

RMCG

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Draft Sustainable Environment Strategy 2025-2035

Moorabool Shire Council

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Victoria — Tasmania — NSW



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Acknowledgement of Country

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land which includes the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

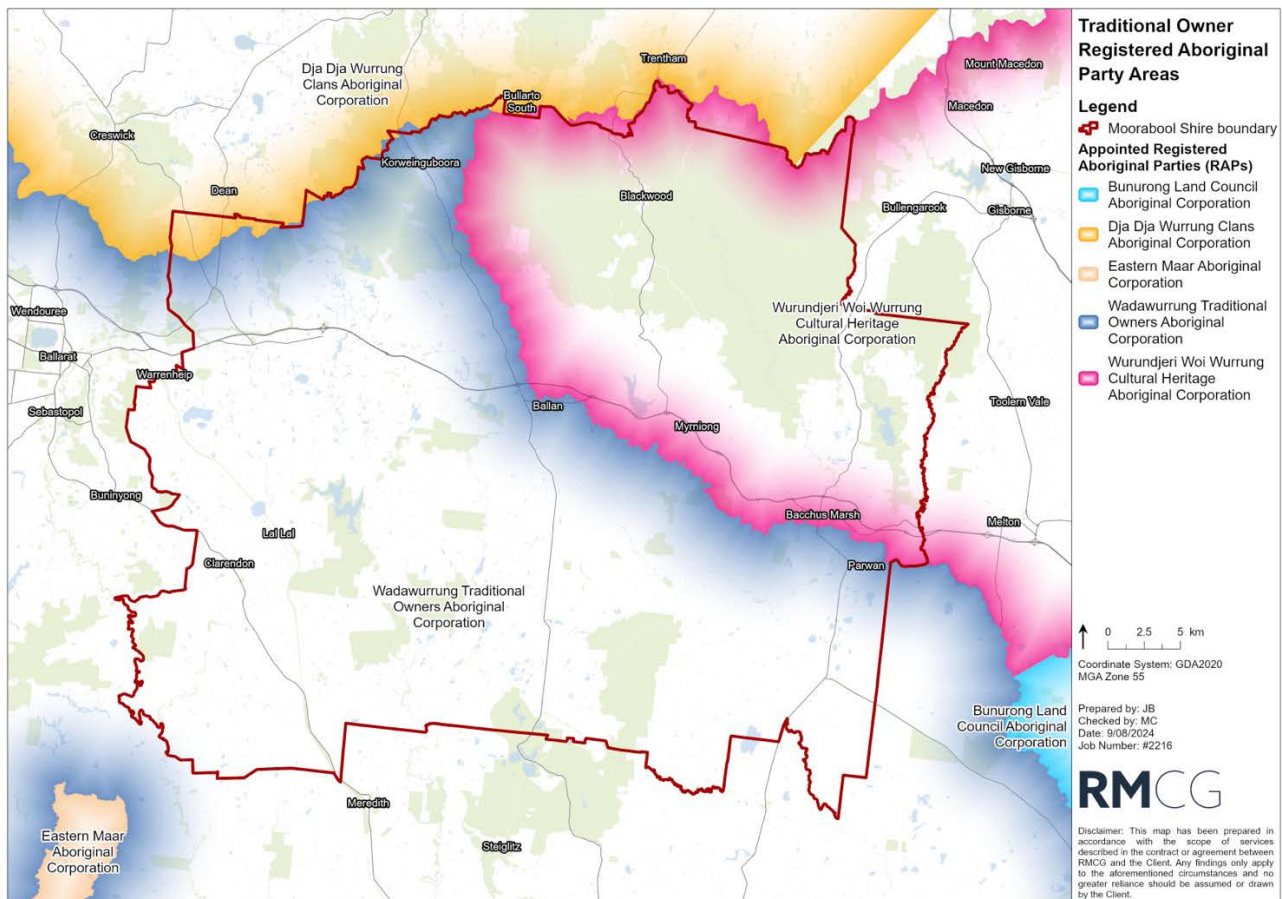


Figure 1: Registered Aboriginal Parties within Moorabool Shire Council

Council Foreword

To be confirmed post community consultation.

Plan Summary

Moorabool Shire is home to a unique and beautiful environment. More than 74% of our Shire supports pristine water catchments, State Forests and Parks, and National Parks. Our productive rural landscapes provide peaceful and scenic vistas that are surrounded by rugged ranges, flowing river plains and lush bushland. Our public reserves, parks and roadsides host critical biodiversity habitat for threatened and endangered species. We are also home to a highly passionate community who are strong advocates for the protection of the environment.

As a fast-growing municipality that values its unique environment, we acknowledge that unsustainable growth and climate change poses one of the biggest challenges for our future environment and community. To address this, we recognise that there is a significant opportunity to protect and enhance our natural places and biodiversity at a regional scale with our community and partners. This Sustainable Environment Strategy will guide our decision-making and activities to create a sustainable future for Moorabool.

Our vision for our sustainable environment aligns with the 2030 Community Vision and seeks to:

“Preserve our natural environment and champion sustainable practices through transparent and proactive activities that inspire action.”

We will focus on three strategic areas, each with their specific goals and actions for Council.

Table 1: Sustainable Environment Strategy goals and actions for Council

STRATEGY AND GOAL	COUNCIL ACTIONS
<p>1. Our Natural Environment: Protect and enhance ecological health and connectivity in Moorabool.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage and care for our natural places, by reducing chemical use, improving data collection on roadside vegetation and weeds, undertake strategic and climate sustainable revegetation and more litter control. 2. Develop management plans for our reserves to inform strategic revegetation, pest and weed control and protection of critical habitat. 3. Manage our urban trees to increase tree canopy cover on public land in our townships. We will also measure our baseline urban tree canopy cover. 4. Review our urban tree strategy to increase protection of existing trees and ensure we are planting more of the right trees in the right locations. 5. Enhance biodiversity through the strategic planning and planting of native vegetation and trees. 6. Identify and map the distribution of biodiversity in our roadsides, parks and open spaces prioritising the mapping of threatened and endangered species and ecological communities. 7. Complement delivery of our Roadside Action Plan by improving data capture to protect biodiversity and threatened species on our rural roadsides and reduce the threat of pest plants and animals. 8. Seek to better protect threatened and endangered species by exploring appropriate planning overlays and enforcement opportunities suited to Moorabool's planning scheme and local laws.
<p>2. Our Community and Partnerships: Collaborate with our community and partners to foster greater environmental stewardship across Moorabool</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Promote and empower community groups to participate in the Community Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants program and align with local and regional priorities. 10. Develop and implement guidelines for supporting Landcare and Friends of Groups. 11. Deliver community engagement events (e.g. Nature Stewards Program) to improve environmental and sustainability outcomes. 12. Improve the quality and scope of environmental and sustainability information on Council's website. 13. Improve the quality and distribution of interpretive signage in key environmental areas and rural roadsides. 14. Support the use of art and sculpture to raise awareness of environmental protection.

STRATEGY AND GOAL	COUNCIL ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Develop a sustainable events policy or plan to set the strategic direction and minimum sustainability standards for community events 16. Develop community waste practice change programs that align with our Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy goals of AVOID, RECOVER and PROTECT 17. Utilise existing and develop new engagement programs with Youth Services to leverage sustainability messaging with the next generation of decision-makers.
<p>3. Our Built Environment: Build a sustainable and climate-resilient Moorabool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Develop and endorse an ESD Policy for both infill and subdivision development. 19. Encourage the uptake of the Sustainable Subdivisions Framework for new developments in our Shire. 20. Embed the principles of the Sustainable Infrastructure Guidelines from the Infrastructure Design Manual into all capital and asset renewal works. 21. Review the landscape design manual to promote a broader ecological design focus. 22. Strengthen compliance and enforcement of any environmental-related planning conditions issued on planning permits. 23. Continue to transition towards low emission/electric plant, equipment, vehicles, buildings and assets. 24. Establish a baseline for GHG emissions of Council buildings and fleet to inform the development of an emissions reduction plan and target. 25. Identify opportunities for the installation of renewable energy infrastructure and climate preparedness upgrades in Council buildings. 26. Develop a policy to reduce and contain onsite waste on all development sites, targeting plastics and waffle pods that contaminate the environment. 27. Improve streetscape outcomes at developer hand over by appropriately auditing the quality of open space, street trees planted during development, and any ESD requirements as part of planning conditions. 28. Develop and enforce a minimum acceptable standard for unencumbered lands handed over by developers to ensure they have conservation value and can be maintained. 29. Implement paperless rates notices and encourage the community to transition to electronic notices to reduce paper use. 30. Review and update the procurement policy to embed sustainability practices and values within Council's purchasing power.

Introduction

Moorabool Shire intersects a unique range of urban, environmental and agricultural landscapes, creating a distinctive piece of Victoria in which to live and work. As a peri-urban Shire, we are proud to showcase our prosperous country lifestyle that is valued by our community. We are a preferred lifestyle choice for new families, retirees and everyone in between. The beautiful rural landscapes, biodiversity rich ecosystems and our liveable regional townships and landscapes all form our beautiful environment, the very asset valued by our community.

Our environment is home to three important rivers: the Werribee, Lerderderg and the Moorabool which run through the Central Victorian Highlands into the Victorian Volcanic Plains. These landscapes provide homes to a vast range of wildlife, including threatened species such as Greater Gliders, Growling Grass Frogs, Little Eagles, Striped Legless Lizards, Platypus, and, in winter, beautiful, critically endangered Swift Parrots.

At Council, we value our environment and its protection, and we have been undertaking a range of programs that demonstrate this. We have been installing solar panels on our buildings, transitioning our depot plant and equipment and fleet towards electrical vehicles and machinery, planting thousands of trees and shrubs alongside our community and offering access to education and stewardship programs.

However, we know that more needs to be done. The impacts of climate change in Moorabool will be significant if we don't seek to adapt our Shire by creating sustainable, liveable and safe communities. Droughts, bushfires and storms will increase in severity over the coming decades, and all pose a threat to our beautiful Shire.

We now have a perfect opportunity to renew our commitment to the environment through our Sustainable Environment Strategy. We're looking at creating efficiencies and improvements within our operations and building stronger relationships with the community and other agencies and organisations to improve environmental outcomes across the Shire.

This Sustainable Environment Strategy seeks to re-establish Council's goals and priorities and re-focus action towards the future. A clear and achievable framework ensures that we can:

- Protect and enhance ecological health and connectivity in Moorabool
- Collaborate with our community and partners to foster greater environmental stewardship across Moorabool
- Build a sustainable and climate-resilient Moorabool.

We have a big task ahead of us to manage our natural and built environment sustainably. But together with our partners and community, we can deliver sustainable outcomes into the future.

A Snapshot of Moorabool's Environment

OUR RURAL LANDSCAPE

The predominant land uses within Moorabool Shire are primary production (agriculture) and natural assets such as National and State Parks, rivers and bushlands reserves as shown in Figure 1. We manage and look after 1,440km of road network and manage over 70 bushland reserves. 56.7% of Moorabool is used for cropping, grazing and horticulture. 27% of our area is protected under State and National Parks, forests and reserves.

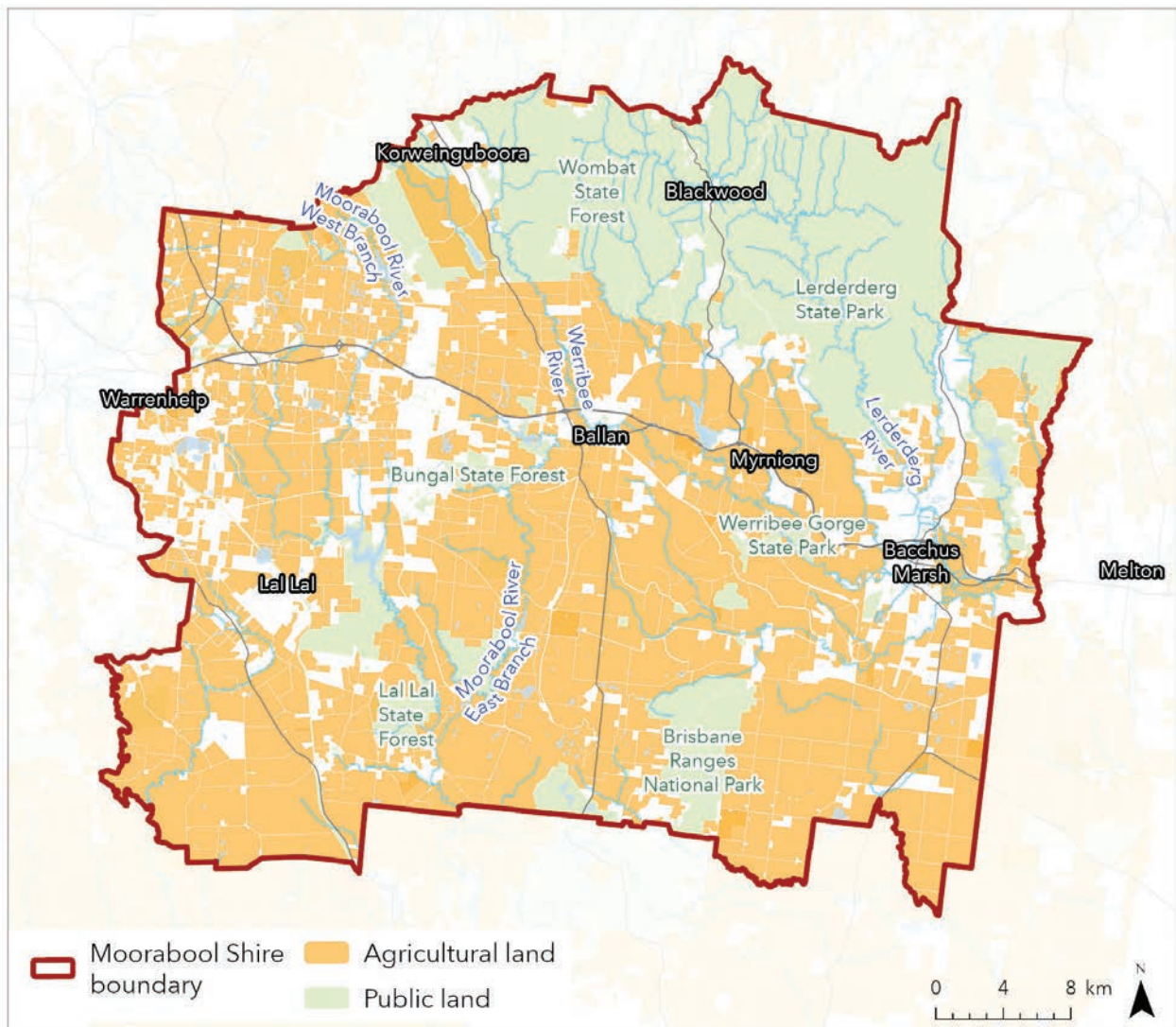


Figure 2: A map of Moorabool's environmental and agricultural assets

OUR ENVIRONMENTS

Our Shire is home to many high-quality habitats for our flora and fauna, as recorded by the State Government as areas of Strategic Biodiversity Value. This includes the Central Victorian Uplands and Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregions and the Moorabool, Lerderderg and Werribee Rivers shown in Figure 2.

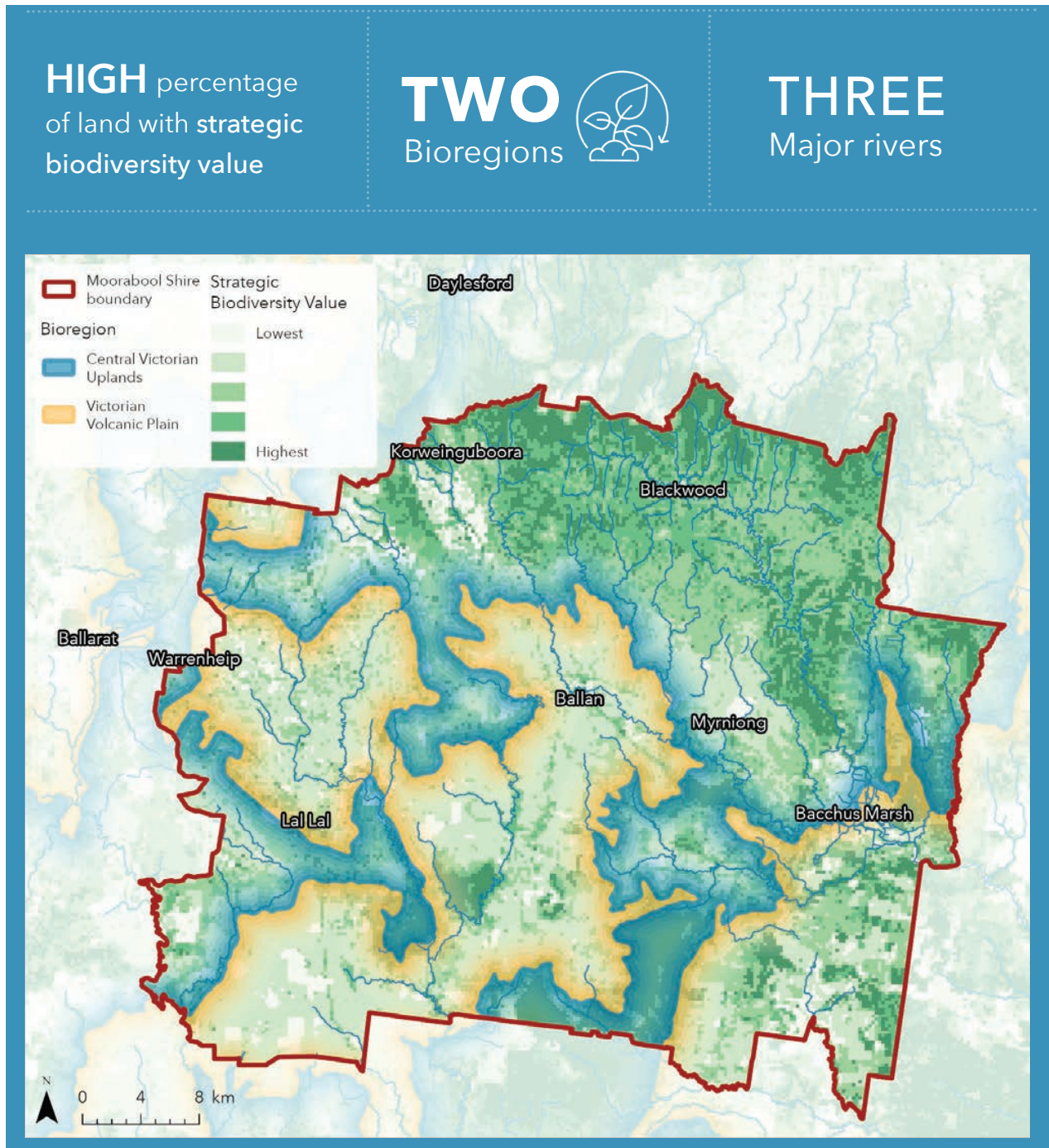


Figure 3: A map of Moorabool's natural environment

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

Moorabool Shire and its community are lucky to have many different organisations and community groups nurturing our environment. This includes Parks Victoria, four water corporations and the Corangamite, North Central and Port Phillip Catchment Management Authorities who undertake integrated catchment management and look after our natural waterways. Moorabool's environment is also supported by a large number of Landcare and community volunteer groups.

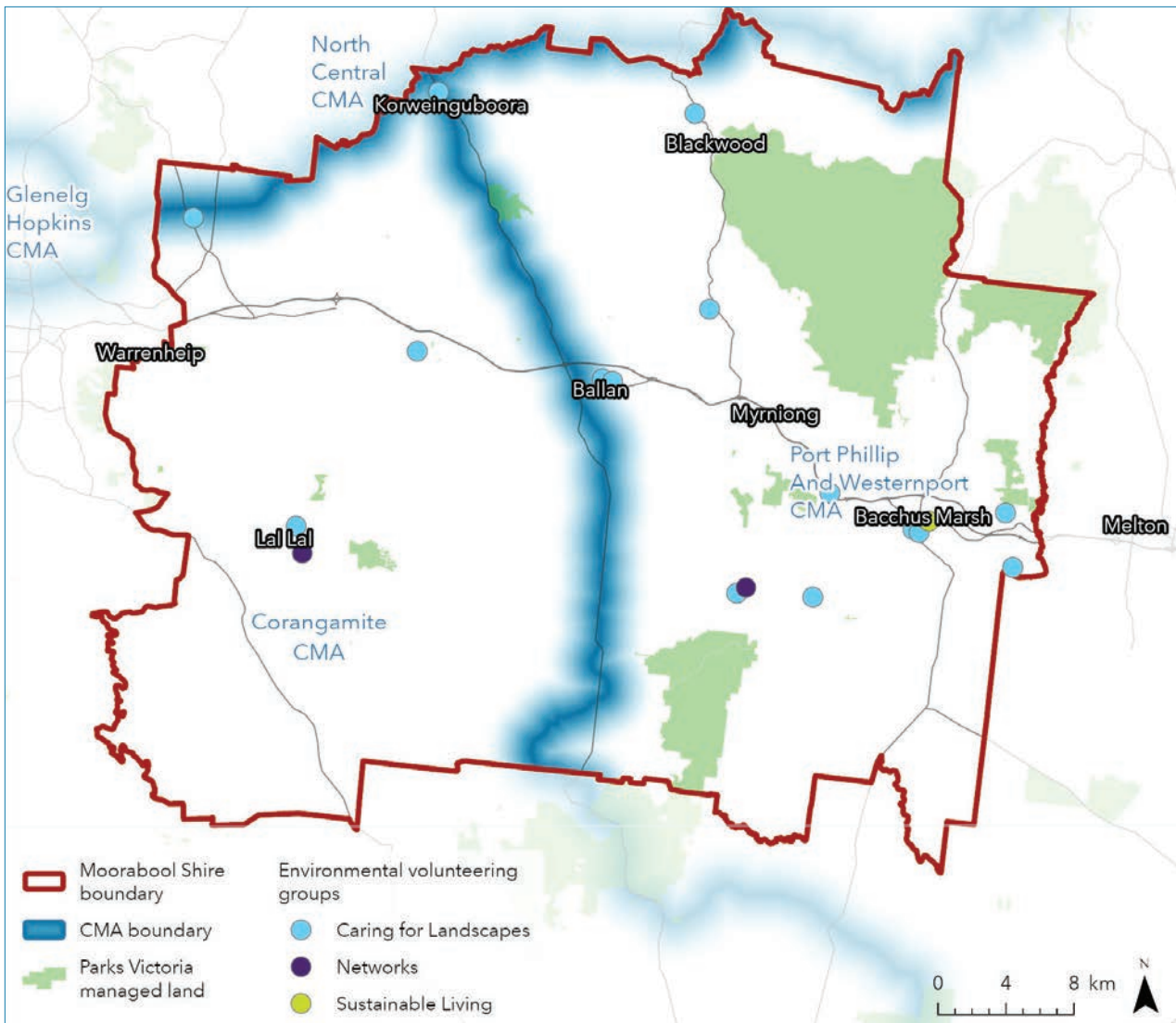


Figure 4: A map of Moorabool's community and sustainable environment partners.

Challenges and Opportunities

Environmental sustainability is crucial for Moorabool to preserve environmental health, liveability and unique landscapes. Our forests, waterways and agricultural land are central to our economy, identity and wellbeing. The region's proximity to key natural places presents both opportunities and challenges for environmental sustainability. We recognise that if we do not address these challenges, Moorabool could risk significant impacts to our environment which ultimately compromises our community's health and wellbeing.

OUR CLIMATE IS CHANGING

Climate change is likely to be the single biggest challenge facing Moorabool and its community. We have already seen extensive droughts, storms and floods, all of which are modelled to increase in frequency and intensity. Climate change has the potential to impact on our health, homes, agriculture, infrastructure and environment.

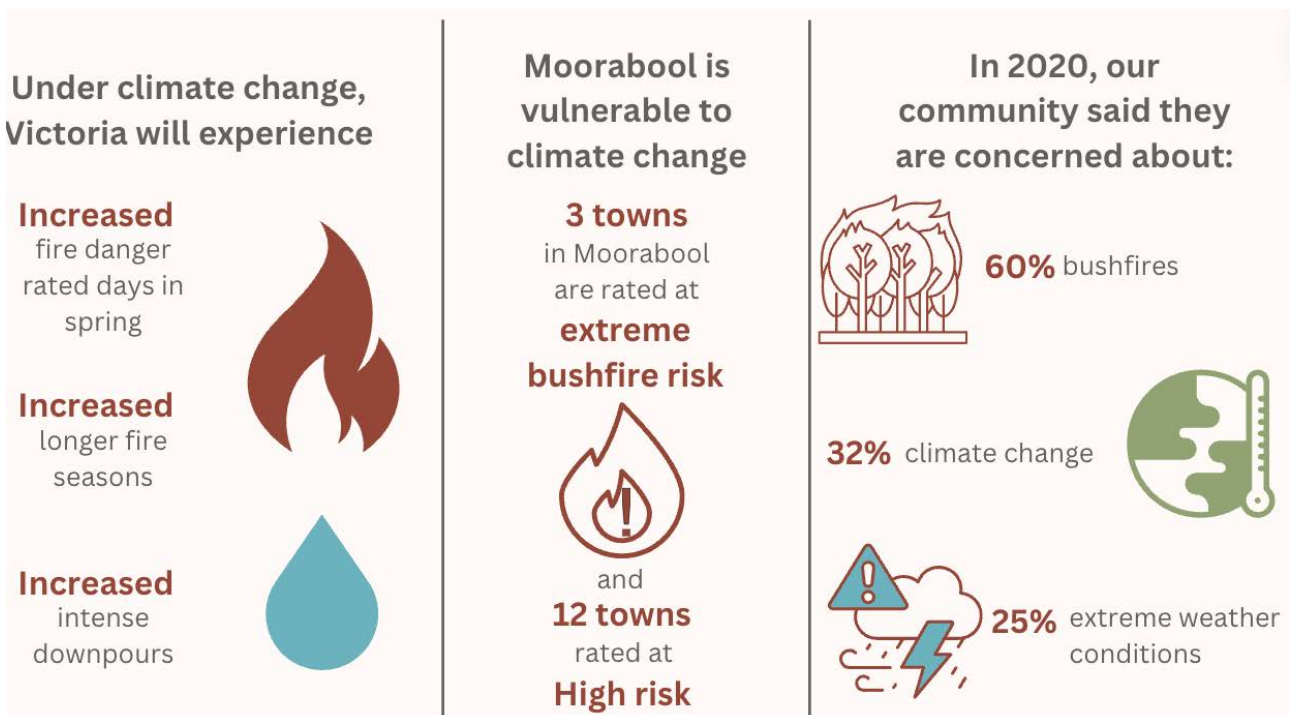


Figure 5: Climate change impacts to Moorabool Shire

Building resilience into the work we do will be key in helping Moorabool and the broader region to adapt to these changes. This means requiring safer, more sustainable housing, growing greener, cooler landscapes, reducing our waste and greenhouse gas emissions, and empowering our community to make their own adaptation decisions.

OUR COMMUNITY IS CHANGING

We are a fast-growing municipality which has seen significant urban development over the last four decades in order to keep up with our growing population. The challenge lies in keeping pace with the demand and need for housing, much of it affordable, whilst providing the level of services that future communities need and want, including liveable, safe and sustainable settlements. Supporting infrastructure will be required to service these communities including transport, waste recovery, open space, early years education etc and the challenge will be to ensure that this growth does not impact on our natural environment or the idyllic rural lifestyle so desired by our community.



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Residential buildings approved in 2023/24



Population to grow by **46%** by 2046



3,214

People moved to Moorabool from 2016-2021

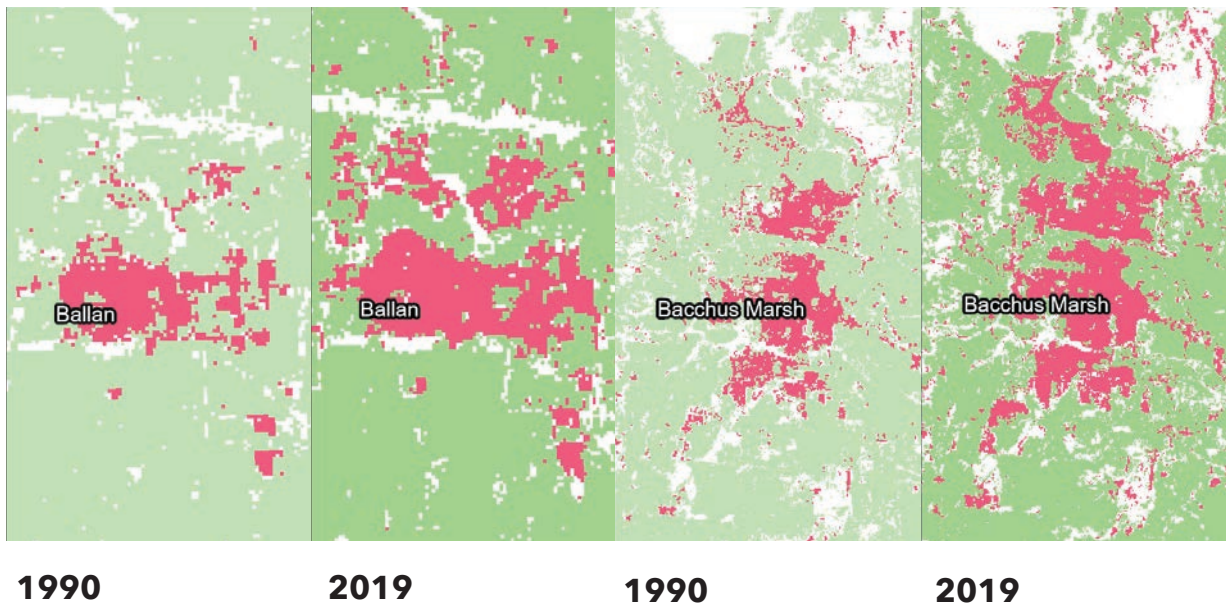


Figure 6: The increase in built form across the Shire as a result of residential housing built since 1990 (top map) to 2019 (bottom map).

Our changing demographics presents an opportunity for Council to garner a clear suite of mechanisms that seek to protect the character and amenity of the Shire while ensuring that new development is more sustainable and has less of an impact on the natural values of our shire.

OUR ENVIRONMENT IS CHANGING

Some of our most valued natural assets are under increasing threat from pests and weeds spread throughout compromising their capacity to continue to remain healthy and viable. This includes our threatened species and ecological vegetation communities (EVC'S). Our growing population is also putting pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity throughout the Shire.

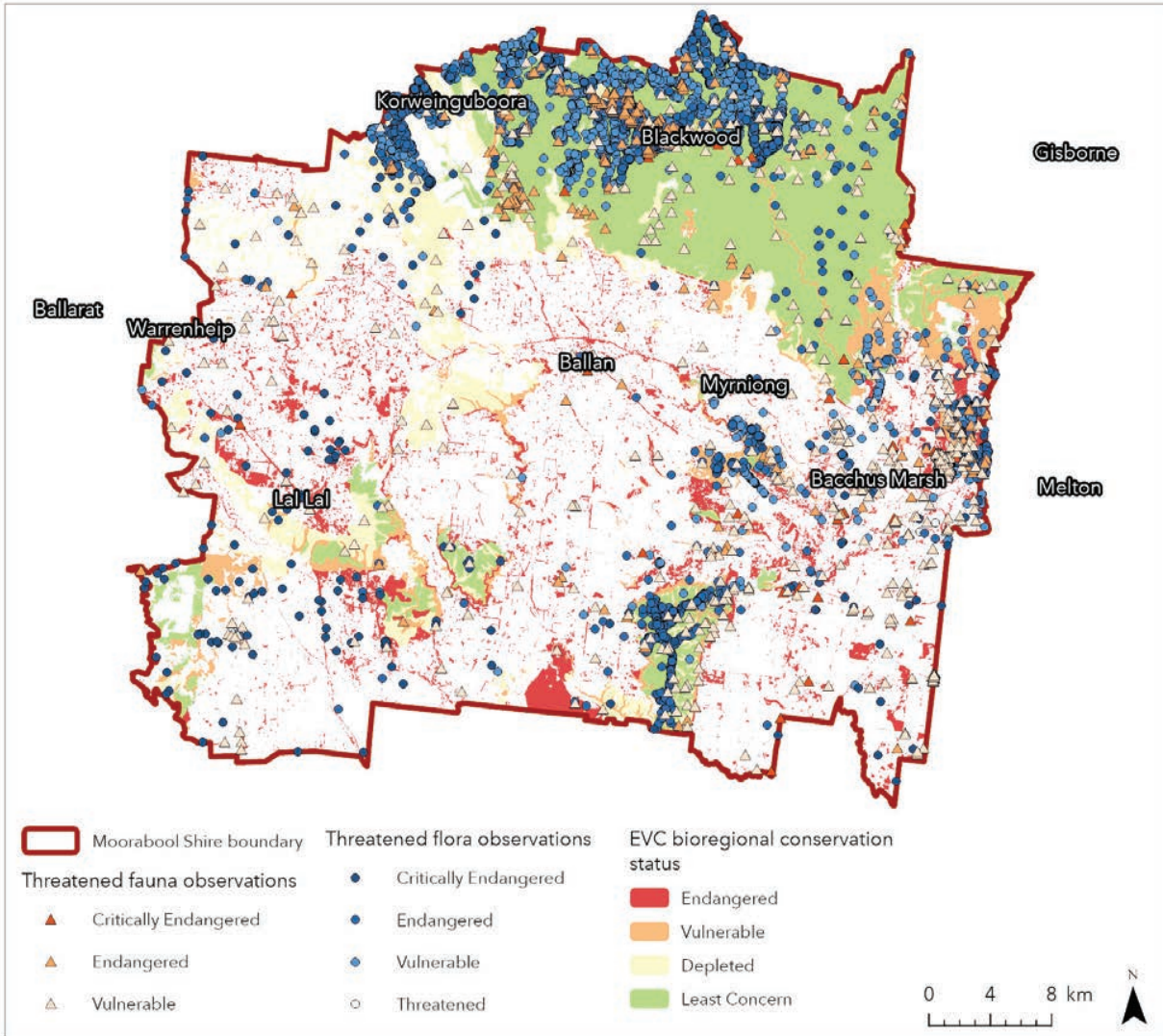
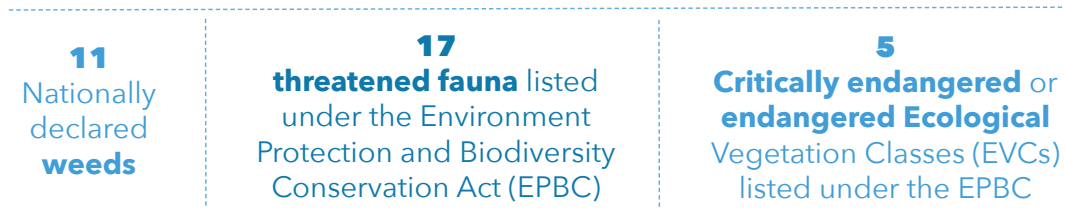


Figure 7: Map of threatened flora and fauna across Moorabool.



Moorabool provides habitat for some critically endangered species including the Swift Parrot, the Growling Grass Frog, Earless Dragons and the Golden Sun Moth. We are also home to some species that don't occur anywhere else such as the Werribee Blue Box tree (*Eucalyptus baueriana subsp. thalassina*) which is unique to the Werribee River, and the Bacchus Marsh Wattle (*Acacia rostriformis*) which occurs only in the Bacchus Marsh area.

Managing our Environment

WHAT IS COUNCIL'S ROLE?

Council plays a key role in managing environmental assets under its control such as parks, bushland reserves and rural roads, influencing the environmental outcomes from planning and development, and partnering with other regional, state and national agencies to support the delivery of environmental sustainability. The following section outlines the important role Moorabool Shire Council plays in national, state and local environmental sustainability.

Moorabool Shire Council is bound by the *Victorian Local Government Act 2020*, which requires Victorian Local Governments to:

- Promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks
- Give priority to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations
- Take into account the regional, state, and national plans and policies during council's strategic planning
- Ensure its decisions, actions, and information are transparent.

Moorabool has also committed to the implementation of other Council strategies that have environmental benefits. In particular, our Community Vision highlights Council's responsibility to:

- Protect and enhance our biodiversity and landscapes
- Reduce the impact of the growing urban sprawl
- Reduce our energy consumption
- Work with our people to create a community of sustainability champions
- Advocate for increased funding and maintenance of our reserves and parks.

While Council acts on a local scale, our operations and strategies also align with the broader state and federal context. Under the requirements from state and federal laws, Council:

- Protects biodiversity listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- Keeps our community, infrastructure and environment safe from climate change under the *Local Government Act 2020*
- Actively reduces and removes pests and weeds that threaten the health of the environment under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

Further to this, Moorabool supports State Government policy and priorities around sustainable transport, climate adaptation, net zero emissions, sustainable agriculture and sustainable water use.

On an international scale, there are many policies and agreements that promote sustainable action. Of particular note, Council recognises the importance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the 2015 Paris Agreement. Under these international policies, Council's responsibilities are to:

- Reduce emissions of Council operated buildings
- Promote climate change resilience and adaptation
- Encourage waste and resource recovery
- Advocate for renewable energy.

Global	UN Sustainable Development Goals				
Federal	<p>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</p> <p>Provides a list of nationally and internationally important plants, animals, habitats and places that we must protect.</p>				
State	<p>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</p> <p>We have a duty to consider the list of flora and fauna to reduce our impacts on biodiversity.</p>	<p>Victorian Climate Change Act 2017</p> <p>We have a role to consider climate change in our decision making processes</p>	<p>Victorian Local Government Act 2020</p> <p>We have a role to provide good governance for the benefit and wellbeing of the community. We are required to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Shire, including the mitigation and planning for climate change risks</p>	<p>Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</p> <p>We have an obligation to reduce and remove the spread of regionally prohibited weeds and pest animals.</p>	

Figure 8: Summary of Council’s core obligations

A full list of our responsibilities under Federal and State legislation and within our own strategies and plan are included in Appendix 1.

WHAT ROLE DO OTHERS PLAY?

Many of our beautiful natural assets, such as the Brisbane Ranges are owned and managed by other government agencies. A substantial amount of environmental conservation and improvement programs are also run by Catchment Management Authorities, Landcare groups and private landholders. We acknowledge that we alone, cannot manage and restore all elements of our environment and so working in partnership together can have a greater impact.

Table 2: Summary of what role others play

GROUP/AGENCY	ROLE	PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks to improve Victoria’s liveability with a population expected to almost double by 2050 while responsibly tackling climate change and protecting our natural environment, infrastructure and heritage for future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants for partnerships, environmental works, working with Traditional Owners Administer the FFG Act.
Parks Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance dedicated National, state and regional parks and reserves under their jurisdiction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complementary management actions on adjacent parks and roadsides to achieve shared outcomes (e.g. habitat connectivity, weed control).
Melbourne Water as Westernport and Port Phillip Catchment Management Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides leadership to deliver integrated catchment management and sustainability of the region’s catchment assets by building cooperation, and partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data sharing Key partner for working with Landcare groups and Traditional Owners Waterway and conservation area revegetation, weed control, water quality improvements Citizen science programs.
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with land managers, communities, other organisations and governments to protect and improve the health of the region’s natural resources (water, soils, biodiversity), to improve the health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key partner for working with Landcare groups and Traditional Owners Data sharing. Waterway and conservation area revegetation, weed control, water quality improvements

GROUP/AGENCY	ROLE	PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
	and sustainable productivity of the Corangamite region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Citizen science programs ▪ Threatened species protection programs ▪ Sustainable agricultural extension programs.
Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports Wadawurrung aspirations and protects Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in accordance with the <i>Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> ▪ Cultural heritage advice and associated consultation services ▪ Cultural practices for events e.g. Welcome to Country ▪ Cultural education and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Programs that empower and support Wadawurrung on their journey to self-determination. This can include Caring for Country programs, community education and cultural awareness programs, adoption of Traditional Owner language and place naming, and incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports Wurundjeri aspirations and protects Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in accordance with the <i>Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> ▪ Cultural heritage advice and associated consultation services ▪ Natural resource management ▪ Cultural practices for events e.g. Welcome to Country ▪ Cultural education and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Programs that empower and support Wurundjeri on their journey to self-determination. This can include Caring for Country programs, community education and cultural awareness programs, adoption of Traditional Owner language and place naming, and incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).
Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports Wadawurrung aspirations and protects Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in accordance with the <i>Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> ▪ Welcome to Country and smoking ceremonies ▪ Cultural heritage services ▪ Language services ▪ Land management services ▪ Cultural immersion experiences (i.e. tours, creative arts) ▪ Bush tucker research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Programs that empower and support Wurundjeri on their journey to self-determination. This can include Caring for Country programs, community education and cultural awareness programs, adoption of Traditional Owner language and place naming, and incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).
Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) – a partnership of seven western Melbourne Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work collaboratively to respond to climate change across the region and encourage communities – residents and businesses – to make a transition to a low carbon society. WAGA’s plans and projects focus on both mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the impacts of climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working together with the other six Councils in joint climate projects such as energy efficiency programs, renewable energy projects, sustainable living programs, and circular economy initiatives.
Grow West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leading an extensive land restoration program to convert 10,000 hectares to sustainable land uses such as farm forestry and revegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilising Council managed land for the project to achieve shared outcomes e.g. revegetation.
Landcare: Moorabool and Geelong Landcare Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports many Landcare groups across the Shire and empowers members to undertake land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharing of events and information ▪ Aligning key values and outcomes across the public and private landscape.

GROUP/AGENCY	ROLE	PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
	management practices that improve environmental sustainability.	
Moorabool Environment Group (MEG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise awareness of and advocate for the unique local environment as well as broader environmental issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revegetation activities, citizen science, litter clean-up projects, state and federal government advocacy.
Friends of Groups – six groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake key environmental works specific to a location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information and data sharing ▪ Support grant funding ▪ Increase on-ground works capacity in strategic locations.
Private landholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Responsible for the stewardship of their own private land, in line with relevant legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information sharing ▪ Educational and extension programs.
Local businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide goods and services, support the local economy and local initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support grant funding ▪ Sharing of events and information ▪ Support educational and extension programs
Private developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and build the communities of the future, including open spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support sustainable development and encourage the building of climate adapted housing that is future proof.
Renewable Energy Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning and building the infrastructure required to transition to a renewables future to meet Net Zero commitments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transitioning council assets to support renewable energy generation, identifying opportunities and constraints for development of large scale renewable projects.

WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL?

Council currently undertakes core environmental asset management across the Shire. This includes revegetation, open space maintenance, rural roadside maintenance, providing opportunities for the community to be involved, and ensuring our developments and buildings are more sustainable.

Examples of what we are doing well are included in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of what we are doing well

OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	OUR COMMUNITY	OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural roadside management Reduce weeds and revegetate conservation reserves Conduct roadside conservation values vegetation mapping Plant 5,000 plants in open spaces every year Actively control the spread of rabbits and weeds Collect rain water from Council buildings to use on ovals and the racecourse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with Landcare to enhance parks and open spaces Host native plant giveaways Provide community grants for environmental and sustainability projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in meetings with Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action and Grow West to promote sustainability Participate in the Sustainable Subdivision Framework to guide sustainable development Use recycled materials in pavements, roads, park furniture, fences and bollards Update public lighting with energy efficient globes Install solar panels on Council buildings Transitioning to electric vehicles and infrastructure Encouraging more tree canopy cover and passive stormwater filtration in new developments.

Below are some examples of positive work we are doing to support sustainability in Moorabool:

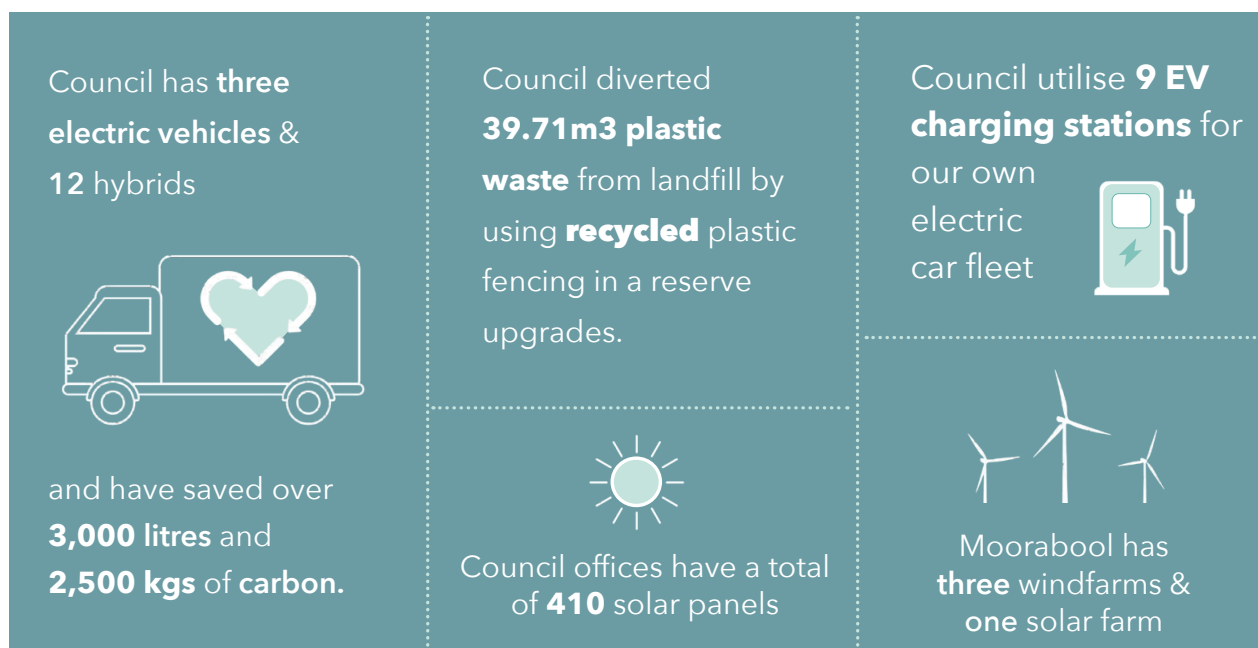


Figure 9: Sustainable environment outcomes at Moorabool Shire Council

Biodiversity Conservation Values along our rural roads

We are currently undertaking a comprehensive assessment of all the roads in the Shire to understand the conservation values of our roadsides. Roadsides are often some of the last remnant vegetation in the landscape and act as much needed biodiversity corridors and habitat for native plants and animals. We want to make sure that we understand the current condition of our roadsides to be able to effectively manage and protect these values from key threats.

The first phase of data collection indicates that Moorabool has some very high conservation roadsides.

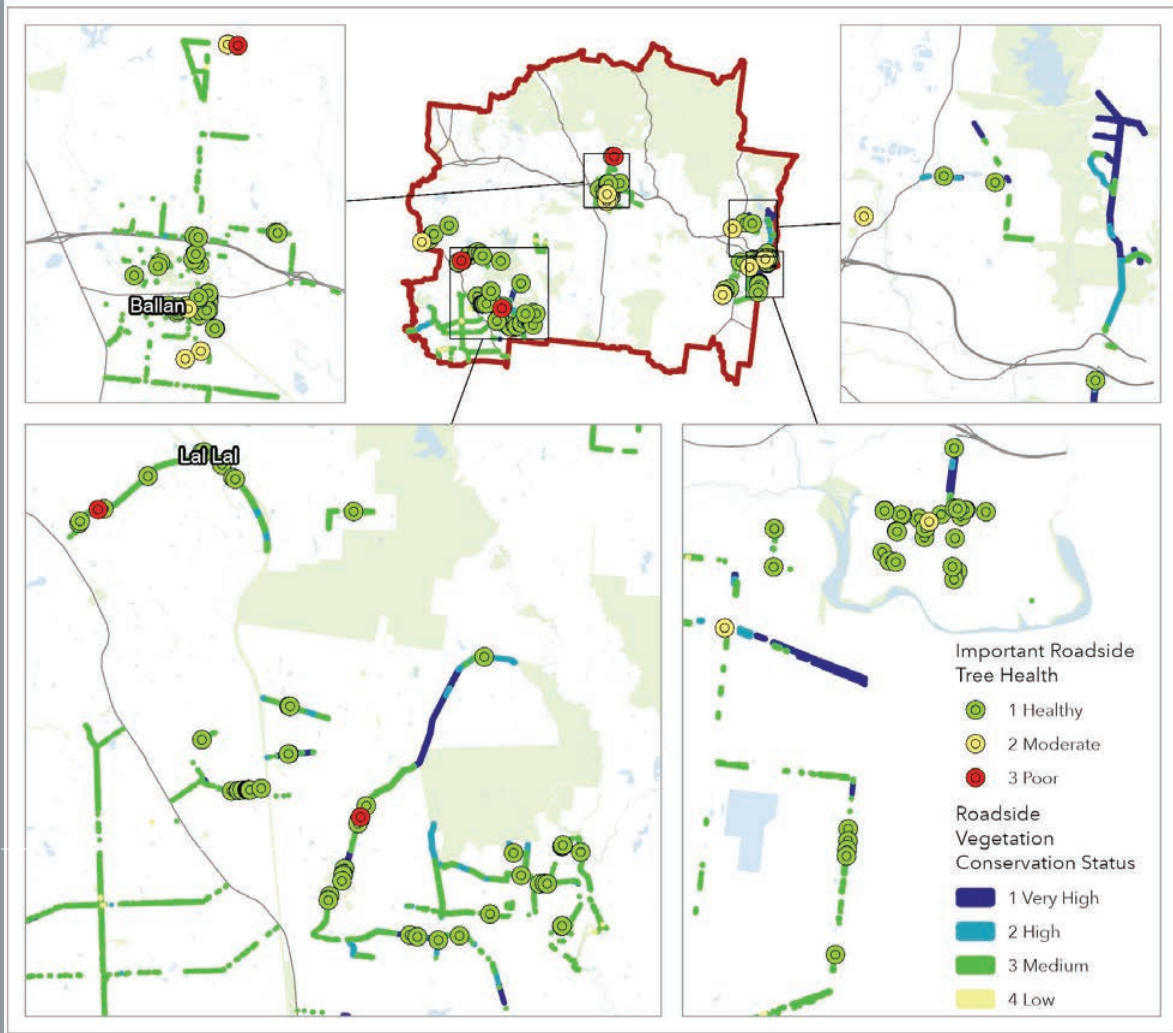


Figure 10: Examples of roadside conservation values across Moorabool

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?

We recognise the need to continually improve our planning and operations to ensure we have greater capacity, skills and knowledge to look after our environment.

We know from our Community Vision, that the Moorabool community values our natural environment and wants Council to enact services that better protect it. The community is also concerned by the increasing threats of population growth, urban sprawl and climate change.



Figure 11: Areas for improvement identified in the Community Vision

Our current resourcing and budgets are limited compared to our Metropolitan Council neighbours, which prevents us from replicating similar programs. However, we know that we can more effectively manage our resources to leverage stronger outcomes.

We also understand that we have a clear opportunity to better align our work with key regional, state and federal priorities. In the past, we have not had a plan in place to think strategically about our programs and therefore leverage off other work being done by others. We recognise the value in working smarter through meaningful partnerships with others to maximise outcomes on the ground. A good example of this, is data collection. We have very little Moorabool specific data about our key environmental and built form assets. Partnering with other groups and agencies such as Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and Melbourne Water, who undertake significant data collection, could address this gap.

We see this strategy as the critical first step to improving our management of the sustainable environment.

Pathways for action

OUR VISION FOR MOORABOOL'S ENVIRONMENT

Our vision for Moorabool is:

Preserve our natural environment and champion sustainable practices through transparent and proactive activities that inspire action.

Our key goal for the Strategy is to embed sustainability across the organisation, within our community and for our key stakeholders.

We have identified three strategic focus areas for our actions. They are based on the programs and assets where we have the biggest influence. These are:

- Our natural environment: Protect and enhance ecological health and connectivity in Moorabool
- Our community and partnerships: Collaborate with our community and partners to foster greater environmental stewardship across Moorabool
- Our built environment: Build a sustainable and climate-resilient Moorabool.

Each strategic area identifies actions that Council, partners and community members can take to support our environmental aspirations.

Strategy 1: Our Natural Environment

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Our goal is to:

Protect and enhance ecological health and connectivity in Moorabool.

This means seeking to manage, restore and protect the vegetation and habitat of our:

- Forests and bushlands
- Waterways and associated reserves
- Open spaces and parklands
- Rural roadsides
- Rural and agricultural land.

WHAT WILL WE DO TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL?

Table 4: Summary of the steps to achieve our goal

COUNCIL WILL:	COUNCIL WILL WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS TO:	COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage and care for our natural places, by reducing chemical use, improving data collection on roadside vegetation and weeds, undertake strategic and climate sustainable revegetation and more litter control. 2. Develop management plans for our reserves to inform strategic revegetation, pest and weed control and protection of critical habitat. 3. Manage our urban trees to increase tree canopy cover on public land in our townships. We will also measure our baseline urban tree canopy cover. 4. Review our urban tree strategy to increase protection of existing trees and ensure we are planting more of the right trees in the right locations. 5. Enhance biodiversity through the strategic planning and planting of native vegetation and trees. 6. Identify and map the distribution of biodiversity in our roadsides, parks and open spaces prioritising the mapping of threatened and endangered species and ecological communities. 7. Complement delivery of our Roadside Action Plan by improving data capture to protect biodiversity and threatened species on our rural roadsides and reduce the threat of pest plants and animals. 8. Seek to better protect threatened and endangered species by exploring appropriate planning overlays and enforcement opportunities suited to Moorabool's planning scheme and local laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support delivery of agency/organisational strategic plans that align with our sustainable environment goals e.g. Regional Catchment Strategies, ▪ Collect and share biodiversity, ecological corridors and threatened species data to identify management priorities for Council. Data sharing partnerships will be developed with Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Landcare ▪ Protect and care for our waterways under Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways program and Corangamite's Waterway Protection Program ▪ Support community-based groups (i.e. Landcare and Friends of groups) to improve biodiversity outcomes through their projects ▪ Promote and advertise partner's environment programs and events on Council's website ▪ Continue to actively partner with Grow West to deliver restoration projects in our Shire ▪ Support Melbourne Water and the CCMA to identify critical habitat that requires an emergency management response under climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plant and retain native trees and vegetation on private property ▪ Contribute by participating in community and citizen science events ▪ Manage pest and weeds species on private property ▪ Explore sustainable agricultural practices on farm such as planting trees on farm, crop rotation and diversity, maintaining pasture cover and managing livestock genetics and stocking rates.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCESSFUL?

- Strategic revegetation works have increased and weed spread is limited
- Bushland Reserves Prioritisation and Planning Guideline and Conservation Management Plans have been developed for Council bushland reserves
- Public tree canopy cover in our townships is increased each year to reach 30% tree canopy cover by 2050¹
- Our key biodiversity and roadside vegetation values data has been collected
- Biodiversity and roadside vegetation data is mapped in Council's spatial assets system and used to inform planning applications and asset management planning.

¹ [Plan Melbourne, 2017-2050, Implementation Plan, Direction 6.4, Action 91](#)
[Victorian Planning Authority, Greener and Cooler Environments Guidelines, 30% tree canopy cover for new developments.](#)
[Nature Based Solutions Institute, 2023. 3-30-300 Rule.](#)
[Infrastructure Victoria, 2021. Victoria's infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051. Action 77: Target 30% tree canopy coverage in new growth areas](#)

Strategy 2: Our Community and Partnerships

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Our goal is to:

Collaborate with our community and partners to foster greater environmental stewardship across Moorabool.

We will develop partnerships to deliver targeted environmental and sustainability outcomes. To achieve this, we will work with our:

- Community groups
- Land Management Agencies: Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Moorabool and Geelong Landcare Networks, WAGA, Grow West, DEECA.
- Traditional Owners
- Private landholders
- Business owners.

WHAT WILL WE DO TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL?

Table 5: Summary of the steps to achieve our goal

COUNCIL WILL:	COUNCIL WILL WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS TO:	COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN:
<p>9. Promote and empower community groups to participate in the Community Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants program and align with local and regional priorities.</p> <p>10. Develop and implement guidelines for supporting Landcare and Friends of Groups.</p> <p>11. Deliver community engagement events (e.g. Nature Stewards Program) to improve environmental and sustainability outcomes.</p> <p>12. Improve the quality and scope of environmental and sustainability information on Council's website.</p> <p>13. Improve the quality and distribution of interpretive signage in key environmental areas and rural roadsides.</p> <p>14. Support the use of art and sculpture to raise awareness of environmental protection.</p> <p>15. Develop a sustainable events policy or plan to set the strategic direction and minimum sustainability standards for community events</p> <p>16. Develop community waste practice change programs that align with our Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy goals of AVOID, RECOVER and PROTECT</p> <p>17. Utilise existing and develop new engagement programs with Youth Services to leverage sustainability messaging with the next generation of decision-makers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support and align with key regional strategies e.g. Regional Catchment Strategies for Corangamite and Western Port and Port Phillip ▪ Develop effective partnerships to deliver educational and community engagement programs (e.g. with the CMAs and Traditional Owner groups) ▪ Develop and promote nature steward and/or citizen science programs. For example, create a flagship community program ▪ Support Gardens for Wildlife to help residents access information about planting native species ▪ Encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices such as waste reduction and participate in energy efficiency programs ▪ Work in partnership with Wadawurrung, Wurundjeri and the Dja Dja Wurrung Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) to support Aboriginal environmental management techniques and values ▪ Develop a flagship project with community to support long-term environmental outcomes in priority areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learn by engaging with Council and partner agencies about environmental sustainability in our Shire ▪ Join a Friends of Group, Landcare group or another community-based environmental group ▪ Start or join a citizen science project that contributes to important data collection ▪ Apply for community grants to deliver environmental and/or sustainability projects ▪ Share and circulate environmental and sustainability information, projects or ideas ▪ Continue to follow the AVOID, RECOVER and PROTECT principles of Moorabool's Waste and Resource Recovery Plan.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCESSFUL?

- Guidelines to support Landcare and Friends of Groups are developed and implemented
- The number of community environmental events and agency co-delivery of activities is increased to at least one event per quarter
- The outcomes from the Community Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants are directly aligned with the three strategic focus areas and goals
- The number of effective working partnerships with key agencies, community groups and Traditional Owners is increased
- A sustainable events policy or plan is developed.

Strategy 3: Our Built Environment

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Our goal is to:

Build a sustainable and climate-resilient Moorabool.

This means we'd like to improve the sustainability and resilience of our:

- New residential, commercial and industrial developments
- Existing residential buildings
- Council buildings
- Council plant and equipment and vehicles.

WHAT WILL WE DO TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL?

Table 6: Summary of the steps to achieve our goal

COUNCIL WILL:	COUNCIL WILL WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS TO:	COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN:
18. Develop and endorse an ESD Policy for both infill and subdivision development. 19. Encourage the uptake of the Sustainable Subdivisions Framework for new developments in our Shire. 20. Embed the principles of the Sustainable Infrastructure Guidelines from the Infrastructure Design Manual into all capital and asset renewal works. 21. Review the landscape design manual to promote a broader ecological design focus. 22. Strengthen compliance and enforcement of any environmental-related planning conditions issued on planning permits. 23. Continue to transition towards low emission/electric plant, equipment, vehicles, buildings and assets. 24. Establish a baseline for GHG emissions of Council buildings and fleet to inform the development of an emissions reduction plan and target. 25. Identify opportunities for the installation of renewable energy infrastructure and climate preparedness upgrades in Council buildings. 26. Develop a policy to reduce and contain onsite waste on all development sites, targeting plastics and waffle pods that contaminate the environment. 27. Improve streetscape outcomes at developer hand over by appropriately auditing the quality of open space, street trees planted during development, and any ESD requirements as part of planning conditions. 28. Develop and enforce a minimum acceptable standard for unencumbered lands handed over by developers to ensure they have conservation value and can be maintained. 29. Implement paperless rates notices and encourage the community to transition to electronic notices to reduce paper use. 30. Review and update the procurement policy to embed sustainability practices and values within Council's purchasing power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen the WAGA partnership and deliver more programs, e.g. installing energy efficient streetlights ▪ Encourage developers to adopt the sustainable infrastructure principles of the IDM and the SSF to build more sustainable housing and future communities. ▪ Seek additional funding sources to support the delivery of a more sustainable built environment e.g. renewable energy, energy efficiency upgrades. ▪ Install electric vehicle charging stations for community and visitors ▪ Identify and articulate the regional risks of climate change and identify priority areas for adaptation. ▪ Partner with Victorian Climate Resilient Councils to conduct a climate risk assessment for Moorabool ▪ Explore opportunities to reduce potable water use through monitoring and increase use of recycled water with GWW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carpool to work and events ▪ Consider ESD and energy efficiency principles in new housing or renovations ▪ Consider buying an electric vehicle or transition to a low emissions vehicle ▪ Install solar panels using State Government subsidies ▪ Transition households from gas to electricity.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCESSFUL?

- An Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy has been developed and implemented
- Council has partnered with key agencies to deliver more energy efficiency education programs for community
- At least one Sustainable Subdivisions Framework development has been delivered
- Council has undertaken a climate risk assessment with its partners and identified opportunities for Council building upgrades
- The number of electrified Council fleet, plant and equipment is increased
- A baseline of GHG emissions of Council buildings and fleets has been established and a target for emissions reduction has been set
- Council has implemented paperless rates notices
- The procurement policy has been reviewed, updated and adopted throughout all of Council's purchasing processes.

Measuring our Success

Council understands that it is important to regularly assess our progress towards our goals by monitoring and evaluating our programs and works. This section of the Strategy outlines the process for the regular review of this Sustainable Environment Strategy.

To support the implementation of the strategy, it is recommended that the Council develop:

- A dashboard to record progress and learnings against the key performance indicators and key evaluation themes/questions
- An annual Sustainable Environment Work Plan to identify strategic priorities for Council for each financial year, including required resourcing and budgets.

Both the dashboard and the work plan will inform engagement with local environmental organisations, our partners and internal staff to review progress, reprioritise actions where needed, and measure the positive impact that Council activities have on Moorabool's environment.

Examples of key evaluation questions to be considered when assessing progress is outlined below in Table 7.

Table 7: Sustainable Environment Strategy key evaluation questions

EVALUATION THEME	KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To what extent have the actions in the strategy been implemented?
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What resources have been used to achieve the actions? Have they been utilised and invested to maximise outcomes? ▪ To what extent have we leveraged partnerships to deliver shared strategic actions?
Appropriateness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are the strategic actions appropriate for achieving the goals?
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To what extent is the strategy making progress towards achieving the goals? ▪ What has the impact of the work been done to date?
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What impact will the activities have beyond the life of this strategy and what are the implications for future management? ▪ What lessons have been learnt and how can these be applied in future iterations of the strategy?

Monitoring and evaluation should involve a minimum of a biennial reporting against the key performance indicators under each strategy. Collection of data for each indicator varies depending on the complexity and timeframe.

Table 8: Monitoring and evaluation framework

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS TO BE MEASURED	TIMEFRAME
Strategy 1: Our Natural Environment	
Strategic revegetation works have increased and weed spread is limited	Quarterly (records)
Bushland Reserves Prioritisation and Planning Guideline and Conservation Management Plans have been developed for Council bushland reserves	Annually
Public tree canopy cover in our townships is increased each year to reach 30% tree canopy cover by 2050	Every 5 years
Our key biodiversity and roadside vegetation values data has been collected	Once off

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS TO BE MEASURED	TIMEFRAME
Biodiversity and roadside vegetation data is mapped in Council's spatial assets system and used to inform planning applications and asset management planning	Every 5 years
Strategy 2: Our Community and Partnerships	
Guidelines to support Landcare and Friends of Groups are developed and implemented	Once off
The number of community environmental events run and agency co-delivery of activities is increased to at least one event per quarter	Annually
The outcomes from the Community Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants are directly aligned with the three strategic focus areas and goals	Annually
The number of effective working partnerships with key agencies, community groups and Traditional Owners is increased	Annually (e.g. Terms of Reference, Service Level Agreements)
A sustainable events policy or plan is developed	Once off
Strategy 3: Our Built Environment	
An Environmentally Sustainable Design policy has been developed and implemented	Once off
Council has partnered with key agencies to deliver more energy efficiency education programs for community	Annually
At least one Sustainable Subdivisions Framework development has been delivered	Annually
Council has undertaken a climate risk assessment with its partners and identified opportunities for Council building upgrades	Once off
The number of electrified Council fleet, plant and equipment is increased	Annually
A baseline of GHG emissions of Council buildings and fleets has been established and a target for emissions reduction has been set	Once off
Council has implemented paperless rates notices	Once off
The procurement policy has been reviewed, updated and adopted throughout all of Council's purchasing processes	Once off

Appendix 1: Council’s legislative role

Table A1-1: Federal requirements

FEDERAL LEGISLATION	DESCRIPTION
Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999	<p>Main environmental legislation and provides a way for us to protect and manage nationally and internationally important plants, animals, habitats and places. There is a list of protected species under the EPBC.</p> <p>The Act protects the environment when actions are taken on Commonwealth land or impact upon Commonwealth land, by an Australian Government agency, that impact Commonwealth heritage places overseas.</p>
Recycling and Waste Avoidance Act 2020	<p>The Act provides tools and mechanisms to support Australia’s transition to a circular economy, including the product stewardship regimes. The Act encourages and regulates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reuse, remanufacture, recycling and recovery of products, waste from products and waste material in an environmentally sound way ▪ Manufacturers, importers, distributors, designers and other persons to take responsibility for products, including by taking action that relates to i) reducing or avoiding generating waste through improvements in product design; ii) improving the durability, reparability and reusability of products; and iii) managing products throughout their life cycle.
National Waste Policy 2018	<p>The Policy proposes less waste and more resources by defining a framework for collective action by business, governments, communities and individuals. The policy incorporates the waste hierarchy, and a focus on high order uses, while building on the idea of continually reusing, recycling and reprocessing materials.</p> <p>The policy promotes the application of circular economy principles including the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avoid waste ▪ Improve resource recovery ▪ Increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products ▪ Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy ▪ Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.
National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Act 2007	<p>The Act establishes the legislative framework for the NGER Scheme which is a national framework for reporting greenhouse gas emissions, greenhouse gas projects and energy consumption and production by corporations in Australia.</p>

Table A1-2: State requirements

STATE LEGISLATION	DESCRIPTION
Environment Protection Act 2017	<p>Councils have the power to regulate onsite wastewater management, noise from residential premises, litter and other waste.</p>
Victorian Local Government Act 2020	<p>The role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community.</p> <p>A Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. The following are the overarching governance principles: the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.</p> <p>Other overarching principles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Councils are required to give priority to achieving best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations ▪ Regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account during council’s strategic planning ▪ Councils must ensure its decisions, actions and information are transparent. <p>This means that processes like strategic planning must incorporate consideration of climate change and relevant state and national plans.</p>

STATE LEGISLATION	DESCRIPTION
	<p>It is likely that a court will construe that the risks and impacts of climate change are now reasonably clearly foreseeable. Councils have a duty of care in the context of climate change adaptation, and this has been recognised by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal since 2010.</p> <p>Negligence claims against local government can include a breach of duty of care by development approvals, the provision of protective works or the provision of information or statements which are considered by a court to be negligent.</p>
Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988	<p>Contains an obligation or duty on public authorities and ministers to consider potential biodiversity impacts when exercising their functions.</p> <p>The act requires that in performing any of their functions that may reasonably be expected to impact on biodiversity, including a function that under any act, ministers and public authorities must give proper consideration to the act's objectives, so far as is consistent with the proper exercising of their functions. Biodiversity considerations should be integrated as far as possible.</p> <p>The Minister for Environment and Climate Change can request public authorities to provide information to ensure that the duty is being performed or to ensure that an action taken does not threatened a listed taxon, community or critical habitat.</p>
Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994	<p>Land managers must eradicate regionally prohibited weeds, prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds, prevent the spread of and eradicate pest animals on their lands.</p> <p>Councils are responsible for controlling declared noxious weeds on roadsides if the land is a municipal road.</p>
Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework	<p>Outlines the approach to managing existing and potential invasive species across the whole of Victoria.</p>
Planning and Environment Act 1987	<p>Sets out the framework for the use, development and protection of land in Victoria in the present and long-term interests of all Victorians. Includes sustainable land use and development, the protection of biodiversity and natural resources and the maintenance of ecological processes.</p> <p>The subordinate instruments of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 such as the Victoria Planning Provisions give more detailed direction, including climate change impacts, planning for places, agricultural adaptation to climate change, energy and resource efficiency and integrated water management.</p>
Victorian Climate Change Act 2017	<p>The Act outlines principles for criteria for assessing the suitability of council decision making. This includes reducing the state's emissions. Building resilience of state infrastructure, managing the State's natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity to promote resilience, support transition to net zero and support vulnerable communities.</p> <p>The role of a Council is to provide good governance for the benefit and wellbeing of their community. Councils are required to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks.</p>
Circular Economy (Waste Reductions and Recycling) Act 2021	<p>Provides foundation for Victoria's transition to a sustainable and thriving circular economy, to minimise waste and landfill and increase reuse and recycling of resources.</p> <p>Includes laws to require those who provide an essential waste, recycling or resource recovery service to minimise the risks of serious failure, disruption or hinderance to the service.</p>
Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008	<p>Must consider climate change, including the potential impacts of climate change relevant to that decision or action (adaptation) and the potential contribution to the state's greenhouse gas emissions of the decision or action (mitigation).</p>
Victorian Planning Provision Clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation)	<p>Requires a permit to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation, including dead native vegetation, unless an exemption applies which removes the permit requirement.</p>
Plan Melbourne 2017 – 2050	<p>Plan Melbourne is a metropolitan planning strategy that aims to shape the future of the city as a global city of opportunity and choice. The main themes include:</p>

STATE LEGISLATION	DESCRIPTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing population growth Growing the economy Creating affordable and accessible housing Improving transport Responding to climate change Connecting communities.
Sustainability Victoria Act 2005	Establishes Sustainability Victoria which promotes and facilitates environmental sustainability in the use of resources.
Environment Protection Regulations 2021	The Regulations aim to support the objectives of the legislation by preventing or minimising risks of harm to human health or the environment from pollution or waste.
Victorian Renewable Energy Act 2006	The Act provides an incentive for investment in renewable energy power stations and smaller systems while ensuring the energy sources used are ecologically sustainable.
Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2021	The Strategy guides investment for reducing emissions, while creating new opportunities and jobs.
Victorian Renewable Energy (Jobs and Investment) Act 2017	The Act supports a target of 50% renewable energy generation by 2030.

Table A1-3: Council policies

COUNCIL POLICIES	DESCRIPTION
Moorabool Planning Scheme	<p>Clause 21.02 (Natural Environment):</p> <p>This clause aims to protect the Shire's natural environment including its biodiversity and landscapes, managing land uses in an environmentally sustainable manner and to assist in reducing the ecological footprint of land within Moorabool Shire.</p> <p>Clause 21.03.04 Landscape and Neighbourhood Character:</p> <p>Infill development protects and enhances the existing character, built form and natural environment of the Shire's towns and villages including the country town scale and rural atmosphere of each town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development in growth areas achieves a strong sense of place that respects its landscape setting New development protects the visual, aesthetic, and environmental values of escarpments and ridgelines generally, and views from the Bacchus Marsh valley in particular New development is appropriately sited, designed and constructed to blend with the surrounding landscape and protects significant landscape values, native vegetation and rural settings; and Inappropriate development on scenic hilltops, ridge lines and areas of visual prominence are discouraged.
Community Vision 2030	<p>Vision: <i>we embrace our natural environment and lifestyle options to create an inspiring place for everyone to live, work and play.</i></p> <p>Children's vision includes less pollution, parks and open spaces, electric cars, bike trails and recycling education.</p> <p>Maintaining rural charm includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining natural assets and diverse local ecosystems Encouraging high green rating developments Conserving local flora and fauna Advocating for increased funding to better maintain State Forests and National Park assets. <p>Connected communities includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport links, citizen participation and facilitate a sense of belonging. <p>Well planned neighbourhoods include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for future growth while being sympathetic to the environment

COUNCIL POLICIES	DESCRIPTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vibrant community spaces ▪ Strategic planning that balances green spaces. <p>Strong local economy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enabling sustainable farming and food production. <p>Embracing sustainability includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educating residents and the community about global forces such as conservation, climate change and the circular economy ▪ Introducing new recycling and waste management initiatives ▪ Exploring working with local sustainability champions ▪ Displaying leadership through reducing Council's own energy consumption ▪ Advocating for clear policy direction for state and federal governments.
Council Plan 2021-2025	<p>Objective 2: Liveable and thriving environments – enhance our natural environment by commencing, consulting on and finalising the Sustainable Environment Strategy and implement annual actions</p> <p>Priorities for this objective include enhancing liveability, beautifying the shire, enhancing natural environments, growing local employment and creating options to increase visitor and tourist numbers.</p>
Roadside Action Plan 2022-2026	Planned programs for gorse, serrated tussock, rabbit control, caltrop control, blackberry control, emerging weeds and high value environmental roadsides protection program
Waste and Resource Recovery Plan 2030	This strategy covers all things waste and resource recovery management in order to protect the environment from the impact of waste directly.
Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025	Focus area: tackling climate change and its impact on health through improved energy efficiency options and incentives for homes and buildings, providing education sessions on how to prepare, respond and recover from climate change impact, developing an advocacy position on the importance of climate change initiatives and updating landscaping guidelines to respond to climate issues.
Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2023-2026	Bushfire/grassfire, extreme temperatures and storms all have their own sub-plans under the MEMP.
Domestic Animal Management Plan	Cat trapping program to reduce feral cat breeding and damage to the environment. There is also a cat curfew program to stop cats wandering at night.
Hike and Bike Strategy 2014	Identifies benefits from the strategy, such as reduced use of vehicles, traffic congestion, fossil fuels and improved air quality. It aims to plan for regional and local open space networks for both recreation and conservation of natural and cultural environments
Procurement Policy 2021	<p>The purpose of the policy is to provide guidance to Council for consistent application of best practice procurement.</p> <p>One of the aims is for the policy to support Council in all procurement activities by ensuring the framework aligns with corporate strategies, aims and objectives including, but not limited to those related to sustainability, protection of the environment, and corporate social responsibility.</p>
Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027	The Strategy aims to facilitate employment growth, investment attraction and business development within the Shire.
Asset Management Policy 2021	The purpose of the policy is to acknowledge Council's commitment to asset management and provide a consistent asset management approach to manage Council's assets for the current and future communities. The aim of the policy is to ensure that infrastructure assets are fit for purpose and support services that are appropriate, accessible, responsive, timely and sustainable for the community.
Asset Management Strategy 2022-2032	The purpose of the strategy is to outline Council's asset management systems and strategies to manage the delivery of its infrastructure assets effectively and efficiently. The strategy recognises that climate and the environment are key strategic challenges, and that more sustainable lifestyles are required for Council's current and future communities.

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