. Vulnerable groups must be given a voice in this process, including renters and vulnerable groups. 	<p>The Climate Action Plan includes an action to develop a Public Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Council will continue to engage with the community and give consideration to the appropriate methods through each Implementation Plan.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Proposal that Boroondara establishes a system for accurately measuring emissions and CAP outcomes. The Snapshot tool, developed by Ironbark Sustainability, and used in the CAP to identify the sources and quantum of community emissions has significant limitations. It uses aggregated emissions results, often only available at a state level, and then allocates them down to Council level using a variety of metrics. As a consequence the results shown for a Council are blended outcomes not reflective of specific activity in a reported area.</p> <p>Commission a study to ensure robust baseline data on community emissions are available and obtain independent certification of community emissions reporting [Complements enhanced data collection and monitoring action]</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Council will continue to review available data about community emissions. The limitations of available data will be considered along with the costs and benefits of obtaining more robust data.</p> <p>Council's annual greenhouse emissions are externally reviewed.</p> <p>Formal certification typically carries high costs. Exact costs depend on the nature of the certification process.</p> <p>Council will consider the benefits of any certification compared with investing similar funds in environmental projects.</p> <p>Council will provide details of our emissions reporting on request and seeks to be transparent in methodology and detail.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>

<p>We understand that Council is seriously considering adding an extra \$1m to the 2021/22 funds devoted to the CAP at its budget review in September. While welcome, more is required. We believe Council has capacity within 2021/22 to devote more resources but if that does not occur it is essential that additional and significant funding is added in subsequent years. Without a step increase in resources it is our view that the CAP's targets will not be met.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Additional funding will be considered as part of the September amended budget which has now been deferred until October.</p>
<p>Proposal that the Implementation Plan include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In year 1 Include high profile "off the shelf" actions that have been implemented successfully elsewhere such as bulk buys, energy audits and community education programs. This will allow the plan to start with energy and enthusiasm at relatively low cost. • Increase the staff available within Council to support this long term program • Closely examine the list of suggested actions that was provided by the Kooyong Climate Change Alliance delegation as it offers a comprehensive survey of pathways to zero community emissions • Establish a community consultative group to assist Council in ensuring community engagement in all aspects of this change program 	<p>This feedback has been considered in development of the Implementation Plan.</p>
<p>Provide more detail about the planned actions. There is insufficient detail in the plan to give confidence that the plan's vision and targets will be delivered. High priorities among the additional and strengthened actions we propose include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint additional staff to assist implementation and further development of the plan • Ensure all new Council facilities are designed for zero emissions • Expand community education and information programs and establish an 'outreach' program 	<p>The Climate Action Plan is designed to be a broad strategic document to guide Council's direction over the next ten years. This document will be supported by a series of two-year implementation plans which will include further details on actions and timeframes.</p> <p>Your suggestions for actions are welcomed. Many of these are already slated for inclusion in the first two-year implementation plan. Others will be considered for future plans.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a free advisory service to help businesses and households reduce emissions • Provide free comprehensive household energy audits (with conditions) • Provide households and businesses with access to finance for all climate related improvements • Establish a program to encourage households and businesses to transition from gas • Provide financial assistance to low income households for all climate related improvements • Promote and facilitate or partner in a wide range of community energy initiatives • Implement a program to encourage tree planting and protection on private land • Provide incentives for electric vehicle use (e.g. parking concessions) • Identify gaps in public transport services and advocate for improvements • Upgrade Council infrastructure to improve safety, access and shelter for public transport users • Develop a Walking Strategy to promote walking as an alternative to car use • Action(s) identifying more details of bike infrastructure improvements (e.g. specific routes, 'pop-up' lanes, minor roads) • Commission studies to obtain robust baseline data for community emissions, tree canopy cover and other key performance measures. 	
<p>Strengthen the plan's governance framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Community Advisory Committee on the environment with a brief including oversight of Council climate action • Obtain independent certification of Council and community emissions reporting 	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Council will continue to engage with the community and give consideration to the appropriate methods through each Implementation Plan.</p>

	No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.
Re-word and re-order the dot points on vision and role to highlight the start of a new phase of more ambitious climate action by the Council.	<i>"Continue to lead, facilitate and support our community to also reduce emissions."</i> has been moved to the top of our role.
<p>Include a statement of the plan's objective along the following lines: The aim of this plan is to establish Council as a climate leader, working with the community and other levels of government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help keep the climate safe (limiting warming to 1.5°C) by reducing Boroondara's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero as soon as possible; and • protect the Boroondara community from the impact of those changes in the climate which do occur. 	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Include a breakdown of current Council emissions, if necessary adjusted for the impact of the pandemic.	The Plan includes some of Council's emissions data, however given the broad nature of the document, more granular data has not been included. Additional data can be made available online and data on Council's emissions can be provided on request.
Provide a brief explanation of 'Scope 3' emissions (Figure 1).	A definition of Scope 3 emissions has been added to the glossary.
Modify the discussion of community emissions to primarily focus on the priority areas where action will be required to achieve net zero emissions	The Climate Action Plan highlights that order to truly respond to the challenges of climate change, all factors should be considered when developing any plan or action to support environmental sustainability.
Strengthen the links between this section (Municipality-wide emissions) and the detailed actions and targets appearing later in the plan.	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Include a clear commitment that the use of offsets to achieve the net zero target will be minimised	The Plan includes the statement <i>"As Council continues to improve our own operations, the requirement for offsets will reduce in line with reductions in our actual emissions prior to offsetting."</i>
Add a new measure for Council use of 100% renewable electricity, with a target year of 2022	Feedback is noted.

	<p>In late 2021, Council will consider a contract for the remaining 20% of electricity purchase not currently part of a Power Purchase Agreement for renewable electricity. Council has required an option for renewable electricity to be included in tender responses. This option will be considered by Council.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Increase the target for installation of solar panels to reflect installation at Council facilities wherever feasible	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Add a new target for 80% reduction in Council gas usage by 2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify the target for the reduction in the number of buildings using gas for consistency with the gas usage target (or remove this measure) 	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes actions to progress Council's transition off natural gas.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Set targets of at least 45% canopy cover on public land and 35% canopy cover on street/road reservations by 2030	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Consider identifying emissions reduction and adaptation measures separately. Where possible, establish separate budget lines related to the measures and distinguish emissions reduction and adaptation expenditure.	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Include a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 for the major emitters in Boroondara, with zero actual emissions by 2040	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Include a target for at least a 50% reduction in community gas usage by 2030	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Include a target for implementation of changes to the planning scheme to mandate that all new buildings and developments have net zero emissions by 2025	<p>Feedback is noted.</p>

	<p>The Climate Action Plan includes actions to advocate to the Victorian Government enhance sustainability provisions through planning schemes.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Include a target for installation of electric bicycle/scooter charging points at all shopping precincts and train stations by 2030</p> <p>Include an additional measure to reduce private car usage for travel to work to 45% by 2030 (based on Census data)</p> <p>Consider including additional transport measures for public transport, active transport and non-work trip types</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes actions to support charging of cars, bikes and scooters.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>The highest priority actions should be identified; prioritisation should be based on impact, cost effectiveness and ease of implementation.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>When considering actions with similar benefits, Council pursues a least cost of abatement approach. Where feasible, Council undertakes business cases to determine the best course of action to deliver important outcomes. Actions often have multiple qualitative and quantitative benefits that are not directly comparable. Conserving water, protecting biodiversity and reducing greenhouse emissions are all important and not directly comparable.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Indicative timings should be provided for all actions; this could take the form of identifying broad stages for implementation to give readers a sense of how the plan will unfold to deliver the plan goals and targets. If possible, some major plan milestones should be specified.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plan is designed to be a broad strategic document to guide Council's direction over the next ten years. This document will be supported by a series of two-year implementation plans which will include further details on actions and timeframes.</p>
<p>An indicative budget should be specified; it is recognised that expenditure on the plan will need to be subject to Council's annual budget process, but a broad indication of costs is essential to demonstrate the Council's commitment to climate action. This is particularly important for the early years of the plan. Longer term, a minimum percentage of Council</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>

expenditure devoted to climate initiatives should be specified. Proposal for a 4% minimum (including climate related transport initiatives), as recommended in the Local Government Climate Emergency Toolkit .	
Install zero emissions pool heating at the Kew Recreation Centre redevelopment, and progressively replace gas pool heating at other sites [Complements the Natural Gas Transition Plan for Council buildings]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The transition of Council facilities of natural gas is an important action from the Climate Action Plan. Further work is required to determine the best way to achieve this. This work will include significant collaboration with other Local Governments who are pursuing similar goals.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Ensure all new Council facilities are designed for zero emissions [Complements the actions on Council's Sustainable Building Policy and ESD of Council buildings]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Council Sustainable Building Policy will be reviewed and updated during 2021-22 as an action from the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Develop and implement a large emitters strategy, forming partnerships with Boroondara's large emitters to assist them to reduce all their energy related greenhouse gas emissions to zero [Complements the action to facilitate PPAs for large users]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>This action will be considered when developing future Implementation Plans.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Significantly expand Council education and information programs to heighten community awareness of the climate crisis and promote improvements in energy efficiency and the transition to renewable energy in homes and businesses [Complements the efficiency workshops, advice and support programs action]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Community engagement programs will be expanded in line with the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Provide free access to a comprehensive advisory service to help households and businesses reduce their greenhouse gas emissions	Feedback is noted.

	<p>Boroondara residents can currently access the Australian Energy Foundation advice service for free and independent advice.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Expand the current energy advice scheme to provide full household energy audits at no cost (possibly via rate reductions) conditional on adoption of some of the recommended improvements by the householder, and giving preference to low income households and vulnerable residents [Complements the workshops, advice and support action]</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Programs to support home energy audits are proposed for 2022-23 as part of the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Establish a program to encourage the transition from gas in homes and businesses, including a heat pump bulk buy scheme [Complements the action to support efficiency and renewable upgrades]</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Community engagement programs will include information about natural gas and electric homes. Heat Pumps will be considered as part of any bulk buy program.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Promote and facilitate energy agreements for apartment buildings and multi-occupancy commercial buildings, particularly solar panel installation</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Support for apartment dwellers and renters is acknowledged as an important part of climate action. Activities from the Implementation Plan will support these groups however expanded activities will be considered for future implementation plans.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Promote and facilitate and/or partner in community energy initiatives such as community batteries, micro grids, virtual power plants and group power purchasing agreements, providing financial support where appropriate</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Establish an active Council outreach program staffed by 'climate champions' to advise residents and businesses on energy efficiency and transitioning to renewable energy, including information on relevant Council programs</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes an action to provide increased support for community leadership on climate action.</p>

	No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Develop a Natural Gas Transition Plan to phase out use of gas at Council buildings, initially focused on older high use gas appliances, and ensure there are no new gas connections at Council facilities [Strengthens the action to develop a Gas Transition Plan]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>A natural gas transition Plan is an action in the Climate Action Plan and the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan is proposed.</p>
Develop an Urban Forest/ Urban Greening Strategy for Boroondara with an associated planting plan, covering public and private land and with climate change mitigation and adaptation as key priorities [Strengthens the Urban Forest Strategy action]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The development of and Urban Forest Plan is an action in the Climate Action Plan and the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan is proposed.</p>
Develop and implement a program to encourage tree planting and protection on private land, including education highlighting the cooling and carbon drawdown benefits, and incentives to increase tree canopy cover [Complements the proposed tree giveaways, policies to protect trees on private land and the biodiversity education program]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes actions to support retention and planting of canopy and understory species on private land.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Update the Boroondara Open Space Strategy, prioritising climate change mitigation and adaptation and maximising the opportunities for increasing carbon drawdown [Strengthens the Open Space Strategy action]	<p>Feedback is noted and will be considered when the Open Space Strategy is reviewed.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Convert all major public car parks to 'solar car parks' by installing electric vehicle charging stations, solar panel and batteries and encourage commercial car park operators to do the same	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Conversion of car parks to solar car parks will be considered as part of future Implementation Plans</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Ensure electric vehicle and bicycle/scooter charging points are available at all significant shopping strips and activity centres using renewable electricity (and preferably local solar panels)	Feedback is noted.

<p>Facilitate (and if possible mandate) provision of electric vehicle charging points at apartment buildings, multi-dwelling developments, shared commercial facilities and larger businesses [Complements actions on charging stations]</p> <p>Provide incentives for electric vehicle use via parking concessions and/or dedicated spaces</p> <p>Provide more scooter and bike/electric bike Council parking spaces (on and off-street) close to major shops</p>	<p>The Implementation Plan includes actions to support public place Electric Vehicle, bike and scooter charging.</p> <p>Officers will review opportunities to support electric vehicle (all modes) during 2021-22. Additional actions will be considered for future implementation plans.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Investigate and facilitate or sponsor an affordable electric bike share scheme	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Promote car-pooling for travel to school and work	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Investigate and install or advocate installation of more on-road bike lane facilities, including physically protected bike lanes and 'pop-up' bike lanes on major roads [Strengthens on-road bike lane actions]	<p>The Implementation Plan includes an action to release a bicycle strategy which sets a framework to advance cycling infrastructure.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Improve safety by separating walking and bike paths along busy portions of trails (e.g. by relocating commuter cycling traffic to safe and direct on-road routes) [Complements action for improved off-road bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure]</p> <p>Upgrade footpaths, bike lanes and shared paths to be fully accessible for people with disabilities, older people and other disadvantaged groups [Complements action for improved off-road bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure]</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Feedback has been noted by Council's Traffic and Transport Team and will be considered as part of future updates to Council transport strategies.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>

Prioritise pedestrian, cyclist and public transport movements over cars in assessing or approving Traffic Management Plans and Construction Traffic Management Plans	
<p>Develop and deliver a schools program aimed at increasing the proportion of school children travelling by active transport, including sustainable transport events and education/information programs [Strengthens school sustainable transport action]</p> <p>Review and improve active transport and public transport access to schools by upgrading infrastructure and/or advocating for better services [Complements school sustainable transport action]</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Develop a Walking Strategy which promotes walking as an alternative to car use as one of its key objectives [Complements the actions about transport hubs, shade and lighting]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Review and Update Council's Integrated Transport Strategy, with key goals including increasing the active and public transport mode shares and promoting the use of zero emissions vehicles [Strengthens the action to update the strategy]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan includes and Action to Review and update Council's Integrated Transport Strategy</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Develop a Public Transport Strategy with a key focus on increasing the share of trips taken by public transport [Strengthens the action to develop a public transport strategy]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan includes and action to Develop a Public Transport Strategy</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Identify gaps in public transport services, accessibility and connectivity in Boroondara, and advocate for improvements (including better bus connections at train stations) [Complements the action to develop a public transport strategy]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>

Advocate for the reduction of freight emissions including incentives for electric trucks and reduced idling and increasing the use of rail for freight transport [Strengthens action for advocacy on freight transport]	The Climate Action Plan includes an action to Advocate for the reduction of freight emissions including incentives for electric trucks and anti-idling.
Introduce incentives for Boroondara Council staff to travel to and from work using public or active transport including flexible working arrangements, and discontinue free parking for Council staff [Strengthens action on flexible arrangements and complements car sharing policy]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan includes an action to support flexible working arrangements for Council staff to reduce trips by motor vehicles.</p> <p>Council has existing programs to support sustainable and active transport by staff.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Oppose proposals for new or upgraded freeways, where possible in concert with other Councils and local government organisations	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Where feasible, use carbon neutral and recycled materials in Council projects [Strengthens action on use of recycled materials]	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Councils sustainable Council Building Policy includes measures to support low emissions and recycled materials in building projects. This policy will be updated as an action from the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan includes an action to increase the use of recycled materials in Council projects and operations</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
Appoint additional staff with suitable expertise to assist with implementation and further development of the Climate Action Plan	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes actions to engage extra staff to support delivery of the Climate Action Plan and related activities.</p>

	No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Report annually on Council's climate action performance, including details of outcomes against all targets [Strengthens annual reporting action]	Feedback is noted. Annual reporting will be undertaken. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Provide quarterly public progress reports on implementation of the Climate Action Plan via the newsletter and website [Complements the annual reporting action]	Feedback is noted. Regular updates and engagement will be carried out in support of the Climate Action Plan and related activities. The precise timing is yet to be determined. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Further develop collaborations and alliances with community groups and non-government organisations to support local climate projects and advocacy initiatives [Complements actions to increase climate grants and promote community action]	Feedback is noted. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Embed climate action into staff roles, responsibilities and performance management, with climate related performance targets included in the CEO's and relevant Directors' annual deliverables [Strengthens action on staff performance management]	Feedback is noted. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Develop and implement a climate advocacy strategy focused on improving climate related policy at State and Federal level, identifying and working with partners including other Councils, Local Government peak bodies and non-government organisations [Complements actions relating to collaboration with other Councils and advocacy about the planning scheme, new developments, transport issues and emissions targets]	Feedback is noted. The Climate Action Plan includes a number of actions supporting advocacy. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Formalise a Council ethical investment policy which would prevent Council from investing in fossil fuel companies or major emitters, including via	Feedback is noted.

superannuation funds and banks which finance the fossil fuel industry [Strengthens action on sustainable investment decisions]	No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Review the climate impacts of Council policies, processes and strategies, and implement changes to maximise positive effects on the climate [Complements action on new and revised policies and processes]	Feedback is noted. The Climate Action Plan includes and action to consider climate change impacts in relevant Council reports and decision-making. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Establish reliable mechanisms to track the impact of all Council's climate initiatives to enable timely reporting of progress against targets [Complements enhanced data collection and monitoring action]	Feedback is noted. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Meaningful community input should be an integral part of the update of the plan and the preparation and updates of the implementation plans.	Feedback is noted. Substantial community input has been sought in developing the Climate Action Plan and Implementation Plan. Opportunities for further community input will be considered prior to commencing any updates to the Climate Action Plan or Implementation Plans. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Feedback that Council can work should voluntary organisations to fast-track some elements of the plan. If the Council can work with these organisations it should be possible to spread information faster and also deliver solutions faster.	Feedback is noted. Council will actively seek partnerships to deliver the commitments of the Climate Action Plan. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Proposal that the delivery of the Climate Action Plan should provide opportunities for all stakeholders to interact with the Council to understand and influence how this commitment is being put into effect.	Feedback is noted. Opportunities to engage with Council have been provided during the development of the Climate Action Plan.

	<p>Further opportunities will be investigated by the Environmental Sustainability Team at Council.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>The draft CAP goes some way towards providing a strategy statement that reflects the Council's commitment to action. It however, needs to move beyond being attractive to look at and well set out with lots of highly commendable pronouncements. It needs to be treated as a reference document that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is based on a deep understanding of how the impacts of climate change are manifested in the local area; • gives users a clear guide to the principles, standards and criteria that will guide the decision making that drives the implementation plan. <p>My major concerns about the draft Plan relate to the absence of a clear understanding and documentation of the context in which this vision will be achieved. This information is vital to understanding what needs to be done and why. In particular, there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a lack of any real sense of urgency in responding to this challenge; • an absence of a detailed set of data to measure the effectiveness of existing measures; • no strong awareness of the specific characteristics of Boroondara and how these should determine the action priorities and influence the way programs are designed and delivered; <p>an apparent reluctance to investigate ways to involve the community in the development of the CAP beyond the current tools of surveys and workshops;</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Collect and undertake an analysis of data that measures the effectiveness and level of compliance with existing programs.</p> <p>This is particularly relevant for the Tree Protection Local Law where trees are being removed without permission or penalty and compliance with the program including the submission of applications for permits and obligations to replace trees is very low.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes an action to engage a Compliance Officer to support tree protection compliance.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>

<p>Creating a clear understanding of the existing strengths and opportunities in Boroondara, the things that can be harnessed and built upon.</p> <p>Two success stories in Boroondara are the FOGO scheme and the Power Purchasing Agreement. These should be assessed to identify the lessons to be learnt including how to get community engagement and how to negotiate successful outcomes.</p> <p>A particular strength that the Council should harness is the characteristics of the local community including the strength of support for strong climate action, the level of education amongst residents; and their professional involvement and degree of expertise in a wide variety of relevant capabilities.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Council continually assesses program delivery and applies learnings to new or ongoing programs.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan</p>
<p>Acknowledging the weaknesses and gaps in existing responses.</p> <p>The major weaknesses in the current approach to climate action policy include the lack of good quality information on the operation of current initiatives.</p> <p>This is particularly true with respect to the operation of the Tree Protection Local Law and compliance with its obligations. While there are a range of policies and plans that are relevant to climate action, most do not have adequate review requirements or data collection processes to measure their performance in a meaningful way. It is not sufficient to measure the success of a program by asking a sample of residents whether they are satisfied with its operation.</p> <p>A further weakness is the lack of coordination between programs, leading at times to clashes and contradictions in outcomes. For example, the construction of a water garden to manage water flows may not have been necessary if more attention had been paid to ensuring the water table is not threatened by deep excavations and other disturbances.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes an action to engage a Compliance Officer to support tree protection compliance.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Establishing a framework to identify the most appropriate responses</p> <p>The CAP should provide the basis for identifying and evaluating what is a good response and whether there are better ways to do it. This would require a decision-making process that has a set of principles, criteria and standards that ensure all relevant factors are taken into account.</p> <p>Principles that I would see as important include priority being given to addressing the climate emergency over and above economic development</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>

considerations; the application of the precautionary principle; and equity both for all residents now and intergenerationally.	
Setting up mechanisms that facilitate effective coordination between all decision makers and integration of measures Decision makers need to ensure that they have consulted with all interested parties and that they have designed their policy or program to ensure they work together towards a mutually shared and overall objective and contribute to the hierarchy of priorities and shared timing.	Feedback is noted. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Reinforcement of the commitment to a holistic approach to the development and implementation of a CAP Climate action needs to be treated not as an afterthought nor as one of many considerations but as a unifying principle that drives all action.	Feedback is noted. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
I'm concerned that the plan does not include steps for reducing community emissions after 2030 (and before 2040). Without some numeric targets for the period 2030 to 2040 it's hard to assess if the target for 2020 to 2030 are adequate.	Feedback is noted. The Plan covers the period until 2030. At this point we will revisit the Plan (after also doing so in 2025) and new targets will be developed. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Solar PV On p. 20 the plan states 'Council to install 1 MW additional solar PV'. It is difficult for the community to make sense of this target. A clearer way of showing us what has been achieved and what is still to be done by council is to list council's community buildings in a table and show which ones have solar PV and which ones aren't suitable for solar (and give reasons). Through enquiries with council, I understand that as of last year 19 of the total 200 CoB buildings had solar PV on the roof. This is only around 10 percent of all council buildings. I also understand that CoB has not done a comprehensive solar feasibility study for all its buildings.	Feedback is noted. We will consider how we can make this information more accessible via Council's website. No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.
Trees The following numeric targets are given re. trees: 55 hectares of land is managed for biodiversity (p. 20)	Additional detail about targets for tree renewal, biodiversity land and planting programs has been added to the Climate Action Plan.

<p>10 000 extra trees planted (by 2030) <i>and</i> Canopy cover increased from 28% to 30% (p. 21)</p> <p>It is difficult for residents to assess the significance of these numeric targets – given we don't know how many hectares of land are currently managed for biodiversity or how much canopy cover there is today (and how much canopy is on council land versus privately owned land). The targets need context if they are to be meaningful. I suggest we need a map showing existing and projected canopy cover (I think I have seen a map such as this somewhere – perhaps on the <i>Conversation</i>.)</p> <p>Please make clear what is meant by 'canopy cover' – does this include canopy cover on private land?</p> <p>Regarding the second target, I understand that for 2020 Whitehorse Council had a target of planting 2600 trees (and I understand they planted 1600 trees in 2019). Compared with this, the target in the plan does not seem adequate for a period of 9 years, and is certainly not 'aspirational', given the biodiversity crisis and urgency of the climate problem.</p> <p>Furthermore, it should be made clear that these trees will be in addition to those planted to replace the trees destroyed if the North-East Link proceeds. There is no mention of this massive project in the Climate Action Plan, but it is projected to result in the planned removal of several thousand trees in Boroondara as well as large areas of native vegetation.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plan makes reference to canopy cover on both on Council managed land and in the whole municipality which includes private property.</p> <p>Council commitments to tree planting are additional to those planted to replace trees lost for the North East Link Project.</p>
<p>Water</p> <p>On p. 20 a target is stated: 'Council harvests 80 ML of alternative water per annum'. This figure needs context. Also, it's not clear to the lay reader what 'alternative water' is. I understand that council currently collects less than 1 percent of rainwater that falls across Boroondara (via rainwater tanks). We need to know how this 80 ML figure compares with current use of freshwater to irrigate sporting fields, parks, etc.</p> <p>On p. 21 the following aim is set: 'Target 130 litres of water used per person per day'. It's not clear how aspirational this is. What is the water use per person in Boroondara today? Please include the relevant statistics in a table.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Further detail of Council's water related targets are included in the Boroondara Integrated Water Management Strategy. This Strategy will be updated during 2021-22.</p> <p>Alternative water is water other than mains drinking water. For Council this is mainly rainwater harvested from roofs or stormwater harvested from stormwater drains.</p>

<p>Otherwise it is impossible for community members to make sense of this target.</p> <p>I understand Boroondara's targets regarding rainwater tanks are not as ambitious as other councils'. Collecting rainwater via tanks, and treating stormwater so it can be used in toilet flushing, and for garden and open space irrigation, would significantly reduce CoB's use of mains drinking water, and would thereby cut carbon emissions. It would also make more water available for irrigation, thus mitigating the effects of heat stress, due to climate change, on trees and gardens in the municipality.</p> <p>For households, rainwater tanks (plumbed for internal uses such as toilet and laundry, as well as for garden watering) can reduce use of mains water by up to 70 per cent. Sourcing water from rainwater tanks has a lower carbon footprint than sourcing it from the mains supply. In the mains supply, some water is seawater that has been desalinated using large amounts of energy mostly generated from burning coal. Energy is also required in the mains supply to treat (purify) and distribute (pump) freshwater from catchments to users, and to collect, treat and distribute waste water.</p>	<p>In delivering the Climate Action Plan Council will report on water harvesting and drinking water use. This data is currently calculated annually and is publically available as part of Council's annual reporting process.</p> <p>Future reporting is intended to make this information more accessible.</p> <p>Residents have access to their average daily water use from their water bills.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Sustainable building</p> <p>Given that council (along with state government) plays a significant role in controlling changes to our built environment, and given that emissions from building are about 40 percent of our total carbon emissions, the plan does not say enough about how emissions from building can be tackled. I think this topic warrants further attention, especially in relation to encouraging sustainable building in the private sector.</p> <p>It's too easy to dismiss this area as outside council's jurisdiction. I'd like to see council staff have a dedicated process for exploring new ideas for tackling the complex issues involved in building and sustainability and for working with other levels of government on this. For instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate those wanting to build new homes on the benefits of solar access, insulation, gardens, etc. • Map and measure changes over time in terms of the area of green space on private land in CoB. • Innovate to encourage the expansion of green space on private land. 	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan and Implementation Plan include a number of actions that address parts of this feedback.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find incentives to encourage renovation, rather than demolition and reconstruction. Support those who haven't the means to protect their heritage homes or established gardens and mature trees. 	
<p>p. 4, para 6. 'We acknowledge...' It is important to mention that apart from cutting emissions we also need to draw down carbon (through planting and improving soils, for instance). Suggest this edit: We acknowledge the important global movement towards zero net emissions and recognise this involves both cutting carbon emissions and drawing down carbon. We acknowledge that the City of Boroondara should be part of this movement.</p> <p>p. 7, bullet point 2. You also need to mention drawing down carbon (e.g. through planting trees and other plants and by improving soil – by adding compost, for instance – so that it holds more carbon). Suggest edit to: Continue to lead, facilitate and support our community to also reduce emissions and draw down carbon.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Actions to draw down carbon will be considered for future implementation plans.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes actions to increase tree planting by Council.</p> <p>The Boroondara FOGO program returns organic waste material to the soil through use of the product as a soil conditioner. Feedback is noted</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>p. 4, para 7, 1st sentence. 'Climate change is about...' I don't understand the meaning of this first sentence. Are you trying to suggest that climate change must be tackled in context of our other environmental problems (such as the biodiversity crisis and pollution)? If so, this is a separate point to the one being made further on in the paragraph regarding climate adaptation.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>This paragraph is intended to convey that we must think beyond the obvious greenhouse emissions when considering the broad challenges of climate change.</p> <p>As a challenge, climate change should be considered in context of other environmental problems.</p> <p>No change is made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Also, re. the second sentence ('Switching to renewable electricity, as Council already has,') It is disingenuous to say council has 'switched to renewable electricity', given it still has mostly gas appliances in its buildings and many buildings without solar panels. Suggest this para be edited to:</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Amendments to the text of the Climate Action Plan have been made.</p>

<p>Efforts to tackle climate change must be made in context of the broader environmental problems we face. This is reflected in this Plan.</p> <p>Council has embarked on the path of cutting carbon emissions, by, for instance, transitioning towards renewable electricity. And we are committed towards carbon neutrality. However, changes to our climate are already occurring. We must prepare to adapt to a warmer, more variable climate with more extreme weather events.</p> <p>p. 6, bullet point 3. You've mentioned that the buildings should use renewable energy and be constructed of sustainable materials, but there is a lot more involved in a sustainable building (e.g. a sustainable building makes use of passive solar and natural shade, has insulation, has on-lot stormwater treatment, a rainwater tank, and does not create light pollution, etc.) Suggest adding text shown in bold below:</p> <p>Our homes, businesses, schools and other buildings are efficient and resilient to the extremes of our environment. They make efficient use of renewable energy and function sustainably. They are constructed from sustainable materials.</p>	<p>Further details of Council's approach to sustainable buildings are included in the Boroondara Sustainable Council Building Policy.</p>
<p>p. 6, bullet point 7, second sentence. Suggest adding 'renovate' (as in buildings):</p> <p>We avoid single-use items, and we reuse, repurpose and renovate. We...</p> <p>Overseas, in some European jurisdictions, I understand it is now incumbent on developers (by law) to consider renovation before demolishing a building and reconstructing a new one. Building waste contributes to carbon emissions in landfill, and the construction industry contributes about 40 percent of total carbon emissions. Renovation, however, provides more skilled jobs because it requires more advanced design and creativity.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan and Implementation Plan have actions to update our Sustainable Council Building Policy, which currently include consideration on renovation and reuse.</p> <p>No change the Climate Action Plan</p>
<p>p. 7. Would like to see some comment about how council manages its finances to support sustainability in the community more generally. Suggest adding the final point:</p> <p>Manage Council's finances (e.g. rates and other revenue) so that they do not support fossil fuel extraction.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>

<p><i>or</i></p> <p>Manage Council's finances (e.g. rates and other revenue) so that they are in line with the community's expectations regarding sustainability and carbon neutrality.</p>	
<p>p. 9, column 1, list of policies and strategies. Suggest adding 'Public Lighting Policy 2005'. I believe this policy needs to be updated to reflect the need to transition to more efficient LEDs of 3000 or less Kelvin (as per the recommendations of the International Dark Sky Association, which aims to reduce the impacts of light pollution on wildlife and on humans).</p>	<p>This has been added list of Policies identified in the Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>An action to install path and park lighting has been amended to include consideration of adverse impacts from light pollution).</p>
<p>p. 11, bullet point 2. Suggest in the interests of transparency (and so as not to be misleading) the last sentence be edited to:</p> <p>This policy requires that all Council building projects are equivalent to at least the 5 Star standard (out of a possible 6) defined by the Green Building Council of Australia's Design & As Built Tool.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Sustainable Council Building Policy includes further detail of Green Star Design and As Built Tool and the rating system.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 12, para 1. As per best practice, we need a source for the statistic given here (26, 837 tonnes).</p>	<p>This data is calculated in house by Council and externally reviewed.</p> <p>Further detail of the methodology is available on request.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 15, para 3, sentence 4. Suggest the following edit. Some key functions of trees, which are relevant to this plan, have been omitted:</p> <p>Our trees and plants provide an important carbon sink, and by capturing groundwater they reduce flooding and erosion of our waterways. They also provide shade and urban cooling and they are vital habitat for our wildlife.</p>	<p>Text in the Climate Action Plan has been updated.</p>
<p>p. 18, right-hand column, para 2. I think you should involve the community in decisions re. offsets. Also, I would hope council won't just be relying on offsets to reach its stated zero target for 2022. The text seems to suggest council will be relying purely on offsets in this next year. How about putting more PV on council buildings – and transitioning to gas appliances – or doing a lighting audit in council's buildings (to encourage use of natural light and</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>Council currently prioritises energy efficiency and renewable energy as the pathway to reducing emissions.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan and Implementation Plan include action to reduce natural gas and vehicle fuel use.</p>

<p>sensors – has this been done already)? Council has an obligation to actually reduce its own emissions, not just invest in offsets.</p>	<p>The role of offsets has not yet been formally considered by Council however Council cannot viably achieve carbon neutrality in 2022 without some offset purchase.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan states <i>As Council continues to improve our own operations, the requirement for offsets will reduce as our level of emissions will shrink as we use less and less greenhouse gases.</i></p> <p>Further clarification about Council's approach to net and actual carbon neutrality is provided in the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>p. 18, right-hand column, para 3. Please insert target date for actual zero corporate emissions (as per what is shown in diagram on p. 20: As Council continues to improve our own operations, the requirement for offsets will reduce in line with reductions in our actual emissions prior to offsetting. Council aims to reduce actual emissions by 90 percent before the year 2030 and entirely by no later than 2040.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>This detail is provide elsewhere in the Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 23, second bullet point. The term 'Partnership actions' is waffly – it's not obvious what it means. How about 'Council corporate actions' and 'Community partnership actions'.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 24, 'Adaptation actions'. Suggest adding: Improve filtration systems in public buildings to provide smoke-free safe spaces in case of bushfires.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>This recommendation will be considered part of ongoing review of Council's emergency management planning.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 25, 'Adaptation actions', fourth list point. Not clear to me what 'Increase open space in gap areas' means. Please clarify.</p>	<p>Gap areas are areas identified in the Boroondara Open Space Strategy which have lower amounts of open space compared to elsewhere in Boroondara.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>

<p>p. 25, 'Partnership actions', list point 1. The problem with tree give-aways is getting them to people who wouldn't buy trees anyway. If the give-aways are advertised, say, through the <i>Bulletin</i> or online, the people who apply for them will probably be people who are driven to plant trees anyway and know how to do this.</p> <p>It would be better to have a targeted strategy so that trees are given to people who can't afford them or to people who wouldn't ordinarily buy them. I suggest council could be more pro-active and perhaps get out and find homes/apartments where there are major gaps in planting. Then work with the landowners to support them in planting, selecting and even managing the green spaces. This could be a significant way to expand our urban canopy</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>Officers are aware that tree giveaways may not always result in new people being engaged, however they are still a valuable tool to engage with the public. In delivering programs Council will pursue opportunities to maximise engagement long term benefits. We also run or backyard biodiversity project, which targets areas where planting is desired and works with the residents to support them in planting, selecting and even managing the green spaces.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 25, 'Partnership actions'. Suggest adding:</p> <p>Assess where apartments or homes could support more trees; in consultation with landowners, provide advice and assist with planting and managing drought-tolerant trees on these premises, in order to expand urban tree canopy and habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>Assist landowners to care for protected trees – where they lack personal funds to do this.</p> <p>Re. the second point above, some people decide to cut down big trees because they can't afford the cost of removing dangerous limbs. These trees are a community asset – and where people can't afford to keep them we should subsidise.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>Council's Backyard Biodiversity project targets areas where planting is desired and works with the residents to support them in planting, selecting and even managing the green spaces.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 25, 'Policy and Advocacy'. Review Council's existing 'Public Lighting Policy 2005' so that the effects of light pollution on our biodiversity and on human health is considered, in tandem with need for less carbon intensive lighting.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 26, 'Corporate actions'. On-lot stormwater treatment systems divert water from rooftops to garden spaces rather than to drains. They therefore reduce flooding and erosion of waterways such as creeks and rivers, and they increase groundwater, which supports trees suffering climate stress. Could a list be made available to the public that shows which council buildings have</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>

<p>rainwater tanks and on-lot stormwater treatment and which don't. Suggest adding:</p> <p>Install rainwater tanks and on-lot stormwater treatment mechanisms at council facilities</p> <p>p. 26, 'Partnership actions'. Suggest adding:</p> <p>Encourage private landowners to install rainwater tanks (e.g. organise bulk buys to reduce cost, hold information sessions on greywater systems)</p> <p>Encourage households to have on-lot stormwater treatment mechanisms – e.g. rain gardens.</p>	
<p>p. 27 'Adaptation actions', 2nd dot point. Light pollution is having a serious impact on insects, other animals and humans. It's important that as we transition to LEDs we don't exacerbate the problem of light pollution. We need to ensure we install LEDs in the recommended Kelvin range. Suggest edit to:</p> <p>Install lighting for shared paths.... walking and cycling. Seek to minimise light pollution.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plan has been amended to reflect this.</p>
<p>p. 28, Circular economy (waste), 'Corporate actions', list point 2. Suggest edit to:</p> <p>Increase the use of recycled materials in Council projects and operations.</p> <p>Suggest adding:</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of a resale shop at the transfer station (tip op shop).</p>	<p>The suggested change of <i>and operations</i> has been made.</p>
<p>p. 28, 'Partnership actions', list point 2, 'Reduce packaging waste'. Suggest edit to:</p> <p>Reduce packaging waste and use of plastic (e.g. takeaway food containers)</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 28, 'Partnership actions'. Suggest adding:</p> <p>Work with schools, organisations, businesses and the community to expand recycling drop-off points.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>

<p>Work with the community to update CoB's A-Z online listing of recycling deposit points/contacts and make this listing interactive so the community can engage directly with it.</p> <p>Support the North Balwyn Repair café and explore feasibility of another service like this</p> <p>Re. last point above, I understand the North Balwyn Repair café is working at capacity.</p>	
<p>p. 29, 'Corporate actions', list point 8. Suggest edit: Consider environmental sustainability in investment decisions – including banking and superannuation</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>Carefully consider impacts of decisions made to address climate change and ensure they do not exacerbate other critical environmental problems.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>Careful consideration of the impacts of decisions is made as part of the planning and delivery process for all Council sustainability activities.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 30, bullet points. Suggest add 'Public Lighting Policy'. This was written in 2005 and looks like it needs updating.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted and has been added.</p>
<p>p. 31. I'd like to see comments on the plan made available online – for the sake of transparency and genuine engagement.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted (and delivered on)</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 31, bullet point 4. Suggest edit: Tree planting, removal and renewal; extent of tree canopy cover.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>p. 31. Suggest also providing the community with an inventory showing which of council's buildings have solar PV and which don't.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>This recommendation will be considered as part of Council's reporting about the Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>

<p>My view is that, having regard for the critical situation we now face, Council should harness all the tools at its disposal to resist further erosion of our climate which is now quite speedily being rendered unfit for human habitation. And this threat should be articulated in an introduction to the document.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>Vegetation</p> <p>I draw to attention just one matter of detail that would be addressed in an effective recasting of the document. The draft Climate Action Plan quite rightly draws attention to the central role and capacity of vegetation to store carbon dioxide emissions. However, it needs to be recorded that this process is now under dire threat because of ongoing climate change.</p> <p>Whilst photosynthesis continues to absorb more carbon dioxide than is released into the atmosphere through respiration, rising temperatures put this process at risk. Photosynthesis and respiration both decline when temperatures increase. However, photosynthesis decreases at significantly lower temperatures than respiration, and peaks at between 18 C and 28C. When photosynthesis declines and respiration continues, ecosystems release more carbon than they absorb. That is the direction in which the world is headed now.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted. Detail on the role of vegetation and its relationship to climate will be provided in the Urban Greening Strategy.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>Replacing lost canopy is not enough - we need additional shade throughout our streets and gardens.</p> <p>Any open space and nature strips need to be utilised for plants that either create shade or encourage insects.</p> <p>Possibly roof covering / painting to reduce absorption of sunlight</p> <p>Light bulbs are great but is that really where the waste energy is?</p> <p>Rental and private properties need to be assessed in terms of energy audits.</p> <p>If people don't know how much energy they are wasting due to poor insulation then they won't do anything about it. Also renter should know how</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan includes actions to increase shade, to increase land managed for biodiversity, the utilisation of nature strips for urban greening and promotion of cool roofs. The Pla also contains actions around support for vulnerable and low-income residents to upgrade home energy efficiency and development of a program to support energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades for Boroondara homes and businesses.</p>

<p>economic the property that they are renting is and this would encourage landlords to improve.</p> <p>Proper insulations should be encourage/subsidised to help reduce energy use and effective heating/cooling systems to reduce wasteful overheating/cooling. Converting properties from use of gas to electric.</p> <p>Properties should be encouraged to plant tree covering that absorbs CO2 emissions.</p>	<p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made</p>
<p>The target of 30% canopy cover by 2030 may be predicated on research (that) “shows that we can begin to reap greater social and environmental benefits from the urban forest when tree canopy cover exceeds 30% (The Nature Conservancy and Resilient Melbourne Technical Report 2019). Anything less, and there is generally not enough canopy cover to achieve the full benefits of the urban forest”. This was the case in 2019. In the context of rising temperatures due to climate change, with the heat island effect exacerbated by the increase in building cover and paved surfaces on private land, it would seem that predicating targets for 2030 now on a level that we understood in 2019 as beginning to reap greater social and environmental benefits is too low an ambition to provide a level of community amenity that will meet Council’s responsibilities under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 Division 3 24(a) for creating an environment which supports the health of members of the local community and strengthens the capacity of the community and individuals to achieve better health.</p> <p>There appears to be scope to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set understory / vegetation targets, with baseline measurement as a precursor • Enhance the urban forest greening targets to include ‘tree canopy and shrub’ cover • Have separate canopy targets for public and private land, and within the former, for street reservations and other public open spaces. • Have targets for 2040, as in the City of Melbourne Urban Forest Strategy (40% for the whole city). 	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>Further consideration of canopy targets will take place through the development on an Urban Greening strategy, which is an action in the Plan.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure permeability to establish a baseline and implement a permeability target for public and private land. 	
<p>There appear to be baseline data issues with respect to tree canopy cover. The current Boroondara canopy cover of 28% quoted in the draft is the same as in the Boroondara Tree Strategy 2017, which was calculated as part of an Australia-wide study by the University of Technology Sydney in 2014 to measure canopy cover in every urban Local Government Area. This figure is inconsistent with lower estimates in the Council 2017 study (25%), the 2019 Urban Vegetation Cover Change in Melbourne study (20.6%), and the higher estimate in the 2020 Greener Spaces, Better Places analysis (31.5%). A new investigation should be undertaken to obtain robust baseline data.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>We have an action in the Plan to develop an Urban Greening Strategy, which will address this issue.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>There is also a lack of clarity with respect to tree planting targets of 10,000 extra trees planted by 2030, who is to plant them, where they will be planted (public or private land and the mix thereof), the timing of the plantings, and the relationship between the planting target and the tree canopy cover target. On its face, it looks like the planting target is inadequate to achieve the increase in canopy in the timeframe. In 2017, according to Council's Boroondara Tree Strategy, Council had approximately 64,000 street trees and a similar number of park trees. This number could be expected to have increased due to plantings since then which appear to be about 1,000 per year of street trees according to the latest budget, so assuming a total of roughly 135,000 trees on public land the percentage increase in tree numbers would be about 7% by 2030, and this is just trees on public land. Given that trees take about 10 years to reach mid-range canopy it seems unlikely that even if the tree planting all took place in the first few years of the CAP that this action could increase the canopy cover for the whole of Boroondara by 2% by 2030.</p>	<p>This action has been clarified.</p>
<p>Drawdown and sequestration measurement</p> <p>Possibly the biggest issue, however, for consideration of vegetation in a climate action plan, is the measurement of carbon drawdown and sequestration from increasing vegetation, against the overarching targets for</p>	<p>We are not planning to claim carbon drawdown and sequestration from increasing vegetation against the overarching targets for net zero emissions.</p>

<p>net zero emissions. Clearly this is a challenge for all jurisdictions. Yet there are processes for estimation which could be and indeed should be investigated if this is not already underway for the purposes of building them into the Implementation Plan; and a reference to them should arguably be included in the Climate Action Plan prior to its adoption by Council. In the development of the Boroondara Tree Strategy (2017–2027), Council used i-Tree Eco, which is its 2020 version is claimed to measure Carbon sequestration and storage, and the Commonwealth Emissions Reduction Fund uses FullCAM to generate abatement estimates for vegetation methodology determinations, albeit in a different context.</p>	
<p><u>Loss of vegetation on private land</u> A number of the actions and targets would logically be included in a revision of the Boroondara Tree Strategy (2017–2027) to become an Urban Forest/ Urban Greening Strategy for Boroondara with an associated planting plan, as included in the CAP. This will, if approved, be a very welcome development and I hope that it can be progressed as soon as Council can reasonably do so. Included in this, and so in the CAP implementation plan, will no doubt be actions to address a major issue across Melbourne and in Boroondara, the loss of vegetation on private land. I understand full well that this is an area in which Council is constrained by the building code and thus is a matter for advocacy to a considerable extent. However, despite Council efforts to constrain it, it is obvious in Boroondara, and seems likely that it is connected to the estimated 1-1.5% loss of canopy cover annually in greater Melbourne, mainly due to the removal of trees on private land – front and back yards - for more intense housing development. It is possible that Council could have more leverage with respect to tree removal on private land by employing the tree valuation mechanism that is outlined in the Boroondara Tree Strategy (2017–2027). In addition, it seems that the workload for Council arborists is high and that enhanced monitoring, rapid response and assertive action needs appointment of more of them.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes a number of actions that will address part of this feedback.</p>

<p>The required pruning of street trees to address the Electric Line Clearance Regulations is well recognised by Council as being over the top for urban areas and as creating unnecessary reduction in canopy cover and associated cooling. I am sure the community would be pleased to assist with lobbying the State Government to reform the regulations for areas such as ours.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>Much of the plan is spent on back slapping. In reality the Council's emissions over the past 10 years rose and if it were not for the PPA, targets would have been missed. We need to look to the future not the past. This is not a PR stunt it is an action plan to try and halt the decline in the planet we live on. There is no time to massage egos.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>We need to track actual energy consumption over time net of offsets. We need complete transparent reporting, no window dressing of figures. There is no mention of the lack of transparency in prior years. Reporting must be more than annual and it needs to be in a highly visible and accessible platform.</p> <p>I understand Stonnington are not going to use carbon credits and the proposal to use them from FOGO is the perfect example of creative accountancy. Window dressing. Introducing FOGO was business as usual and using this windfall to offset gas usage is cheating the environment. Stonnington council acknowledge. In my view it lacks integrity. Council has to lead by example.</p> <p>Offsets should be a last resort, not a starting point.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p><u>Biodiversity and Trees</u></p> <p>Boroondara didn't even sign up with the 32 other metro councils to the Resilient Melbourne program. The additional 10 Ha plan over 10 years is inadequate given the small % of open space that this represents.</p> <p>Set, advertise and report on tree planting/urban forest targets – Council is doing work in this area but policies could be better co-ordinated e.g. the City of Melbourne has clear targets along with extensive information and education resources as part of their Urban Forest strategy 2014-32.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The City of Boroondara has been an active participant in the development of the Living Melbourne Urban Forest Strategy. Council was unable to formally endorse the Strategy due to insufficient time being available to present the Strategy for formal Council consideration.</p>

<p>Introduce stronger measures to encourage tree planting and protection on private land. If a tree is illegally felled a fine plus replant in the same position</p> <p>Develop clear approaches to encourage tree canopy near power lines, including selection of species and more selective pruning.</p> <p>Encourage water sensitive design on public and private land</p> <p>Encourage the planting of local indigenous species, with targets for the percentage of new plantings to be indigenous plants.</p> <p>Maintain and develop education programs and develop resources, to encourage citizen initiatives and increase biodiversity in public and private spaces</p> <p>There should be no loss of green space. Off- setting is not permitted. Camberwell Green should be adopted as green open space.</p> <p>Stronger links between the public in biodiversity in the community and within the council.</p>	<p>Lack of formal endorsement does not prevent Council from involvement in the delivery of the Strategy and does not reflect any objection to the Strategy.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p>No mention of the Strategic Management Plan for Gardiners Creek that the council have budgeted for this year</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>This work is identified in the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p><u>Transport</u></p> <p>Reduce speed limits on local roads, advocate to Vic Roads for reduced maximums throughout the municipality wherever possible</p> <p>Prioritise electric vehicles for designated carshare activities</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Some of this feedback is addressed through the Implementation Plan.</p>

<p>Decrease reliance on cars: install more bike paths and improve pedestrian access in activity areas</p> <p>Set targets for availability of public charging stations for electric vehicles in e.g. Council car parks and in designated spots in activity areas</p> <p>Prioritise access for sustainable transport, advocate at State level to e.g. Metro, Vic Roads Ban diesel vehicles within municipal boundaries from 2030</p> <p>Introduce sanctions via bylaws to stop extended idling by commercial and trade vehicle</p> <p>Camberwell Green and this policy seem in conflict!</p>	<p>No change has been made to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p><u>Waste</u></p> <p>Set target for zero waste to landfill by 2025; encourage recycling, increase the levy on landfill bins</p> <p>Composting at home .</p> <p>Lobby for a ban on polystyrene</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>Council delivers a compost and worm farm program to support home composting and worm farming.</p> <p>No Change to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p><u>Overarching</u></p> <p>With State government, introduce clear environmental planning standards for housing developments, including more stringent requirements with regard to open space. Ensure that car parking trade offs actually increase green space in the municipality</p> <p>Join other Councils in advocating for 8* eco standards for all new houses and housing developments State wide</p> <p>Support passive energy house showcase, support installation of tanks, Water sensitive Urban Design, grey water systems etc</p> <p>Include a focus on orientation and shading in planning guidelines</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan includes the following development related actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support greater sustainability measures through the planning permit assessment process including a new Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Planning officer position at Council • Continue to participate in the development of an Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) policy to include in the Boroondara Planning Scheme as part of Council's

Support energy star ratings for schools and rental housing, including energy performance	<p>membership in the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for, and support greater Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) through the planning scheme <p>No Change to the Climate Action Plan.</p>
<p><u>Staffing</u></p> <p>Set targets for embedding climate action as a default across all Council departments :</p> <p>Budget for increased staffing NOW for environmental action, education and support to ensure targets are achieved.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan includes new staff resources to support delivery of the Climate Action Plan and related activities.</p>
<p>The need for partnership with the community and with other organisations (other LGAs, Victorian Government, public authorities, professional bodies and communities of practice) is very clear. What isn't clear is to what extent some of these actions are to be undertaken by Council to manage Council assets, vs actions for the community. This blurring of responsibility may be intentional, but it may trigger uncertainty e.g. "how we use water". Are you referring to everybody or just Council?</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>How we use water refers to everyone in Boroondara.</p> <p>The blurring of responsibilities is unavoidable. Council delivers services for our community and in partnership with our community. Council also seeks to support our community to take action for themselves.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>

<p>Page 6, Our Vision Very aspirational statements (I'm all for it). How realistic are they? How measurable will they be?</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>Page 7, Our role "Prepare to adopt and adapt to new and evolving technology" - explain to what purpose?</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>Page 10, Projects and Page 11, Other initiatives Is there a reason why Our Low Carbon Future Strategy is the only strategy that's discussed in any detail?</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>We have attempted to achieve a balance between our previous success and what we have learnt from compared with focussing on future actions.</p>

<p>Page 11, Council emissions, and Page 34, Glossary</p> <p>“As part of Boroondara’s Our Low Carbon Future Strategy, we have monitored greenhouse gas emissions since 2007– 2008 across all Council-run buildings and services ... a comparison of the municipal emissions and Council’s corporate emissions reveals that Council is directly responsible for less than 1 per cent of municipal emissions.”</p> <p>Does this calculation covers all Council fuel use, construction, waste management and does it include our contractors’ carbon emissions? “Due to ongoing efforts to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and environmental footprint, corporate emissions are now below 16000 tonnes CO₂-e which represents a reduction of over 80 per cent compared with our baseline year. Though this an excellent effort...”</p> <p>Is any benchmarking across other councils available</p>	<p>Council’s corporate greenhouse emissions include Council electricity and natural gas use and fuel use by all Council vehicles including waste collection vehicles.</p> <p>Emissions from the Boroondara aquatic centres are included.</p> <p>Emissions from Street lighting are also included.</p> <p>Emissions from contractor activities are not currently included.</p> <p>Council regularly benchmarks our performance against other Local Governments. Boroondara is performing well in most sustainability criteria.</p> <p>There are 79 councils in Victoria. Council’s report in various different ways and have different approaches making it difficult to provide a summary appropriate for the Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>Council’s corporate emissions are now 6000 tonnes not 16,000 tonnes.</p>
<p>Glossary</p> <p>Put the Glossary on the inside cover - you don’t want readers wondering what CO₂-e is, for example. Most people won’t read the index. Please subscript the “₂” in CO₂, and make sure the “e” is lower case. In “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster”, Bill Gates suggests giving people relatable comparison for greenhouse gas emissions or energy use, e.g. current GHG emissions are 51 billion tonnes, how much does the average person contribute to that?</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>Lower case ‘e’ is now used.</p>

<p>Page 14, Municipality-wide emissions</p> <p>This is a useful graphic. I'd be more interested in seeing it presented a bit smaller, with a couple of other years for comparison e.g. 5 years ago, 10 years ago, if that info is available.</p> <p>I would lead with infographics Panel B (first) and Panel A (second) infographics - you need context to see where GHG come from, then how we're tracking as a nation, then how we're doing as a council. Figure legend for Panel B should be "how Australians contribute to GHG emissions" if it's an Australian report. The word "greenhouse" is missing an 'n' in the Panel B figure legend.</p>	<p>Feedback is noted.</p> <p>We have added the 'n' in the text.</p>
<p>The solar PPA to deliver offsetting renewable energy to 46 Victorian councils is a commercial imperative that similar sized businesses have been doing for some time rather than a centrepiece of an environmental action plan. Given a significant portion of council's energy will still come from the consumption of fossil fuels (when the sun isn't shining and for gas and vehicles) and these emissions are only notionally offset the net zero target is hollow. Only because net zero is some time in the future are that we clinging to the hope that plausible offsets will be developed by someone else are we all hiding behind this "offset" concept.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>Aiming for sustainable buildings and setting the bar as low as a 5 star rating is at odds with both Victoria's current 6, soon to be 7 star expectations and a the much higher level of ambition of our developed country equivalents.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>A 2% increase in canopy cover by 2030, whilst better than a continuing reduction, is pretty weak and of limited value.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>The cogen unit at the pool needs to be replaced with heat pumps before too long to continue the reduction in fossil fuel based emissions generation</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>Actions in the Climate Action Plan and the Implementation Plan support the transition away from natural gas at all Council buildings</p>

	<p>including aquatic centres. Solar PV is currently being installed at Hawthorn Aquatic Centre and Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>The newly installed lighting along the Gardiners Creek bike path either side of Toorak road are on during the day. Why isn't there a timer that prevents this happening at 4PM when the photo receptor is either faulty or not set correctly? Not OK for new installations:</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>We have asked the relevant team to investigate and rectify this. Outdoor lighting should have daylight sensors or timer control. New installations typically have smart technologies to increase efficiency and reduce light pollution.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>The cyclone wire fence along Gardiners Creek near the Monash Freeway overpass that had decades of life left in it that was cut off and replaced with a shinier one recently could have been retained after simply cutting it's posts off flush with the concrete and resetting them in new base clamps rather than simply replacing the whole thing – an example of resource waste and unnecessary emissions generation (likely not covered by Councils net zero plan anyway). We can't meet our goals if we maintain such a wasteful mindset.</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>
<p>Why aren't we doing anything about Climate Change even though we know it can ruin everything we have ever fought for this includes our children our granddaughters and grandsons. It seems absolutely ridiculous that we are not taking more action about Climate Change. By not taking action we are not only being lazy but we are putting an end to this world, being selfish and only thinking about ourselves, if we really cared about everything we've every fought and worked for we wouldn't be in the current situation and instead we would be fighting our backsides of to protect everything we love.</p> <p>This is what I suggest we do when I say taking action. We need to implement more solar panels this will help our problem tremendously. We also need to</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>

<p>stop using so much gas this is extremely bad for the environment and if everyone takes small steps by not using gas this makes a huge step in the right direction to fixing our problem. We should also aim to be using electric cars this is also a huge step in the right direction.</p> <p>In summary if we can do all the little things right then maybe there is a chance that we can save our planet and everything we've ever worked from</p>	
<p>I applaud the Council for being proactive in the measures that have taken place regarding the environment. However there is one problem in Municipalities that has been ignored for too long, and that is the fact that school zones have the worst polluted atmosphere in many cities. This was brought to my attention by an article two years ago by Malcolm Turnbull who was concerned about the pollution outside of school grounds during drop off and pick up times because of the emissions produced by idling cars. He referred to the negative effect on children in particular and made reference to the City of London taking the pollution around schools as a serious matter and mentioned that in some States in the USA the emissions from idling around schools can draw fines in the 1000's.</p> <p>Two years ago I wrote a letter to the Head of EPA with this information. Their response was that School Principals have to work that out for themselves. I would suggested that many Principals are not even aware of the problem. The EPA unfortunately does not have a strong public arena and in the past has been slow to act where necessary. If the Education Department and Municipalities came together to present a proposition and the facts to the EPA, there might be some light at the end of the tunnel, however it could be seen as a problem too hard to deal with and like many decisions made or rebuked in the political arena nothing will be done and the environment and the health of young children and residents will be compromised. From a personal point of view I live in a street close to a primary school and I can assure you the amount of idling is rife in morning drop off and afternoon pick up, traffic congestion does not help. I was not aware of this problem until I read Malcolm Turnbull's article and I would say that many parents are</p>	<p>This feedback is noted.</p> <p>No change to the Climate Action Plan has been made.</p>

oblivious to the fact that their idling is a danger to the developing health of their children and others.	
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