

Climate Emergency Response Plan

2021-2031



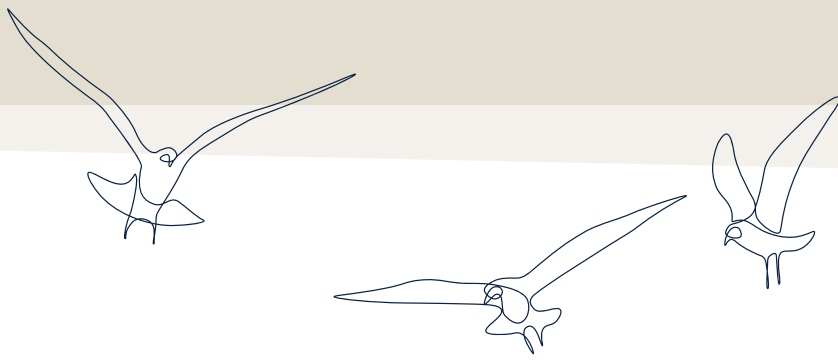
Borough of Queenscliffe

Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

May 2021

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Acknowledgement and Thank You

Acknowledgement

Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of these lands, waters and skies, the Wadawurrung People. We acknowledge and respect their continuing connections to their lands, waters, skies, culture and the contribution they make to the life and spirit of our community. We pay respect to their past and present Elders and their emerging leaders, and extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Thank You

Our thanks to all those who participated in the development of this Plan, including:

- The community
- Queenscliffe Climate Action Group
- Community Panel members
- Community stakeholder groups - Queenscliff Community Association, Point Lonsdale Community Association, Queenscliff Music Festival, Swan Bay Environment Association & Queenscliff Environment Forum
- Primary school and youth workshop participants
- Community members who completed the community survey and/or provided feedback on the draft Plan.
- Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- The Bellarine Catchment Network (BCN) for the use of many of their photos throughout the CERP.

Disclaimer

This document and any information provided have been prepared in good faith based on the best and most up-to-date advice available. The Borough of Queenscliffe cannot be held liable for the accuracy of the information presented in this document.



Wadawurrung Foreword

Statement of Significance from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners in Wadawurrung Language

Comugeen budj-o thalikiyu kin kin bil beng-ordi-ngadak. Ngarrwabil, boron, guli, bagurrk. Comugeen budj-o bengadak ngarr-uk dja, ngubiyt, weagoon gobata gupma wurring-wurring baap beng-ordi-nganak, djarrima murrup-nhuk bengadak Gobata Wadawurrung balug jumbuk didalbil Wadawurrung Dja murrup-nhuk bundjil monomeeth beek-o weagoon.

Mutjak-ak noogie n'uder durrallully Wa-ngarrak Wadawurrung balug bengadak mirriyu boron-dja gobata-k ying ying, ngarrimilli, wah-ak, karrung, kuy-a, nyanayit-yanunit, djilenawurr, baap willam beng-ordi-ngadak.

Nyurrinana-ngal beng-ordi-ngadak Willam Barwon Yaluk baap Koaka-dorla "bass strait" Wadawurrung Balug dja beng-ordi-ngadak, bullarto nerr-i-girr baap monomeeth worrowing warree, gelanyi bul-boluk Gupma gobata Bellawiyn beek Bengali Balug bengadak Weeagoon-o Beangala, Nerm, Connewarre baluk, Pawon Yaluk monomeeth-wa Yonbarra baap wirrapiyn, buniya, tark-a binyak-ngal. wa-weagoon nerr-i-gurr-o kit kit baap bullarto gurrin-gurrin-k wah-ak, karrung, yanikan-werrity. Corroborree bullarto wa-ik-ngitj balug-wa beng-ordi-ngadak.

Yeraioo, Perweit, Wooranalyook, Boronggook. Willam Wadawurrung. Mirr wurru-ngarra dja bengadak. Mirr-i-tonton dja Wadawurrung balug, gobata be-ak yerra-ak murrup yani-mirriyu ngarrwa-uk beng-ordi-ngadak.

Paleert tjarra dja baap ngubiyt warre Wurrurrwilwa gupma bengadak Wadawurrung wurring wurring dja baap warree ngubiyt yulluk.



Wadawurrung Foreword

We deeply respect our people of the past. Elders, children, men, women. We deeply respect their knowledge of country, water, life, their care of the traditions and of each other, we stand on our country with their spirit.

Great Spirit Bundjil told us to take care of the great life within the land. To only take what you need without selfishness and greed.

Wadawurrung shared their knowledge of singing, dance, trade, camps, fishing, hunting, paintings, and homes to us to protect for our future generations. We all need to help. Our Wadawurrung family group lived within Barwon River and Bass Strait, with a large land of forested areas and wonderful banks of the ocean, near many water bodies. The Bengali/Bengalat balug family were the caretakers of the Bellarine land, Lake Connewarre, Barwon River all provide ideal life to birds and fish, eels. Reeds turned into our baskets. Life in the forest gave resources like food and lots of tools to use for trade, building, journey. If there were lots to trade, we would share with our families and celebrate. We would name our country, by what we could see.

Yeraioo, Perweit, Wooranalyook, Boronggook. Home of Wadawurrung. Our country is remembered by Wadawurrung, our proud spirit walks to tomorrow to teach others the care of our earth.

Our aspirations of let's make country and waters good together, All people listening together, let us walk together taking care of Wadawurrung Country rivers and waters.

Bellarine derives from the original Wadawurrung name Bellawiyn Bella=Elbow Wiyn=Fire, meaning place of resting by fire. We Acknowledge Queenscliff was known as part of the Bellawiyn.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation have released our Paleert Tjaara Dja "Let's make country good together" 2020-2030 Wadawurrung Country plan. Wadawurrung Traditional owners are working in collaboration with the Borough of Queenscliffe to embed Wadawurrung values and aspirations for the area of Queenscliffe on Wadawurrung Country.

Written on behalf of Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

The Community Voice



I want to see ongoing sustained action and the issue maintaining a high priority.”



Let’s become a carbon neutral community, let’s lead Australia and be creative in our response to the climate emergency.”



To me it means that climate needs to be considered foremost in everything we do in our daily lives, businesses, community activities.”



Pay attention to science and not commerce. Listen to David Attenborough.”



An urgent need to take action to avert the global climate crisis. We must act now and make meaningful change in the next few years or it will be too late.”



We need to act and act now. This is an issue for now and the future there are no second chances.”

**CERP community survey quotes*

The Community Voice



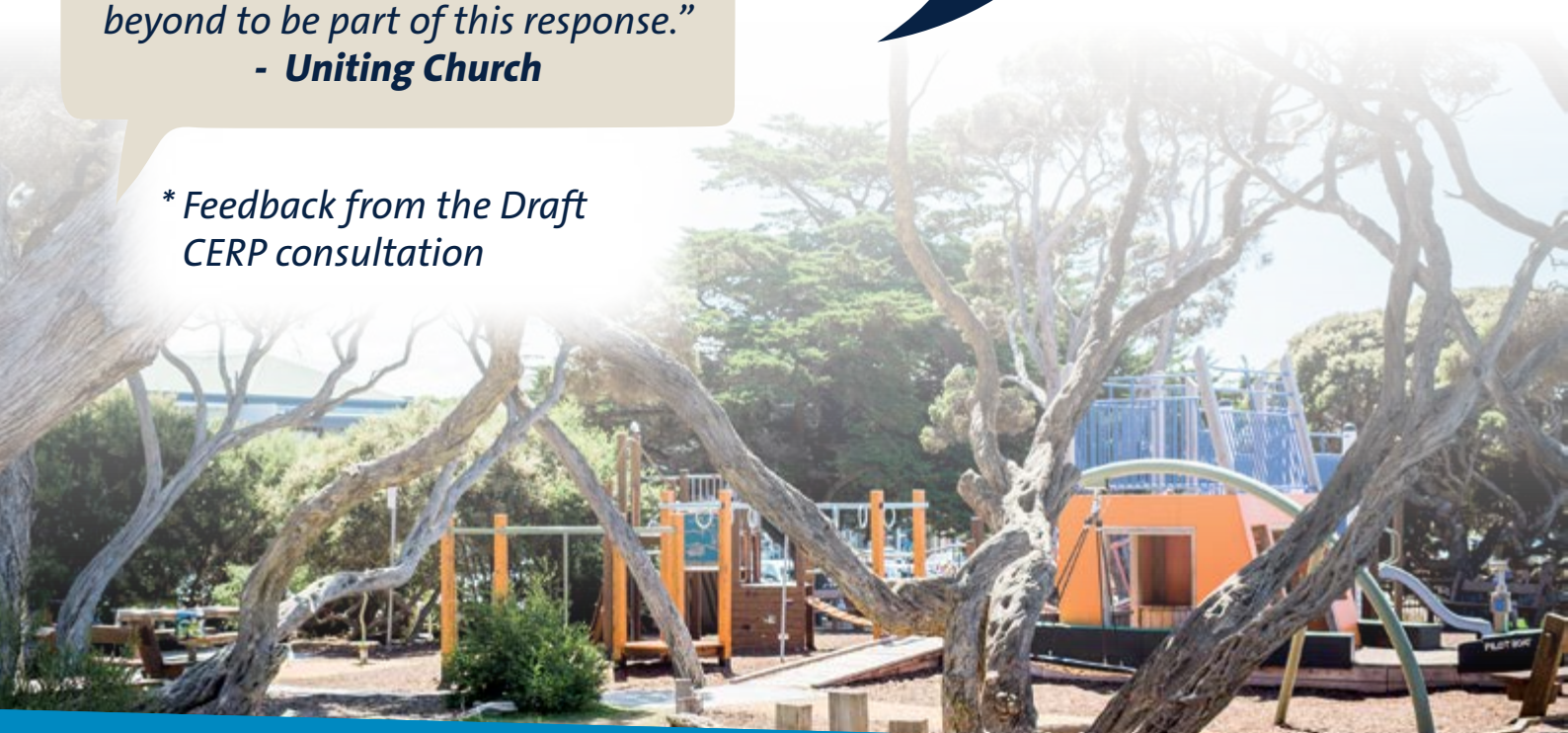
*"The CERP will positively impact on Health services and consumers in many ways the simplest in highlighting the fact that Health and climate change are inextricably linked." - **Bellarine Community Health (BCH)***

"I'm delighted that council is taking this seriously, and that my children and grand children will be forever grateful for the stand we take today."

*"We believe that by adopting the plan, The Borough would be showing courageous and moral leadership. Council would be offering concrete examples of what can be done in response to climate change and encouraging locals and communities beyond to be part of this response." - **Uniting Church***

*"It is really impressive to see one of Australia's smallest local Councils working with the community and take a lead on this very important issue." - **Queenscliff Cricket Club***

** Feedback from the Draft CERP consultation*



1. Executive Summary

This Climate Emergency Response Plan for Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale is a community-led initiative that is underpinned by a strong partnership with the Borough of Queenscliffe, developed to guide Council and community action.

This whole of community approach, including working closely with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, will continue to be crucial across the ten-year duration of this Plan to ensure we meet our ambitious targets.

At this Plan's core is our Community Panel, a randomly selected group of 34 permanent and non-permanent residents from Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale reflecting the diverse demographics of our community. Together the Panel created the following vision for this Plan:

Community Panel Vision

We are a unique, resilient, coastal community. Guided by science, we mobilise to confront the challenges of a rapidly changing climate. We respect, lead, adapt, innovate and inspire.

We place the environment at the centre of all decisions. Through education, engagement and collaboration, we are proud to secure a remarkable and optimistic future for our Borough.

Connected through our deep respect for Wadawurrung People and their Country, we treasure, conserve and protect this special place.

Koling wada-ngal (in Wadawurrung language, let us walk together).



In partnership we have agreed to work together on the following, ambitious targets:

1

Our community's electricity consumption will be matched by a 100% renewable electricity supply by 2025

Acknowledging that electricity is one of the most significant contributors to emissions and one of the easiest to improve, we will be more efficient in consumption and source all of our community's electricity from renewable sources, either locally generated or imported by 2025. Where it is unavoidable for non-renewable supply to be used, this will be matched and offset by our community's ability to export the surplus electricity we produce.

2

Our community's energy needs will be matched by a 100% renewable energy supply by 2027

In addition to electricity as an energy source, our community also relies on gas and wood for heating, hot water and cooking. We will reduce our reliance on these fuels as far as possible, improve our energy efficiency and match our overall energy consumption with a completely renewable supply by 2027. This means that even where gas or wood is still used, we will offset that usage with the generation and export of surplus renewable energy.

3

Our community will have transitioned to a Zero Carbon Community by 2031

Carbon emissions across all sectors of our community - energy, transport, land use, waste and wastewater - will be reduced, drawn down or offset so that our community produces zero-net emissions by 2031.



QUEENSCLIFFE

Underpinning these targets is a commitment to ensure that we support the most disadvantaged members of the community through this process by assessing the impacts and benefits of all actions.

These targets will be achieved through a variety of actions, including specific actions for Council and actions for our community that sit under eight Pillars. These Pillars were developed by the Community Panel.



1

Wadawurrung Country, Cultural Heritage and Values



2

Renewable Energy



3

Sustainable Buildings



4

Sustainable Transport



5

Mobilisation, Education and Collaboration



6

Adaptation and Resilience



7

Consumption and Waste



8

Environmental Regeneration

The actions that sit under these Pillars will be reviewed by Council every two years. At the five year mark a major review of the full Plan will take place. All these reviews will be conducted in partnership with the community and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to ensure we are on track for success to meet each of the target dates.

We will ensure these targets align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG's). For more detail see [page 69](#) and Appendix A: [The Borough of Queenscliffe Climate Emergency Response Plan & SDGs](#).

2. Why did we declare a Climate Emergency?

The United Nations (UN) [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) released a report in October 2018 on the impacts of global warming and warned that we have just 12 years left from 2018 to limit a climate crisis.

An increase of global warming at current rates will significantly increase the risk of drought, floods, extreme heat and climate-related poverty for millions of people across the world.

This is the Climate Emergency.

Emergencies have the following essential elements:

- Immediate and significant risk
- Require action to avoid that risk.

In an emergency, society devotes all available resources needed to solve the problem - it requires every level of government and community to work together - including ours.



Queenscliffe Borough residents who requested Council declare a climate emergency at the December 2019 Council meeting.

3. Our Borough

Bellawiyn, the Wadawurrung name for the region on which the Borough of Queenscliffe resides.

To the Wadawurrung, *Bellawiyn* was the place of resting by the fire; *Bella* meaning elbow, and *Wiyyn* meaning fire.

Today, this region is commonly known as the Bellarine peninsula.

As the local government representation for this region, we respect Wadawurrung Traditional Owners cultural, ancestral, spiritual and historical connections to country and Acknowledge the importance of these to the living Wadawurrung, today.



The red outline in the map above is the area of the Borough of Queenscliffe.

The Borough of Queenscliffe is the smallest local government area in Victoria created in May 1863, covering only 10.83 square kilometres. The Borough is located approximately 105km south-west of Melbourne and 35km east of Geelong, at the eastern tip of the Bellarine Peninsula and opposite Point Nepean at Port Phillip Heads. It is formed around the seaside villages of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale, as well as the Ramsar listed Swan Bay. The urban areas of the Borough are surrounded by coastal foreshore and marine environments that have high ecological and cultural value. These public areas are also the areas in the Borough most vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change.

The permanent population of around 3,000 grows to over 17,000 in peak holiday times with the influx of non-permanent residents and visitors.

Many property owners only holiday or live part-time in the Borough. From the 2016 census 55.9% of private dwellings were used by the temporary population.

The Borough is bordered by water on three sides - Port Phillip, Swan Bay and Bass Strait - the only land border is the western side of Fellows Road, marking our official border with the City of Greater Geelong. Approximately 1300 people reside in this western area of postcode 3225 and call Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff home.

Holiday homeowners, visitors and close neighbours help shape the culture of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale, with generations of 'semi-permanents' returning regularly. Together with permanent residents, they will be an important part of implementing our Climate Emergency Response Plan.

As a Borough, Queenscliffe's small size provides us with a unique opportunity to drastically reduce our impact on climate change, creating a blueprint that could be adopted by other communities across Australia.



4. Our Community-Led Plan

Overview

Our climate emergency response is underpinned by a strong partnership between the community and Council. Council is committed to this community led approach.

In 2020, a project working group made up of members from the Queenscliffe Climate Action Group and Council co-designed a series of engagement activities to listen to all voices in the community on the development of the Plan. Post community consultation, a diverse representative Community Panel created the Plan Vision and Pillars and provided input on the actions.

Together, the community set an inspiring vision for the Borough of Queenscliffe. The next section features *The Community Voice* in this process with a selection of community quotes from the Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) engagement activities.

It covers community responses on *Why we love where we live*, *What we're concerned about-climate change*, and *What we want to do-our response to the Climate Emergency*.



The Community Voice



1

Why We Love Where We Live

Community Survey Response:

The community listed the natural environment and community as why they love where they live. And sixty-one percent of community respondents wrote that living by the beach was what they valued most about living in the Borough. These are some of their comments.



“The environment, history. The realisation of the opportunity we have, being a small borough, to implement practices that will improve the environment we live in for future generations to come”

“Beautiful environment. Vibrant, caring community”

“The natural environment. A small, friendly and safe community”

**Quotes from CERP Community Survey*

Schools workshop response:

“We believe we all need to take action on climate change as it is very important for our future, the younger generation ... We would like the Borough of Queenscliffe to think differently, to come and talk to us and work with us, because we have a lot of good ideas about how to protect where we live.” (Primary schools petition to BoQ, November 2019 - Point Lonsdale, Queenscliff & St Aloysius Primary Schools)



“Front beach & Back Beach”

“Moonah trees”

“Swan Bay”

**Quotes from CERP Primary Schools Workshop*

Youth workshop response:



“Hooded Plovers on beach need protection”

“Wildlife- flora & fauna need conserving”

“Swan Bay, different animals & unique ecosystems”

**Quotes from CERP Youth Workshop*

2

What We're Concerned About - Climate Change

Community Survey Response:

The community was concerned that climate change will impact the things they value most about the Borough - its unique natural environments and the people who live here.

Survey respondents were significantly concerned about the impacts of climate change, and are primarily motivated to reduce its impacts on people (including future generations) and the natural environment of the Borough. School students also expressed a desire to be active participants in a climate emergency response.

The most frequently listed common concerns without prompting were impacts on the natural environment, rising sea levels, erosion and habitat destruction. Some community comments are below.



"Rising sea levels and their impact on a seaside community"

"Intergenerational injustice. Loss of biodiversity. Worsening inequity"

"Pollution of the bays and it's damaging effect on marine animals and birds. Rising sea level. Extreme weather conditions"

**Quotes from CERP Community Survey*

Youth workshop response:



"Climate change is happening"

"We need to take action"

"With rising sea levels, we are vulnerable"

"Sand erosion dunes- changing landscape"

**Quotes from CERP Youth Workshop*

3

What We Want to Do - Our Response to the Climate Emergency

Community Survey Response:

The community was asked a range of questions about what kinds of actions the Climate Emergency Response Plan should feature. Investment in renewable energy repeatedly surfaced as the most popular suggestion, followed by changes to waste management and behaviour.

When prompted to rank different priorities from most to least important, the community said renewable energy investment should be the highest priority action. This was followed by changes to waste management and investment in becoming a zero-carbon community. The community said the plan should be ambitious, setting targets for Council and the community to become zero-carbon within a decade. See some of these comments below.



“Reduce household waste and increase recycling”

“Greater use of solar power, electric vehicles”

“Set municipal emissions reduction target and get community engaged to achieve rapid decarbonisation”

“Think local: reduce emissions: shop local, buy local, holiday local, support all local initiatives to reduce carbon emissions”

“Plant more indigenous trees and plants throughout the Borough - in public spaces and in peoples’ private gardens - to help sequester carbon in the soil”

“Free energy efficiency program for all homeowners and borough residents. Residential energy usage is our largest emission source, so in addition to renewable energy, let’s focus on reducing energy use in the first place”

“Campaign to Federal government”

“Solar panels and batteries for all community facilities, schools, Bellarine Community Health sites etc”

“Immediate planning for a levee bank on the railway embankment and other at risk areas”

“The Borough becoming totally renewable similar to Yackandandah”

**Quotes from CERP Community Survey*

Youth workshop response:



“More bike racks to park bikes”

“Electric cars- encourage their use- have charging station”

“Improve public transport to avoid use of cars”

“Encourage the use of solar panels”

“Compost food waste”

“Involve all Secondary School through Social media (Insta, Snapchat)”

“Encourage visitors to look after our area by educating visitors with more signage and recycling stations”

“Plant more indigenous trees and protect wildlife”

**Quotes from CERP Youth Workshop*

Schools workshop response:



“Encouraging people to use renewable energy”

“Plant native plants around to take in CO2 carbon dioxide, planting more trees”

“Encourage people to have rubbish-free lunches”

“Whole school clean ups at the end of the week”

“Have a community garden”

**Quotes from CERP Primary Schools Workshop*



Community Engagement Process

A wide range of important stakeholders were consulted during the development of the Plan, including Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, volunteer organisations, community groups, State Government agencies and business groups.

The engagement process was an open and transparent process that sought to build understanding and trust between all participants. All engagement activities received high levels of participation from a diverse audience.

Over 420 community members and Borough of Queenscliffe staff participated in surveys, meetings and workshops to support plan development, including:

- 34 Community Panel members participating in five planning workshops
- 8 students, representing the Borough's 3 primary schools (Saint Aloysius, Point Lonsdale Primary and Queenscliff Primary) participated in a workshop
- 5 secondary students from various high schools participated in a workshop
- 346 residents took part in the community climate survey
- 5 local community groups provided feedback on the development of the Plan (Queenscliff Community Association, Queenscliff Music Festival, Swan Bay Environment Association, Point Lonsdale Community Association, Queenscliff Environment Forum).





Participants in the engagement process were given the opportunity to influence:

- Actions (adaptation and mitigation) for Council and community
- Plan priorities
- The strategic objectives of land use planning in the Borough

Participants could not influence:

- Whether or not climate change is an issue - Council had declared a climate emergency
- Legislative requirements (e.g. Local Government Act, Climate Change Act 2017, Marine and Coastal Act)

Throughout the implementation of the plan, the community engagement process will continue, and evolve. Council is committed to continuing a close partnership with the community and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners throughout the life of the Plan.

The road map on [page 22](#) explains the process for community engagement in the development of the Draft CERP.

For more information about the engagement process see the Climate Emergency Response Plan - [Strategic Engagement Plan](#).

ROADMAP 2020

	August 2020	September - October 2020	November - December 2020
PHASE	Engagement planning	Wider Engagement	Recommendation Workshops
INPUTS	Climate Emergency Declaration Project proposal documents	Strategic Engagement Plan	Wider community feedback
OBJECTIVES OF THE PHASE	A clear engagement plan is established for the project Outputs, outcomes and timing is determined	To build broad community awareness To encourage involvement in engagement activities Gather community input into the plan	To make sense of the wider engagement data
ACTIVITIES	Inception meeting Co-design workshops	Engagement with Traditional Owners, community and holiday-makers Schools specific workshop Communications inc. maildrops and social media Survey Website and resource development	A series of 5 x 2hr workshops with a representative selection of the community brought together to analyse the data from the wider engagement phase
OUTPUTS	A Strategic Engagement Plan	Wider community feedback report	Draft recommendations for climate response

ROADMAP 2021

	December 2020 - February 2021	March - April 2021	May 2021
PHASE	Drafting Plan	Consultation on Plan	Finalise and Release Plan
INPUTS	Community panel's recommendations	Draft CERP	Feedback on CERP
OBJECTIVES OF THE PHASE	To develop the CERP	To gather community feedback on the draft CERP	To evaluate community feedback and meaningfully inform Councillors before adoption To finalise the CERP and to release it
ACTIVITIES	A draft CERP is written and graphically designed in response to the community panel's recommendations	Draft plan released for wider public comment	Provide full briefing to Councillors Provide response to community feedback Plan is finalised, adopted and released
OUTPUTS	Draft CERP	Feedback on draft	Final CERP

Community Panel

The Community Panel was a randomly selected group of 34 residents. The panel represented a cross section of the community. They thoroughly analysed community ideas and made recommendations for the Plan's structure and content. The panel worked together to create the guiding vision and the eight key pillars that all fifty-four actions sit under for the Climate Emergency Response Plan. The fifty-four actions were created from community panel recommendations and community feedback during this process.

In developing the Climate Emergency Response Plan these guiding principles were followed:

- The Borough of Queenscliffe's local contribution will support global climate action
- Acknowledging the Wadawurrung as continued Custodians of this land
- Accountability under the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act, 2006 that states Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for Wadawurrung country, with the statutory authority for the management of Aboriginal heritage values and culture
- The actions in the plan will be designed to support our transition to a Zero Carbon Community by 2031
- Actions and initiatives included in the plan will be based on credible science
- The plan should allow for monitoring and evaluation throughout the implementation and progress of the plan



Consultation on Draft Plan

The Draft Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) was released for public consultation in late March 2021. The consultation period extended to the 18th of April 2021. This was the final stage of an extensive deliberative engagement process.

There were 116 submissions from the local community. 106 (92%) of the total submissions supported the CERP. 80 of the submissions supported the CERP in its entirety without any suggested changes. While 26 written submissions supported the Plan and suggested general changes to the CERP, or changes to specific actions.

A further 5 submissions opposed adoption of the CERP and there were 5 other submissions that spoke to matters not included in the CERP.

During consultation, 18 supporting submissions were sent on behalf of organisations and community groups who have committed to supporting the implementation of the CERP in the Borough of Queenscliffe. See [Appendix A: Community Groups and Organisations who will help implement the CERP](#).

Post consultation, the Queenscliffe Climate Action Group (QCAG), Community Panel, partnership organisations (noted in the CERP actions), and the Borough of Queenscliffe Councillors reviewed the Draft CERP community feedback and this was incorporated into the final CERP.

Following the review and in response to the submissions a number of changes have been made to the CERP. These changes can be broadly described as:

- Refinement of 54 actions that duplicate work in other strategic documents or Council policies, including the removal of 4 actions, the addition of 1 action and the merging of 4 actions into 2 actions to make a total of **49** actions in the CERP
- Inclusion of additional content to support the existing actions
- Acknowledgement of key partners and community organisations offering to support the implementation of the CERP
- Formatting and editing

This final document incorporates the changes.

5. Our Vision, Targets & Pillars

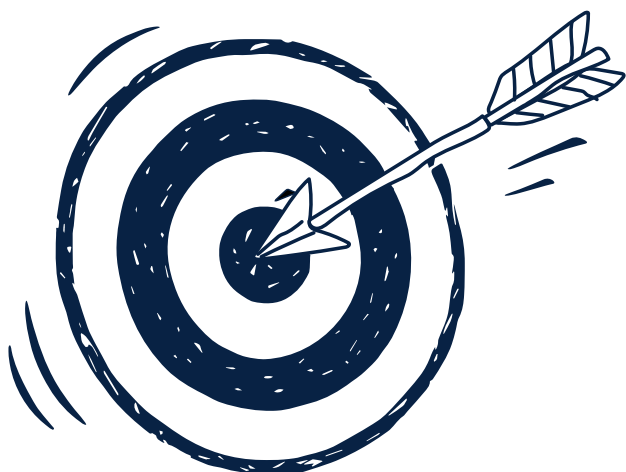
Community Panel Vision

We are a unique, resilient, coastal community. Guided by science, we mobilise to confront the challenges of a rapidly changing climate. We respect, lead, adapt, innovate and inspire.

We place the environment at the centre of all decisions. Through education, engagement and collaboration, we are proud to secure a remarkable and optimistic future for our Borough.

Connected through our deep respect for Wadawurrung People and their Country, we treasure, conserve and protect this special place.

Koling wada-ngal (in Wadawurrung language, let us walk together).



Our Targets

The vision statement of the Community Panel set bold and ambitious targets. As a community-led partnership with Council, we acknowledge the scale of the challenge we face. There is a chance that we may not achieve these targets but we are deliberately aiming high in order to recognise the need for strong, urgent and united local action.

- **In partnership we have agreed to work together on the following, ambitious targets:**

- **Our community's electricity consumption will be matched by a 100% renewable electricity supply by 2025**

Acknowledging that electricity is one of the most significant contributors to emissions and one of the easiest to improve, we will be more efficient in consumption and source all of our community's electricity from renewable sources, either locally generated or imported by 2025. Where it is unavoidable for non-renewable supply to be used, this will be matched and offset by our community's ability to export the surplus electricity we produce.

- **Our community's energy needs will be matched by a 100% renewable energy supply by 2027**

In addition to electricity as an energy source, our community also relies on gas and wood for heating, hot water and cooking. We will reduce our reliance on these fuels as far as possible, improve our energy efficiency and match our overall energy consumption with a completely renewable supply by 2027. This means that even where gas or wood is still used, we will offset that usage with the generation and export of surplus renewable energy.

- **Our community will have transitioned to a Zero Carbon Community by 2031**

Carbon emissions across all sectors of our community - energy, transport, land use, waste and wastewater - will be reduced, drawn down or offset so that our community produces zero-net emissions by 2031.

Underpinning these targets is an understanding that there will need to be support for the most disadvantaged members of the community through this transition process by assessing the benefits and impacts of actions.



Our Pillars

Eight Pillars inform this plan and were developed by the Community Panel. The actions for each Pillar are included in the accompanying Action Plan on [page 42](#). The Pillars are not in order of priority - all Pillars are integral to delivering on the Action Plan.



Let's become a carbon neutral community, let's lead Australia and be creative in our response to the climate emergency."



1 Wadawurrung Country, Cultural Heritage and Values

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation is the representative body for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. The Corporation works to support their aspirations and protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in accordance with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation was appointed in May 2009 as a Registered Aboriginal Party under the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

The Wadawurrung Country pillar was developed to foster a deeper connection, understanding and respect for Wadawurrung Country and to walk together to deliver on our shared objectives of protecting and conserving our natural environment in the face of climate emergency.

Within the Borough of Queenscliffe, there are currently over 40 registered cultural sites of significance, however there has not been a comprehensive cultural value assessments completed of the land on which the Borough is responsible.

There are a number of shared objectives that sit within this Plan and the Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan. It is critical that we work together and learn from one another, while embracing cultural history, values, places of cultural significance and traditional land management practices in our efforts to respond to the climate emergency.



In Wadawurrung language, "Paleert Tjaara Dja - let's make Country good together.

**Quote from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation*



2 Renewable Energy

The Renewable Energy pillar will define the actions required for Council and community to collectively transition to sustainable and renewable energy sources.

Emissions from energy production and use are one of the most significant factors in the acceleration of the climate emergency. Transitioning our Council and community away from fossil fuel derived energy sources to renewables will drastically reduce our emissions impact.



Run the entire Borough from renewable energy source(s)

**Quote from CERP
Community Survey*



3 Sustainable Buildings

The Sustainable Buildings pillar outlines the work required to create an environment and legislative framework where current and future buildings, both residential and commercial, perform to the highest possible energy efficiency standards and are designed and constructed using sustainable methodology and materials.

Whilst it is critically important that we consider how our energy is produced, it is equally as important to consider how efficiently we use energy. Built structures that perform to high energy efficiency standards use less energy to retain heat or remain cool, to heat water and cook food. A major focus is required to improve the efficiency of existing buildings and to ensure new ones are built to high performance standards as this will have an immediate impact on our emissions profile.



All plans for development in the borough must consider the impact on climate."

**Quote from CERP Community Survey*



4 Sustainable Transport

The Sustainable Transport pillar will steer Council and the community towards initiatives that aim to eliminate emissions caused by the movement of people and goods in and around the Borough.

Transport emissions, principally private and commercial vehicles powered by internal combustion engines, account for a large proportion of the Borough of Queenscliffe's total emissions. Identifying how we can move around our local area utilising an integrated mix of clean transport options, will lead to a substantial reduction in emissions.



People happily walking or cycling, with the option to take a frequent local electric mini-bus"

**Quote from CERP
Community Survey*

Our Pillars



5 Mobilisation, Education and Collaboration

The Mobilisation, Education and Collaboration pillar will focus on building community awareness about, and coordinating advocacy efforts for, the climate emergency while fostering key partnerships, including with the Wadawurrung traditional owners, to drive impactful action across all pillars.

Widespread community advocacy is integral in bringing this Plan to life. Our targets cannot be achieved by a small group of passionate individuals working in isolation - success relies on all members of the community understanding the task at hand, their role and how they can contribute to the climate emergency response. Collaboration within and outside of the Borough is critical to maximise collective impact, remove silos and duplication of effort.

Council commits to working with community to advocate to all levels of government to achieve zero net emissions by 2031 or earlier, specifically advocating across all 8 Pillars of the CERP, with a focus on Pillars 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.



Let's position ourselves as an example for other governments, of what can be done to limit the degree of climate change and improve the general health of the natural environment."

**Quote from CERP Community Survey*



6 Adaptation and Resilience

The Adaptation and Resilience pillar focuses on building Council and community preparedness for changing climate conditions and the increased incidence of extreme weather events predicted to impact our low-lying coastal environment.

As the environment changes, we need to be prepared for extreme weather events, rising sea levels, erosion and inundation, hotter drier summers, drought and increased bushfire risk.

By understanding the risks, adapting the way Council operates, and building plans for our community to adapt, we will ensure that we can increase our resilience, protect our way of life and our coastal environment.



Make our towns completely self-sustaining. With permaculture gardens, zero waste and renewable energy sources."

**Quote from CERP Community Survey*



7 Consumption and Waste

The Consumption and Waste pillar focuses on how individuals and Council can contribute to the reduction of emissions by understanding how and what we consume, and what happens to our waste.

Consumption and waste are the two areas where individual behaviour can have a direct impact on emissions reduction and contribute to reaching our Climate Emergency Response Plan targets. Each of us can contribute and take action by thinking local, buying less, reusing, recycling, growing more food and transitioning to zero waste.



Growing my own food and buying local sustainably produced food and other products.”

**Quote from CERP Community Survey*



8 Environmental Regeneration

Actions across the Environmental Regeneration pillar focus on increasing local biodiversity and implementing strategies to draw down carbon already present in our atmosphere.

Restoring and increasing the biodiversity of our natural environment is critical for our future. Whilst eliminating further emissions is highly important, we also must work to reduce, or drawdown, our current carbon emissions.



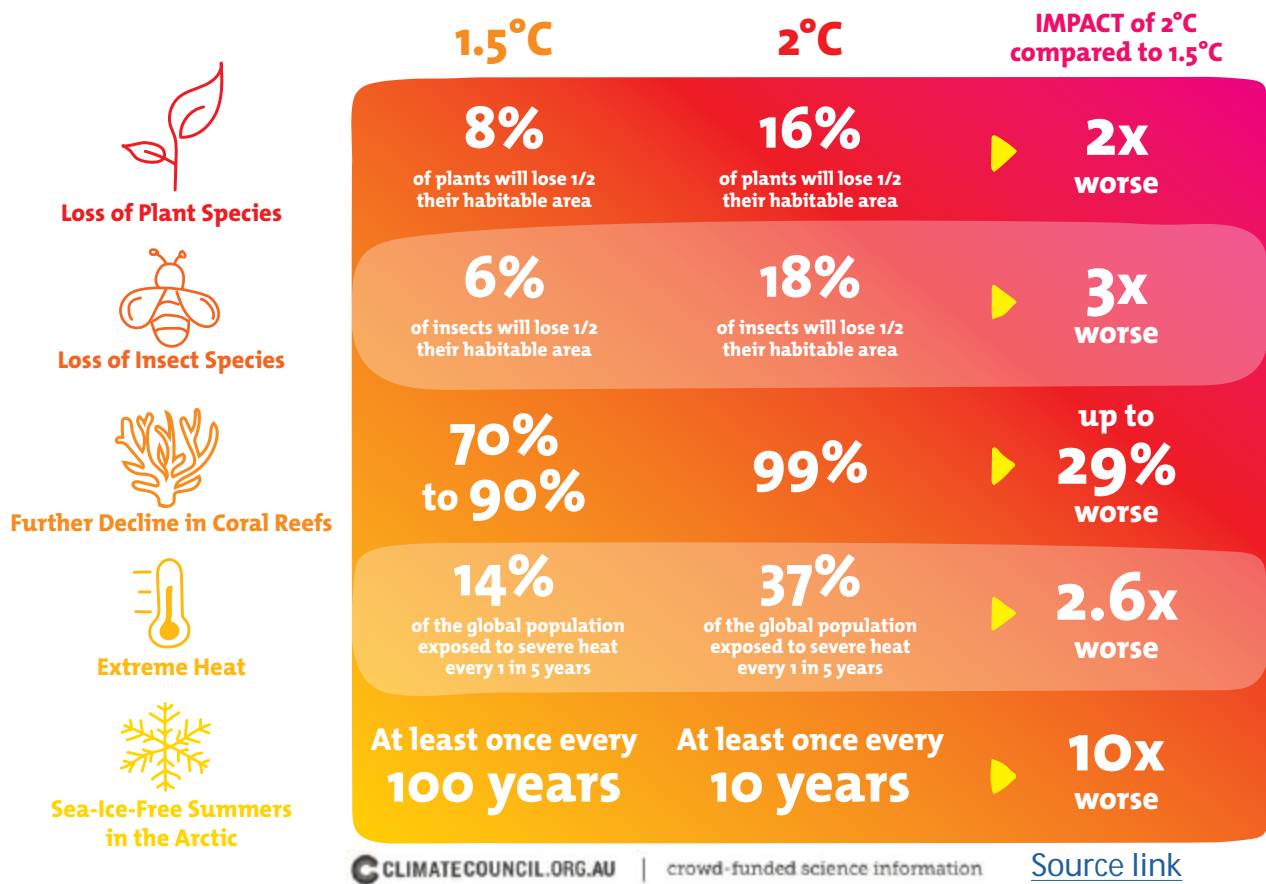
To protect the remaining wildness that exists here and encourage a regenerating and replanting to encourage the local species - both animals and plant life.

**Quote from CERP Community Survey*

6. Background

Our Climate Risks

In declaring a Climate Emergency, Council recognised that climate change poses a serious risk to the Borough of Queenscliffe and Australia, and acknowledges the urgent need for action.



We know that the Borough is vulnerable to sea level rise, but it is also vulnerable to the impacts of greater climate variability leading to a greater risk of more frequent and intense disaster events. We face an increasing risk from coastal inundation, heatwaves, heavy rainfall and localised flooding, and the longer-term impacts of sea level rise. It is critical that rapid action is taken to mitigate climate impacts in order to protect our assets, maintain and improve our unique coastal environment, and secure a safe future for our community.

Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale are already being affected by the impacts of climate change. The Borough of Queenscliffe is in the Barwon South West region of Victoria. The Barwon South West region has already become warmer and drier - a climate trend likely to continue into the future.

Barwon South West has been getting warmer and drier. In the future the region can expect...



Temperatures to increase all year around



More hot days and warm spells, and fewer frosts



Less rainfall in Winter and Spring



More frequent and more intense downpours



Harsher fire weather and longer fire seasons



Rising sea level



Increased frequency and height of extreme sea level events

[Source link](#)

Climate change also negatively impacts Wadawurrung cultural heritage and Wadawurrung Country. The [Wadawurrung Country Plan](#) developed by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the Paleert Tjaara Dja identifies various climate threats to Wadawurrung values and Wadawurrung Country, including sea level rise, rising sea temperatures, bushfires and drought. Other climate related threats include water extraction and inappropriate location of windfarms.

It is critical that rapid action is taken to protect Council and Wadawurrung Cultural heritage sites and community assets. We must work together with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to confirm the location of cultural heritage sites in the Borough, reassess their condition and respond to key climate threats. With this proactive and collaborative approach we can maintain and improve our unique coastal environment - Wadawurrung Country - and secure a safe future for our community.

For more information on Climate Change impacts on the Borough of Queenscliffe see [Background Document](#).

Role of Local Government - Climate Emergency Response

Council is committed to taking action on climate change. Council's role in this area is defined by the Victorian Local Government Act 2020, which includes an overarching governance principle requiring councils to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipality, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks.

This principle connects with the Climate Change Act 2017, and Victoria's Climate Adaptation Plan 2017-2020 where the role of Local Government is to provide leadership and good governance, represent the needs and values of local communities, and foster community cohesion. It also explains why local governments are mandated to act on the climate emergency.

Council's Climate Emergency Declaration

The Borough of Queenscliffe declared a Climate Emergency on 19 December 2019 and committed to prepare a Climate Emergency Response Plan in partnership with the community. Council joined a growing movement of Local Government authorities leading the nation by declaring a climate emergency. Over 1,860 local governments across 31 countries, with a combined population of more than 820 million citizens have declared a Climate Emergency. In Australia, 99 councils (at the date of publication of this plan) have declared a Climate Emergency representing 9 million people.

By declaring a climate emergency, the Borough of Queenscliffe recognised the significant risk that climate change poses to the future of our cultural history and our community, and that immediate and urgent action is required to reduce our emissions and build community resilience against the local impacts of climate change.

Progress to Date

Community

The Queenscliffe Climate Action Group (QCAG) was created following a community meeting on 30 October 2019 in Point Lonsdale. QCAG is a group of local residents from Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff united in a growing concern about the increasing impacts of climate change on our local community and natural environment.

In December 2019, driven by QCAG, the local community raised significant concerns about the effects of climate change, and lobbied Council to act with a petition of 2,145 signatures to declare a climate emergency. 1,101 were local residents of Point Lonsdale or Queenscliff. And a further 1,044 signatures were from people who work, send their kids to school, or regularly holiday in the Borough.

The group also conducted the Queenscliff Climate Action Community Survey in November 2019 to capture the community's views about the local impacts of climate change and the appetite for solutions. 94% of survey respondents were 'quite' or 'very' concerned about climate change. Local desire for climate action is strong, with 79% responding that they would feel proud if the Borough was taking a leading role, especially in renewable energy.

Since Council declared a climate emergency, QCAG has played a leading role in engagement with Council and the community to develop the Plan.

In addition to QCAG's work on climate emergency, many residents are already taking action to reduce their impact on the environment, including installing renewable energy and increasing home energy efficiency, using active transport, growing their own food, composting organic waste, reducing consumption and reusing and recycling.

Council

The Borough of Queenscliffe has taken action to reduce emissions and deliver climate-friendly infrastructure for the community. The Borough was the first local government area in Victoria to change all street lighting to low-emission LEDs, it purchases 100% renewable energy for Council buildings, and has made progress towards the implementation of the Borough of Queenscliffe Carbon Neutral Action Plan (CNAP).

In 2021, Council will get to a net balance of zero carbon dioxide emissions for corporate emissions, but the (CNAP) goal of net zero for the community by 2020 was not achieved, as this needs to be accomplished together.

Queenscliffe Council set to be powered by 100% renewable energy

From 1 July 2021, Council will be powered by 100% renewable energy. Council has partnered with City of Darebin and 45 other Councils to procure renewable energy as part of a Local Government Power Purchase Agreement.

The Agreement gives Councils significant purchasing power and lower pricing. Importantly, the Agreement is flexible. It allows Council to reduce the amount of power it purchases as more on-site renewable energy is generated through new rooftop solar.

The Borough spends around \$115,000 each year on initiatives to respond to climate change. Initiatives undertaken by Council each year include the Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, the Corporate Carbon Neutral Action Program, and the provision of Community Environment Alliance seeding grants. This Plan brings all of the relevant actions from these plans and initiatives together.

Council Climate Change Actions

Adopted a Corporate Carbon Neutral Action Plan, which has brought about the following achievements:

- Installed solar power on Council-owned buildings (Council offices, Queenscliff Community Sports Club, kindergarten and Queenscliff Community Hall)
- Installed solar public lighting
- Upgraded to energy-efficient lighting in Council buildings and public amenities blocks
- Retrofitted all existing Council buildings to be energy-efficient
- Reduced Council's electricity consumption by 55,270 kilowatt hours, saving \$10,200 in 2018-19
- Purchased 100% renewable energy for Council buildings
- Purchased 100% GreenPower for Council-operated caravan parks
- Introduced a kerbside green waste bin service that has diverted more than 2500 tonnes from landfill since July 2015
- Became the first local government area in Victoria to change all our street lights to low-emission energy efficient LED lights.

Advocacy

Council Advocates to all levels of Government on Climate Action through participation in groups such as Climate Emergency Australia Councils group, the BSW Climate Alliance and G21

Council created the Community Carbon Neutral Action Plan (CNAP)

With the aim to help the community (residents, businesses, schools and community groups) achieve its carbon neutral goals by reducing emissions.

Community involvement

Sustainability community events, education programs, engagement, communications, campaigns and collaboration with regional alliances (such as G21).

Facilitated two community solar initiatives

Two community solar initiatives delivered 83 solar installations in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. Combined, these solar systems generate a total 369 megawatt hours of solar power every year, the equivalent of supplying electricity to 80 homes in Victoria for 12 months. These initiatives reduce the community's carbon emissions by 369 tonnes every year.

Council developed an adaptation action plan

This plan was called 'Preparing for Climate Change in the Borough of Queenscliffe: Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan'.

It involved carrying out a climate change risk assessment on Council assets and services, and developing a local adaptation action plan to respond to those risks.

Assetic Coastal Asset

Together with the City of Greater Geelong & CSIRO, Council is part of the development of the 'Assetic Coastal Asset Database'. The project explores opportunities to link the 'Assetic Coastal Asset Database' with INDRA. INDRA is a technology platform which applies climate science to further inform the Assetic database on asset degradation. This will assist asset managers to identify current and future climate risks for individual assets.

100% GreenPower for Council operations

Council purchases 100% GreenPower for Council operated caravan parks, Queenscliffe Community Sports Club, netball clubrooms, Maritime Museum, Christmas tree, public amenities blocks, water pumps, foreshore lighting, barbecues across the municipality, library and VIC building.

Natural Resource Management

In partnership with the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP), Council manages and maintains numerous reserves located along the bayside beaches and the surf beach at Point Lonsdale, including the Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserves. Many of the indigenous species in Queenscliffe have a high conservation class, with a large proportion classified as rare, and a number protected under State or National biodiversity legislation, as well as significant habitat for critically endangered species. For example, Our Ramsar salt marshes on Swan Bay are one of the preferred nesting grounds for the critically endangered orange-bellied parrot.

7. Our Emissions

Overview

As a community, Queenscliffe's small size provides us with a unique opportunity to further reduce our emissions and become a zero carbon community. In order to understand where we need to reduce our emissions, Council developed emission profiles for both the community and Council operations.

And while Council has a clear indication of its baseline emissions, there will need to be investment in detailed data analysis on the emissions and gas usage generated by the community. However, the [climate snapshot tool](#) provides a solid guide on where emissions in the community can be reduced, and the 2018-2019 Climate snapshot is the latest data available for community emissions.

The emission profiles are split into Council emissions and community generated emissions. Viewing them separately makes it easier to get an understanding of the emission contributors for both groups and areas for action.

Council emissions profile

Council subscribes to an environmental scorekeeper to measure consumption of electricity, gas, water and fuel used to deliver Council services and programs. Council has been actively working to reduce its emissions, and emissions have fallen by 34% since 2013-14, when tracking commenced.

The majority of Council's measured emissions come from:

- Council's own corporate electricity consumption (50%: from Council offices, sporting facilities, Town Hall, Library and Visitor Information Centre, Council-operated caravan parks, water pumps, and recycling and waste from Council offices)
- Contractor fuels (20%)
- Electricity consumption from public street lighting (11%)
- Fleet (8%).

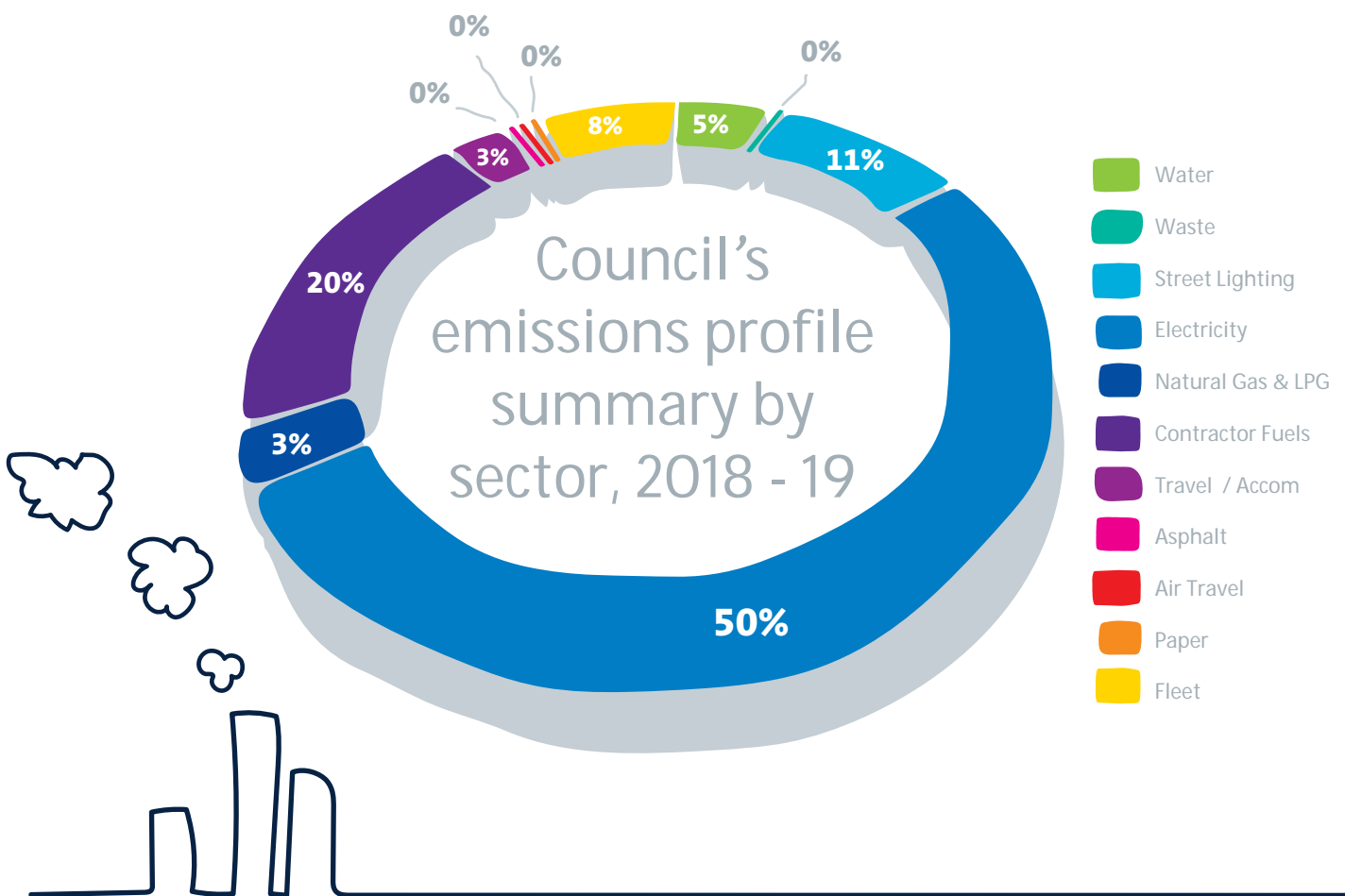
Council's total emissions for 2018-19 were 709.28 tonnes of CO2-equivalent.

Council's purchase of Green Power was used as a reduction measure and reduced the total emissions by 166.5 tonnes, leaving net emissions as 709.28 tonnes (see emissions profile below).

Note: Green Power is a government-managed scheme that enables Australian businesses and householders to buy renewable energy from their electricity retailer who then has to source this from renewable energy providers.

Council's emissions profile summary by sector, 2018-19

The 2018-2019 Council emissions profile was used instead of the 2019-2020 emissions profile because 2019-2020 emissions were significantly lower with the closure of Council facilities due to Covid19 and as a result these emissions are not representative of Councils normal operations.

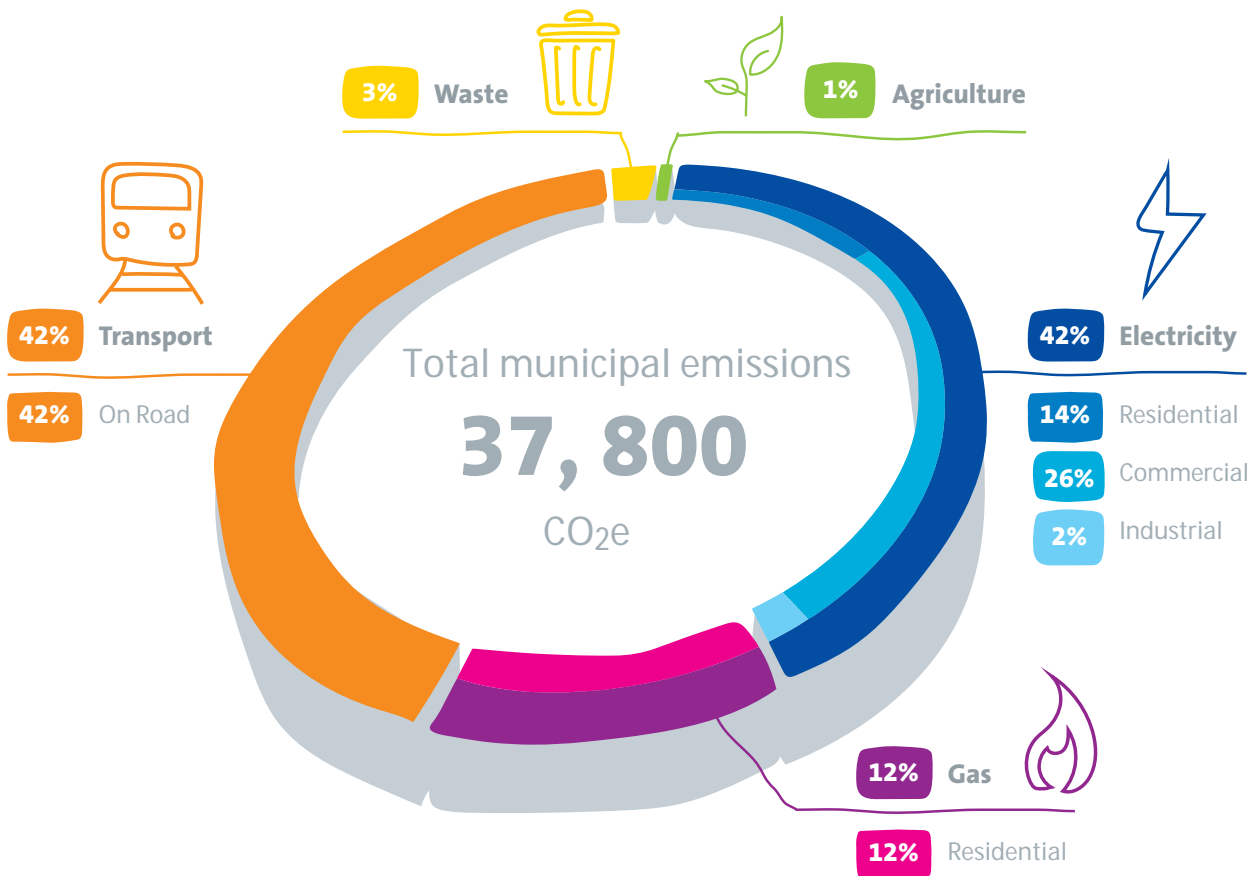







Community Emissions Profile

The 2018-19 [climate snapshot](#) profile for Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff show that the majority of our community emissions come from energy and transport. Further investment and investigation is needed for detailed data analysis on community emissions and current gas usage generated by the community. However, the climate snapshot tool provides a solid guide on where emissions in the community can be reduced.

There are also significant ‘embodied emissions’ produced from goods, services and activities that are not accounted for in our community emissions profile. ‘Embodied’ emissions include emissions produced from extracting or growing raw materials, processing and manufacturing, transport use and disposal. Air travel and the food we consume, such as meat and dairy, are particularly carbon and resource-intensive. While the exact quantity of emissions attributable to our lifestyles is complex to calculate, the planet cannot sustain this level of consumption, associated carbon emissions and waste generation.

Borough of Queenscliffe municipal emissions snapshot, 2018-19



	Source	Sector	Emissions (CO ₂ e)
	Electricity	Residential	5,300
		Commercial	9,800
		Industrial	800
	Gas	Residential	4,600
		Commercial	0
		Industrial	0
	Transport	On Road	16,100
		Domestic Air Travel	0
	Waste	Landfill	600
		Water	400
	Agriculture		200
	Land Use		600

Land Use data is not used in the chart nor the displayed total municipal emissions

8. Our Action Plan

Overview

The Action Plan outlines the work Council and the community need to do to meet our targets, in particular to become a Zero Carbon Community by 2031. The Action Plan should also guide Council decision making and inform the setting of strategic objectives in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The 49 actions have been developed through community consultation and informed by expert assessments such as the [Renew report](#). The Pillars are not in order of priority-all Pillars are integral to delivering on the Action Plan. Council will review the Action Plan every second year, in partnership with the community.

Most of the action items will be subject to full or substantial grant funding. Post Council endorsement of the CERP, an Implementation Plan will be developed to detail resourcing implications, funding opportunities, project delivery plans, activity priorities and governance. For more details see [Pillar 6 - Action 1](#)

Actions are grouped according to the eight Pillars:

-  **1** Wadawurrung Country, Cultural Heritage and Values
-  **2** Renewable Energy
-  **3** Sustainable Buildings
-  **4** Sustainable Transport
-  **5** Mobilisation, Education and Collaboration
-  **6** Adaptation and Resilience
-  **7** Consumption and Waste
-  **8** Environmental Regeneration



All actions are measured against three criteria. Mitigation, Adaptation and Influence.

MITIGATION

Actions that reduce emissions and this reduction can be monitored.

ADAPTATION

Changes in natural or human systems to prepare for actual or expected changes in the climate in order to minimise harm, act on opportunities or cope with the consequences.

INFLUENCE

Actions that contribute towards Mitigation and Adaptation actions. For example, promotion of actions the community can implement.



Wadawurrung Country, Cultural Heritage and Values

KEY



Council



Residents



Business



Community



Wadawurrung

Short

1-4 Years

Medium

4-7 Years

Long

7-10 Years

Action

1

Wadawurrung Country Plan

Council to review its strategies, policies, plans and land management arrangements to incorporate the Wadawurrung Country Plan (Paleert Tjaara Dja), including equitable access and decision-making on Country for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and the identification and implementation of co-management opportunities with the Traditional Owners on Council-owned and managed land.

Community members to read and respect the Wadawurrung Country Plan as the central guide to how we can work with Traditional Owners to make country good together (Paleert Tjaara Dja).

Impacts



Lead



Timeframe

Short

Costs

\$10k

Action

2

Cultural Heritage Awareness

Council to arrange for cultural heritage and cultural safety training with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners for all councillors and staff.

Community to work with Council and Traditional Owners to coordinate Wadawurrung on-country cultural heritage sessions for community members and visitors.

Impacts



Lead



Timeframe

Short

Medium

Costs

\$10k

Action

3

Reconciliation Action Plan

In collaboration with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners (Registered Aboriginal Party), Council will develop and endorse a [Reconciliation Action Plan \(RAP\)](#) as a formal commitment to reconciliation from Council. Actions include:

- Commitment to start the innovative journey guided by [Reconciliation Australia’s Reconciliation Action Plan \(RAP\)](#) which provides a strategic framework to guide Councils contribution to the reconciliation movement. The RAP will include practical actions that will drive Council’s contribution to reconciliation both internally and in the community.
- Commitment to ongoing relationship building and meaningful engagement with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners on all matters regarding Wadawurrung Country and Culture.

Impacts



Lead



Timeframe

Medium

Costs

\$10k

Action

4

Wadawurrung Cultural Heritage Review & Assess

Council to work in collaboration with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) Cultural Heritage Team on Cultural Heritage assessments, agreements and management plans with support from the Wadawurrung Country and Culture Committee. This work will help Council understand important cultural heritage and places across country that will be assessed and mapped by Wadawurrung for threats and protection needs. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act legally recognises WTOAC as the Registered Aboriginal Party.

In line with the [Healthy Country Plan](#):

- By 2024, Cultural Heritage values along our coastal country are assessed.
- By 2027, Cultural Heritage Plans or Agreements are in place to guide the protection of priority cultural places.

Impacts



Lead



Timeframe

Medium

Costs

\$10k

PILLAR 2.



Renewable Energy

KEY



Council



Residents



Business



Community

Short

1-4 Years

Medium

4-7 Years

Long

7-10 Years

Action

1

Council Supports Community Transition to Renewable Energy

MITIGATION

Council commits to setting Borough level renewable energy or emission reduction targets to support the community to transition the Borough to a 100% renewable energy supply and phase out gas.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short Council Commitment Medium Completion	TBD

Action

2

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Taskforce

MITIGATION

Council supports the development of a taskforce to monitor emerging technologies, research, promote and support programs across residential and commercial energy and efficiency projects. The taskforce will manage a community-led volunteer effort to educate and support the community in transition and behaviour change.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	\$10k - \$100k

Action

3

Rooftop Solar Rollout Plan

MITIGATION

Develop plan to maximise the use of all available rooftop space in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale for solar PV. Set progressive targets to achieve a coverage rate of viable rooftop capacity of 75% for residential and 90% for commercial/community buildings by 2025.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	\$10k - \$100k



Action

4

Renewable Energy Production from Council Buildings

MITIGATION

Ensure Council maximises opportunities for local renewable energy production with respect to its operations by installing solar PV and battery storage on all Council buildings.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Long	\$10k - \$100k

Action

5

Facilitate Planning Applications for Solar

MITIGATION

Waive planning application fees for solar installations on residential buildings.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short	\$10k

PILLAR 2.

Action

6

Solar, Battery and Heat Pump Bulk Buy Program

MITIGATION

Council to facilitate a Solar PV, Battery and Heat Pump Bulk Buy Program for both residential and commercial/community buildings. The program should include heat pump and solar hot water options. Consider collaboration with community groups in neighbouring shires.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	\$10k

Action

7

Powercor Working Group and Pole Mounted Community Battery Trial

MITIGATION

Establish local working group involving Council and community reps to liaise with Powercor to address grid connection and management issues related to solar PV and community battery opportunities. And partner with Powercor to trial the deployment of street level, on pole battery storage.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short Medium	TBD

Action

8

Support Community Procurement of Renewable Energy

MITIGATION

Coordinate and support the purchase of renewable energy by businesses and residents through retail partnerships and an independent review of retail options.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	TBD

Action

9

Council Procurement of Renewable Energy

MITIGATION

** Action underway and in planning*

Ensure Council purchases 100% renewable electricity, generated by wind locally in Victoria, for all Council buildings, facilities and operations through a power purchase agreement. Transition existing gas connections to electricity (or an alternative renewable energy source) wherever possible by 2025.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
		Lead by Darebin with 46 Victorian Councils	<div style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 2px; border-radius: 5px; display: inline-block;">Short</div> Renewable Energy Transition Achieved. <div style="background-color: #2c5e8c; color: white; padding: 2px; border-radius: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">Long</div> No domestic offsets required.	TBD

Action

10

Local Solar farm, Community Battery, Micro Grid Feasibility Study and investment in clean energy

MITIGATION

Through a feasibility study, canvas community interest to invest in a solar farm and/or community battery facility and/or micro grid project for areas of high solar and battery penetration. These projects would require State Government funding support. In addition, find community investment options in solar and/or wind farms in neighbouring shires.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
 			<div style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 2px; border-radius: 5px; display: inline-block;">Short</div> Feasibility <div style="background-color: #2c5e8c; color: white; padding: 2px; border-radius: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">Long</div> Project Completion	\$10k - \$100k

Action

11

Virtual Power Plant Rollout

MITIGATION

Explore pilot program opportunities for Virtual Power Plant establishment in the Borough in conjunction with neighbouring shires or national schemes.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
 			<div style="background-color: #2c5e8c; color: white; padding: 2px; border-radius: 5px; display: inline-block;">Medium</div>	TBD



Sustainable Buildings

KEY



Council



Residents



Business



Community

Short

1-4 Years

Medium

4-7 Years

Long

7-10 Years

Action

1

Energy Efficiency Audit and Education Program

MITIGATION

To improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use, Council will seek grant funding for a Residential Energy Efficiency Audit Program using the Victorian Energy Efficiency Scorecard or NatHERS energy efficiency rating system. The program would offer free audits and expert energy advice to all ratepayers, including local businesses.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	\$10k - \$100k

Action

2

Council Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy

MITIGATION

Council to develop and implement an ESD policy for all Council-owned buildings to adopt best practice energy efficiency measures.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short	In-kind




Action

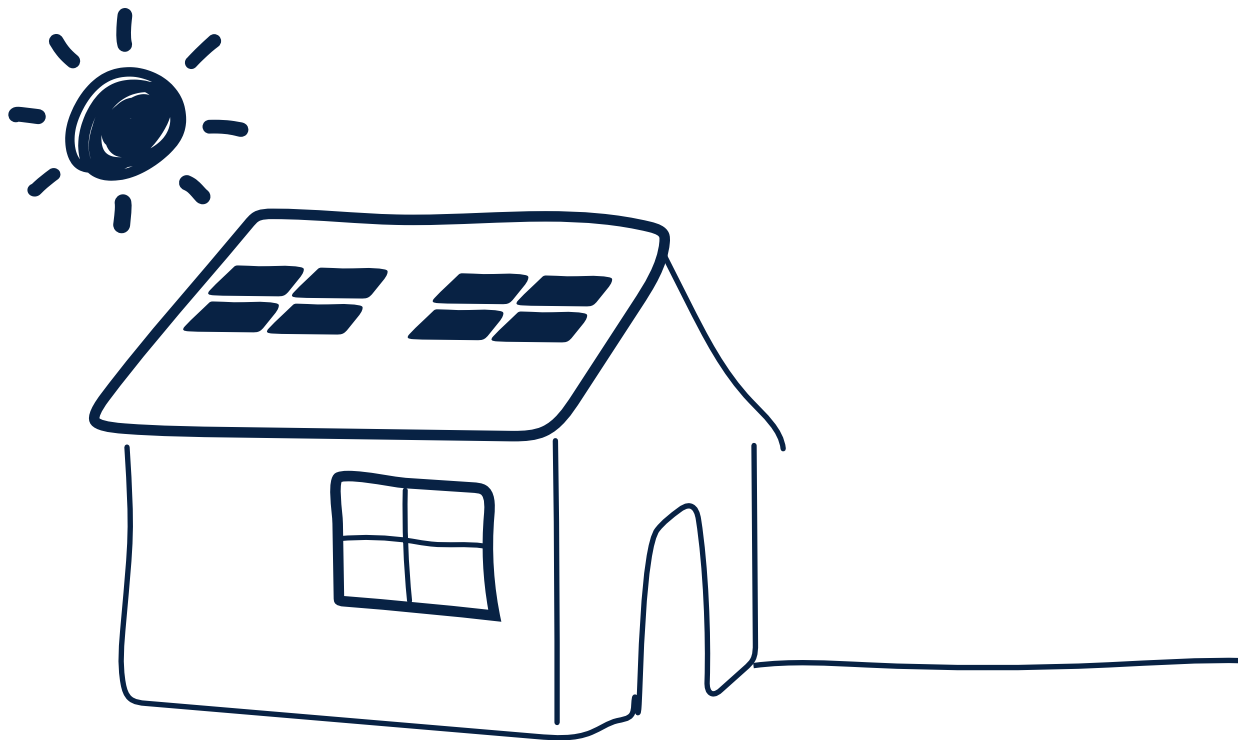
3

Energy Efficiency Rating Scheme

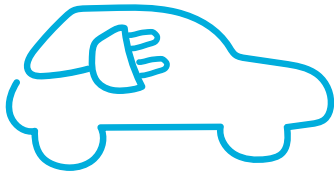
INFLUENCE

Community to lead an effort to highlight the advantages of an energy efficiency rating (EER) score with local real estate agents and to encourage the publication of energy efficiency ratings for residential buildings at point of sale and point of rent. And advocate to the State Government for sustainable building changes.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
			



PILLAR 4.



Sustainable Transport

KEY



Council



Residents



Business



Community

Short

1-4 Years

Medium

4-7 Years

Long

7-10 Years

Action

1

Active Transport Strategy

INFLUENCE

Develop an Integrated Transport Plan to facilitate uptake of sustainable modes of transport and the long-term reduction of private car use.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short	\$40k

Action

2

Advocate for Improved Public Transport

INFLUENCE

Council and community to advocate for improved regional public transport links, in particular to Geelong, preferably provided by zero emissions vehicles.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Medium	In-kind



Action

3

Eliminate Council’s Transport Emissions

MITIGATION

Convert Council’s fleet to zero emissions vehicles.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short	TBD





Action

4

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

MITIGATION

Council to lead the installation of public electric vehicle charging stations, powered by renewables.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
  		Short	\$70k






Action

5

Electric Vehicle Community Transport

MITIGATION

Enhance public transport in the Borough based on small capacity electric vehicles that cover most streets in the Borough with destinations based on commonly visited sites. Eg. shops, beach, between Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
  	 	Long	TBD



Mobilisation, Education and Collaboration

KEY



Council



Residents



Business



Community

Short

1-4 Years

Medium

4-7 Years

Long

7-10 Years

Action

1

Climate Emergency Response Plan Community Hub

INFLUENCE

Council to support the community to develop a multi-platform (digital and physical), co-designed Climate Emergency Response Plan Community Hub. The Hub will be a crucial community engagement and communications tool that provides up-to-date information, training and education on the climate emergency - bringing the Climate Emergency Response Plan and each of its eight pillars to life.

Impacts



Lead



Supporting



Timeframe

Short

Costs

Action

2

Communications Priority

INFLUENCE

** Action underway and in planning*

Council to ensure the climate emergency is a communications priority by using climate emergency language and concepts to inform Council communications, articulating the level of urgency and mobilisation required across all channels.

Impacts



Lead



Timeframe

Short

Costs

In-kind

Action

3

Community Mobilisation

INFLUENCE

Council commits to working with community to advocate to all levels of government to achieve zero net emissions by 2031 or earlier, specifically advocating across all eight Pillars of the CERP, with a focus on Pillars 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	In-kind

Action

4

Climate Emergency Response Plan Ambassadors Strategy

INFLUENCE

Council to support the community to develop a best-practice Climate Emergency Response Plan Ambassadors Strategy to encourage community participation and leadership across the eight pillars.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	

Action

5

Identify Key Partnerships

INFLUENCE

Council to identify and facilitate key partnerships and collaborations to achieve maximum impact across the eight pillars of the Climate Emergency Response Plan. Depending on the nature of the pillars these partnerships may be with key government departments, educational institutions, the private sector, through to local, grassroots organisations.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	\$10k - \$100k

PILLAR 6.



Adaptation and Resilience

KEY

Governance Action
 Council
 Residents
 Business
 Community
 Short 1-4 Years
 Medium 4-7 Years
 Long 7-10 Years

Action

1

Climate Emergency Response Plan Costings and Resourcing



INFLUENCE

Council to develop an Implementation Plan including resourcing commitments, climate governance, prioritisation, and the development of key budget requirements, highlighting areas that can be met by Council, met by community or require State or Federal Government assistance and funding.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short	> \$30k

Action

2

Strategic Alignment of Climate Emergency Response Plan



MITIGATION

Embed the Climate Emergency Response Plan within the Borough's 2021-2025 Council Plan, Community Vision and Budgets.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short	In-kind

Action



3

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework



INFLUENCE

Council to work in partnership with the community to develop a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework to set baselines measurements to measure the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and assess the ongoing performance of the Plan. Reporting progress to the community via a simple scorecard will be crucial to the Plan’s success.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short	\$10k


Action

4

Risk Assessment

ADAPTATION

Council to undertake a detailed Climate Change Risk Assessment for the Borough of Queenscliffe including an alignment of Council’s Risk Management Framework with the Environmental Management System.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short	\$10k

Action

5

Divestment Strategy

MITIGATION

Council to divest (including banking, superannuation and investments) from institutions that operate or invest in fossil fuel companies.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Medium	TBD

PILLAR 6.



Action

6

Bushfire Mitigation Strategy

MITIGATION **ADAPTATION** * Action underway and in planning

Council to ensure its Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2019-2021 encompasses mitigation and adaptation strategies for preparing residents for the event of bushfire, in addition to the management of Council land. Strategy to work in partnership with the Wadawurrung.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short	TBD

Action

7

Coastal Inundation and Sea Level Rise: Adaptation

ADAPTATION **INFLUENCE** * Action underway and in planning

Council to support the community to develop and implement a Resilience Action Plan for the Borough. And for Council to work in partnership with CoGG to review the Our Coast project, Barwon Regional Partnership Project & Queenscliffe Coastal Climate Project, and work with State and Federal governments to implement actions.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Medium	> \$100k

Action

8

Coastal Inundation and Sea Level Rise: Advocacy

INFLUENCE * Action underway and in planning

Council is already involved in a number of coastal strategy initiatives including the Victorian Coastal Management Strategy working group. Council to lead, with community support, an advocacy plan and strategy at a State and Federal Government level to ensure the Borough has a voice in broader coastal strategy development. Council has also recently partnered with City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) to deliver the Geelong Queenscliffe - Coastal Inundation and Catchment Flooding Adaptation Emergency Response Planning project (funded by Regional Partnerships). This project uses tools developed by CSIRO to model the effectiveness of engineering interventions and identifies assets at risk along known coastal “hotspots”.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	TBD

Action

9

Erosion Strategy

ADAPTATION

INFLUENCE

* Action underway and in planning

Council is participating in a Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) project investigating impacts of erosion in the Borough. Council and the community will advocate for State Government support of erosion hazard mapping for the Borough and to work with DELWP to fund engineering assessments of potential solutions.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	TBD

Action

10

Food Security

INFLUENCE

The community establishes edible community gardens, with Council to provide support for the community's local food production.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	In-kind

Action

11

Water Security

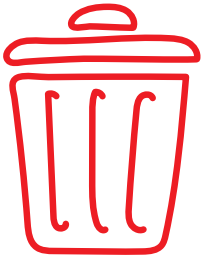
ADAPTATION

* Action underway and in planning

To help maintain water security in the Borough, Council is collaborating with Barwon Water, our community and other regional partners in the design and delivery of the Water for Our Future Program. This Program will develop the region's next Urban Water Strategy, a 50-year plan for ensuring a sustainable, affordable and reliable water future for the region, our community and our environment.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
	 Barwon Water	Short	TBD

PILLAR 7.



Consumption and Waste

KEY



Council



Residents



Business



Community

Short

1-4 Years

Medium

4-7 Years

Long

7-10 Years

Action

1

Introduce Four Bin Waste and Recycling Collection System

MITIGATION

** Action underway and in planning*

Council will introduce in consultation with the community, the State Government legislated four bin system to expand existing waste and recycling collection in the Borough (general waste, food and garden organics, co-mingled recycling, glass recycling) with a 100% recycling target for 2031.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Short	\$10k - \$100k

Action

2

Eliminate Single Use Plastic

INFLUENCE

Council to work in partnership with the community to eliminate single use plastics in the Borough through the development of a Plastic Wise Program and Plastic Wise Events and Markets Policy, with the ultimate aim of phasing out single use plastics in the community and across all Council operations, facilities and events.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Medium	\$10k



Action

3

Conscious Consumption, Circular Economy and Zero Waste

INFLUENCE

Council to lead by example and promote to residents and local businesses the benefits of buying less, reusing, re-purposing and recycling more to achieve zero waste - including sustainability improvements across Council events and operations. Investigate a pilot program for local businesses to avoid waste, improve waste management and resource recovery, and boost the circular economy.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Long	\$10k



Action

4

Council Tender Process to Reflect Environmental Footprint

INFLUENCE

All tenders for Council projects to declare the environmental footprint of the relevant project for tender. Council to publish details on Council's website.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short	TBD



Action

5

Low Emission Materials

MITIGATION

Council to transition to using low emissions materials in Council operations.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Long	TBD

PILLAR 8.



Environmental Regeneration

KEY



Council



Residents



Business



Community

Short

1-4 Years

Medium

4-7 Years

Long

7-10 Years

Action

1

Canopy Coverage

MITIGATION

In consultation with qualified horticulturists and Swan Bay Environment Association, Council will work to ensure the best use of local indigenous plants to assist in creating the desired canopy coverage along major walking tracks (and other suitable places) to support the Integrated Transport Plan, and to create cooler micro climates using direction provided from Council's Urban Forest Action Plan.

Impacts



Lead



Supporting



Timeframe

Short

Costs

\$10k - \$100k

Action

2

Carbon Drawdown

MITIGATION

Council to partner with Deakin's Blue Carbon Lab and the Swan Bay Environment Association to ensure the current effect of sea grass carbon drawdown in Swan Bay is protected; assess the Borough's coastlines for seaweed farming; and to partner with the City of Greater Geelong to use developments such as The Point and Lakers Cutting for tree planting drawdown sites.

Impacts



Lead



Supporting



Timeframe

Medium

Costs

\$10k

Action

3

Weed Control and Revegetation

MITIGATION

Expand existing weed management program to incorporate integrated weed management methods. Work with landowners to remove environmental and noxious weeds and plant indigenous plants (in keeping with vegetation types). Work with residents to promote the value of indigenous gardens. Work with local conservation groups such as the Borough Coast Carers, Swan Bay Environment Association and Bellarine Catchment Network to expand their work on weed removal and revegetation with indigenous plants in coastal reserves.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Medium	\$10k - \$100k

Action

4

Wetland and Saltmarsh Protection

MITIGATION

Support local groups such as the Swan Bay Environment Association, Bellarine Catchment Network and Caring for our Bays to expand their work in reducing the impacts of coastal development on saltmarsh and local wetland areas.

Impacts	Lead	Supporting	Timeframe	Costs
			Medium	TBD

Action

5

Vegetation Management Policy

ADAPTATION

Council to develop a Vegetation Management Policy, and update local laws and the Planning Scheme to protect significant or mature trees with a provision to replace trees at the end of their life with climate resilient species.

Impacts	Lead	Timeframe	Costs
		Short	\$20k

9. Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting & Plan Review

Councils first action post endorsement of the CERP will be to develop an Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan will include resourcing commitments, climate governance, prioritisation, and the development of key budget requirements, highlighting areas that can be met by Council, met by community or require State or Federal Government assistance and funding. The Implementation Plan will also layout the framework that will be used for the monitoring and evaluation of the CERP.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting to the community on this plan will be crucial to its success. We will report to the community with clear indicators on how we are tracking towards our targets in the action plan, emissions reduction and ultimately on becoming a Zero Carbon Community in 2031.

Council will monitor, evaluate and publicly report on progress implementing this Plan through:

- An annual report to Council on the Plan's implementation progress
- Relevant Council reports regarding key actions in the Plan
- Reporting against implementation of the Council Plan 2021-25 (which will include actions regarding this Plan)
- Emissions reporting, including progress to zero net emissions by 2031
- Council reporting against UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Engaging with the community on progress implementing community actions through self-reported surveys, programs and consultations
- Council's website

The UNSDGs signed by all member countries is the benchmark for sustainable development. The UN has recommended that the best results of SDG-based development occurs when the SDGs are localised and used to fulfil local needs and highlight any areas for improvement. These goals provide a global roadmap for all countries to work towards a better world for current and future generations. The Borough of Queenscliffe is committed to contributing towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

As part of the evaluation process Council will map the actions under the eight pillars against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). By mapping our Eight Pillars-Community and Council Actions-against the UNSDGs we can see how our local actions contribute to the global climate action effort.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Source link

Council's monitoring and evaluation of the Plan will be conducted in accordance with a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework to be developed in partnership with the community. The Framework will set baseline measurements to assess the ongoing performance and implementation of the Plan and will consider the use of an evaluation framework to enable regular community evaluation of the Plan.

The Action Plan will be reviewed by Council every two years. A major review of the Plan will be conducted by Council in 2025. The Plan will adapt and evolve, as required, to any State and Federal Government policy changes and/or climate change threats such as rising sea levels. All Action Plan and Plan reviews will be undertaken in consultation with the community and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners.

10. Terms and Definitions - Understanding climate language

Adaptation (adapting to life in a changing climate) **involves adjusting to actual or expected future climate.** The goal is to reduce our vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change (like sea level encroachment, more intense and extreme weather events or food insecurity).

Carbon emissions: Greenhouse gas emissions released by the process of consuming fossil fuels and the production of materials.

Carbon neutrality: Carbon neutrality is achieved when the net greenhouse gas emissions associated with an organisation's activities, products, services and events are equal to zero.

Carbon offset: Represents the removal of greenhouse gas from the atmosphere by sinks, or a reduction in emissions relative to a business as usual baseline. Carbon offsets are tradeable and often used to negate (or offset) all or part of another entity's emissions. Examples include tree planting, methane capture and use and renewable energy projects.

Carbon sequestration: Is the long-term storage of carbon in plants, soils, geologic formations, and the ocean.

Circular economy: A system in which all resources are highly valued and remain in the system through Re-Use, Re-Purposing and Recycling.

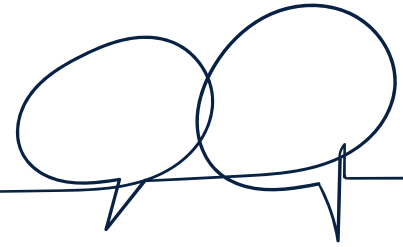
Climate change: Climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer.

Climate emergency: The catastrophic changes to the climate brought about by human activity that poses a dangerous threat to all life on the planet.

Drawdown Carbon - in order to restore a safe climate, excess emissions need to be rapidly removed (or drawn down) from the atmosphere through the storing of carbon in soils, vegetation, trees, oceans and via other biological processes.

Emissions: Shorthand for carbon emissions (see carbon emissions).

Emissions reduction: Also known as mitigation (see mitigation).



Fossil fuels: Any of a class of hydrocarbon-containing materials of biological origin occurring within Earth's crust that can be used as a source of energy (i.e. coal and oil).

Greenhouse gases (GHGs): There are six GHGs which are considered to be key contributors to global warming. These are Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous oxide (N₂O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). Carbon dioxide is considered the most significant GHG due to its increasing prevalence within the atmosphere.

(Climate) Hazards: Relates to the potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced physical event or impact that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, or damage infrastructure and ecosystems.

(Climate change) Impacts: These are the subsequent consequences, or effects on natural and human systems from climate change.

Microgrid: are is a subset of the broader electricity network with all the necessary components to operate independently. Microgrids are typically developed for three main reasons - energy security, cost savings and sustainability

Mitigation (reducing climate change) **involves reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere**, either by reducing sources of these gases (for example, the burning of fossil fuels for electricity, heat or transport) or enhancing the "sinks" that accumulate and store these gases (such as oceans, forests and soil).

Renewable energy: (also called 'clean energy') comes from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished such as solar, wind and water (hydro).

Resilience: the capacity of individuals, institutions, businesses, communities and systems to adapt, survive and thrive no matter what kind of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

(Climate) Vulnerability: Propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt.

Virtual Power Plant (VPP): Are a network of solar PV and battery systems all working together to generate and store energy, and feed energy back into the grid. They use cloud based software that monitors, controls and balances energy demand, supply and storage in response to changing energy needs.

Zero Carbon Communities

A Zero Carbon Community is any community where people, groups, clubs, local business and councils are acting together to reduce carbon emissions.

There is an Australia-wide community network of Zero Carbon Communities committed to 100% renewable energy goals and zero emissions targets.

Zero net emissions: Also referred to as ‘zero carbon’ is the process of achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere.



Appendix A - Document Links

- [CERP Background Document](#)
- [Community Engagement Report](#)
- [Strategic Engagement Plan](#)
- [Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan \(2020-2030\) Paleert Tjaara Dja- Let's make Country Good Together, - Video, Summary & Plan](#)

The Borough of Queenscliffe Climate Emergency Response Plan & SDGs.

The Borough will align the 17 [Global Goals](#) to measure our progress and contribution towards sustainability both locally & globally.

The [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) unite & connect us globally by providing a positive framework and vision to work towards.

Mapping the Climate Emergency Response Plan Pillars and Actions against the SDGs demonstrates how our local actions contribute to the global climate action effort.

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development



Climate Emergency Response Plan Pillars

Pillar	SDG	Target
 <p>1. Wadawurrung Country, Cultural Heritage and Values</p>		Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
 <p>2. Renewable Energy</p>		Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
 <p>3. Sustainable Buildings</p>		Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
 <p>4. Sustainable Transport</p>		Affordable and sustainable transport systems.
 <p>5. Mobilisation, Education and Collaboration</p>		Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship.
 <p>6. Adaptation and Resilience</p>		Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
 <p>7. Consumption and Waste</p>		Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
 <p>8. Environmental Regeneration</p>		Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Council Plans and State Policies that influence the CERP

Existing Council plans (and plans in development) that have helped to identify opportunities to add value to work Council has already completed, along with work to be completed as part of this Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) are:

- Community Emergency Risk Assessment
- BoQ Heatwave Plan (2017)
- Extreme Weather Case Study Report - Coastal Erosion (2020)
- Bellarine Peninsula Corio Bay Local Coastal Hazard Assessment (2014)
- Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan (currently being updated)
- BoQ Coastal and Marine Management Plan (currently being developed)
- Citizen science initiatives such as the Point Lonsdale Sand Monitoring Program.

In addition to these plans the CERP is also influenced by statewide policies. These policies are credible drivers for action and strengthen business cases for funding. These plans include:

- Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on Victorian Coast (2020)
- Marine and Coastal Strategy (currently being updated)
- Victorian Climate Change Strategy (2021)

Community Groups and Organisations who will help implement the CERP

Community group	Organisation
Queenscliffe Climate Action Group	Bellarine Catchment Network
Swan Bay Environment Association	Queenscliff Music Festival
Queenscliff Community Association	Bellarine Community Health
Neighbourhood House	Uniting Queenscliff
Queenscliff Cricket Club	CitiPower, Powercor and United Energy
Point Lonsdale Board Riders	Barwon Water
Geelong Sustainability	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club	Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group (BSWWRRG)

