

## **CERP Review August 2025**

### **Introduction**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 May 2025 Council resolved to support the following Notice of Motion:

#### Notice of Motion

*TITLE: Request for a comprehensive report on the Climate Emergency Response Plan.*

#### **MOTION**

*That Council:*

- *Requests a comprehensive report be prepared and presented to the August 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting to inform the review of the Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP); and*
- *Requests that the report include, but not be limited to, the following matters:*

#### **1 Financial**

- *A breakdown of all costs associated with the CERP over the past five budget cycles (i.e. from 20/21 – 2024/25).*
- *A detailed outline of allocations included in the 2025/26 draft Council Budget.*
- *Specific budget allocations, including associated staff and consultant costs, programs, projects and initiatives.*
- *A detailed outline of costs incurred in assisting Queenscliffe Climate Action Now (QCAN) including meetings, staff hours, administrative support, project assistance, etc.*
- *A summary of community grants – applied for and received – and their outcomes.*
- *A full review of all State and Federal grants or programs and their detailed outcomes.*

#### **2 Community benefits**

- *An evaluation of tangible benefits, directly attributable to CERP expenditure, including the return on the investment made to the Borough of Queenscliffe community.*
- *A summary of measurable environmental and/or social benefits delivered by CERP and related initiatives.*

### 3 Legislative

- An overview of how the Borough of Queenscliffe's climate emergency actions and initiatives compare with existing State and Federal legislation and strategies.
- Identification of potential duplication, overlap or redundancy with Council's climate actions and those undertaken by higher levels of government.

The following paper includes a response to each of the requests set out in the Notice of Motion. The paper focuses on the activity and actions delivered or supported by Council.

Since the implementation of the CERP the Borough has received \$4,741,592 in grant funding towards initiatives within or supported by the CERP.

Total Council expenditure on the CERP to July 2025, since the project to develop CERP commenced in September 2020, including staff salaries is \$628,602.69.

### 1.Financial

#### A breakdown of all costs associated with the CERP over the past five budget cycles

For the five years from 2020 to 2025 the CERP has directly and indirectly contributed to the receipt of \$4,741,592 for the Borough and Borough community.

Council has directly received \$2,767,910 for CERP projects and made \$33,786.22 worth of electricity cost savings through participation in the [Victorian Energy Collaboration \(PPA\)](#).

In those five years Council has spent \$232,194.05 on the implementation of CERP projects and \$396,408.64 on salaries. The total expenditure for the period is \$628,602.69.

These figures do not include the volunteer hours of QCAN and other local community groups that have gone towards delivering community CERP projects.

**All Council expenses of the CERP for five years (from 19 June 2020 to 30 June 2025) itemised below in Table 1:**

Vendor/Supplier name	Total
EXPENSES	\$
Ad-Cell Print Group Pty Ltd	9,545.00
All About Traffic Management Pty Lt	494.25
Azility (previously Planet Footprint Pty.Ltd Old)	44809.27
Clean Up Australia Limited	240.59

correcting entry Leanne Stein - Reimburse payment for Bat APINV - IN3150019318 BATTERY REIMBURSE	75.00
David Meiklejohn	2,500.00
Deakin University	5,000.00
G21- Geelong Region Alliance Ltd	5,000.00
Geelong Sustainability Group Inc	23,972.09
Helen Wheaton	1,600.00
Hume City Council	22,98.07
Ironbark Sustainability	11,260.00
Jacqueline Wilson	67.49
Lend Lease	3,639.44
Momentum News Group Pty Ltd	400.00
Powercor Australia Ltd	1,381.82
Queenscliff General Store Cafe (New-Jan1	567.95
Queenscliff IGA	30.61
Queenscliffe Climate Action Group Inc	809.00
Ratio Consultants	35,239.68
Ratio Consultants - YE Accrual 22-23	990.00
Reconciliation Aust Reconciliation Action Plan registration	1,500.00
Reconciliation Australia RAP registration Development fee	1,500.00
Renu Energy Solutions Pty Ltd	2,950.00
Rip Rumour	450.00
Saltbush Fine Foods	700.00
Sandra Brogden	800.00
Stack electrical and data	495.00
Superior Solar	32,427.73
Telstra Corporation	1,689.84
The Bookshop at Queenscliff	68.05
Tiiamanno Consultants	19,911.14
Trustee for MosaicLab Trust (Engagement Consultant)	40,030.01
Wadawurrung Traditional Aboriginal Owners Corporation	20,836.36
WAVE CONSULTING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	1,800.00
Barwon South West Climate Alliance Inc	15,262.53
Correcting entry Barwon South West Climate Alliance Inc APINV - Ref - 001Q6	7,500.00
Bellarine AV Pty Ltd	650.00
Bellarine Cycling Pty Ltd (trading as Hendry's)	419.45
Brooke Chalmers	395.00

Electrify Victoria	1,000.00
Ferne Millen Photography	3,156.40
Japarta PTY LTD	5,700.00
Polity Pty Ltd	900.00
Queenscliff General Store Cafe (New-Jan19)	155.55
Yarra Energy Foundation Ltd	22,750.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$332,967.32</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>
DCAV-OPP-52156- Borough of Queenscliffe Funding Agreement Destination Charging Across Vic	-10,500.00
DELWP - Grant OPP-53291 Milestone 1 26874 GL026536.csv	-1092.00
Electronic Vehicle Charging Stations	-70,388.00
Milestone 1 - Contract C-12345/MO2 - Com 27509 GL027349.csv	-13,959.00
Supply of STCs - Units 65 x \$36 per STC 33889 GL027772.csv	-2,127.27
Year-end accounting adjustments	-2,707.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>-100,773.30</b>
<b>NET Project cost</b>	<b>\$232,194.05</b>

**A detailed outline of allocations included in the 2025/26 Council Budget.**

The following five items have been included in the 2025/26 Council Budget at a total of \$82,400:

- Five Year Evaluation of the CERP \$10,000
- Solar upgrades allocated \$25,000
- Solar upgrades for Golightly amenities \$15,000
- Climate Emergency Action Program \$20,700
- Council Energy Management \$11,700

**Specific budget allocations, including associated staff and consultant costs, programs, projects and initiatives.**

The specific budget allocations, including associated staff and consultant costs, programs, projects and initiatives for the five years are all follows:

- Staff costs- \$396,408.64 (including CERP development)
- Consultant costs- \$143,104.89 (including CERP development)

Table 2 below is a breakdown of consultant and project costs. Consultant costs were higher in the development of the CERP and at times of extra community consultation such as the CERP two-year review. There are also ongoing monthly consultant costs such Wadawurrung consultation for projects and cultural heritage advice. Other consultant costs for example have been Geelong Sustainability energy efficiency audits of Council buildings for building renewal improvements. Overall, consultant costs for the CERP have remained modest.

**Table 2. Consultants & Project work costs:**

Consultant	Activity	Total
Ad-Cell Print Group Pty Ltd	Printing 60 copies of Review 2023 CERP, 2-year CERP Review design edits	\$2,565.00
Barwon South West Climate Alliance Inc	BSWCA Membership for project work collaboration across the region.	\$15,262.53
Bellarine AV Pty Ltd	AV for QCAN Mondo community meeting at Point Lonsdale	\$650.00
Bellarine Cycling Pty Ltd (trading as Hendry's)	repair of staff pool bikes	\$419.45
Brooke Chalmers	photography for QLF's Indigenous Literacy Foundation fundraising event	\$395.00
David Meiklejohn	CERP Review presentation to Cr's	\$500.00
Electrify Victoria	Quote for electrification of BoQ Caravan Parks	\$1,000.00
G21- Geelong Region Alliance Ltd	Membership	\$5,000.00
Geelong Sustainability Group INC	Energy audits for residents Solar Feasibility Reports for BoQ Facilities Sustainable House Day in the Borough (22/23) Silver membership Energy Efficiency Audit & Education Program	\$18,572.09
Helen Wheaton	First Nations Representation on RAP	\$1,600.00

Consultant	Activity	Total
Japarta PTY LTD	Vectorising Thaliyu (Yesterday) art piece for the Reflect RAP First Nations graphic design of the reflect RAP	\$5,700.00
Polity Pty Ltd	Workplace RAP Barometer 2024	\$900.00
Ratio Consultants	Active Transport Strategy	\$36,229.68
Reconciliation Australia Reconciliation Action Plan registration	Registration with Reconciliation Australia	\$3,000.00
Renu Energy Solutions Pty Ltd	Roof condition report for Queenscliff Maritime Museum	\$2,950.00
Sandra Brogden	First Nations Representation on RAP	\$800.00
Tiimanno Consultants	Consultants for the implementation of the Reflect RAP Tiimanno final Reflect RAP work payment	\$19,911.14
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Community, Councillors & Staff Wadawurrung Cultural Awareness Training	\$4,900.00
Yarra Energy Foundation Ltd	BTM NBI100 Resilience Stream Consultation for grant application(s)	\$22,750.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$143,104.80</b>
	<b>Average Annual Investment</b>	<b>\$28,620.96</b>

**A detailed outline of costs incurred in assisting Queenscliffe Climate Action Now (QCAN) including meetings, staff hours, administrative support, project assistance, etc.**

Council staff meet with QCAN for one hour once a month on average (12 times a year for 5 years) at a cost of \$3,120 annually.

We estimate five percent of the Climate Officers time is involved in supporting QCAN, this includes staff attendance at QCAN volunteer run events and programs in the Borough, along with any administrative support,

Over 5 years this equates to \$19,820.42 or on average \$3,964 a year.

### A summary of community grants – applied for and received – and their outcomes

Table three below is a summary of all community grants awarded in the last five years with a sustainability focus and their outcomes.

**Table 3. Community Grants with sustainability outcomes received 5 Years (2021-2026)**

<b>Community Grants 5 Years 2021/22 to 2025/26</b>			
Budget Year	Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Amount
2025-26	Friends of the Hooded Plover (auspiced by SBEA)	Dog's Breakfast	\$1,000.00
2025-26	Queenscliffe Indigenous Nursery	Shade structure	\$2,000.00
2024-25	Bellarine Catchment Network	Preserve our Coastal Moonah Woodlands	\$1,500.00
2024-25	Swan Bay Environment Association	Gardens for Wildlife	\$2,000.00
2023-24	Boomerang Bags	Servicing machines and materials	\$1,129.00
2023-24	Queenscliffe Indigenous Nursery	Seeding the Borough	\$2,000.00
2022-23	Swan Bay Environment Association	Plant Propagation Tables for the Indigenous Plant Nursery	\$1,512.00
2022-23	<b>Queenscliffe Climate Action Group Inc</b>	Household Energy Efficiency Audit Program	\$2,000.00
2021-22	Boomerang Bags	Making Boomerang Bags	\$663.00
2021-23	Swan Bay Environment Association	Small trailer purchase	\$2,000.00
<b>Total grants</b>			<b>\$15,804.00</b>

### Full review of all State and Federal grants or programs and their detailed outcomes.

Please see **Table 4. Community Benefits Grants** below which outlines all the grants received, their amounts and outcomes.

## 2. Community Benefits:

**An evaluation of tangible benefits, directly attributable to CERP expenditure, including the return on the investment made to the Borough of Queenscliffe community.**

For the five years from 2020 to 2025 the CERP has directly and indirectly contributed to the receipt of \$4,741,592 for the Borough and Borough community.

\$2,767,910 in funds have gone directly to Council to manage, the remaining (\$1,973,682) been distributed in community partnership projects that Council has supported with groups such as QCAN, Mondo and the Barwon South West Climate Alliance (see Table 4 for details).

\$33,786.22 worth of electricity cost and emissions savings have been made through Council's participation in the [Victorian Energy Collaboration \(PPA\)](#).

For the five years from 2020 to 2025 Council has spent \$232,194.05 on the implementation of CERP projects and \$396,408.64 on salaries. The total expenditure for the period is \$628,602.69.

Over the same period total Council expenditure has been \$65,472,000.

***The CERP expenditure represents 1% of total Council expenditure over the 5-year period.***

As one of Council's key strategic documents the CERP has been able to demonstrate that the strategic objectives adopted by Council align with the criteria in grant programs of both the State and Federal Governments.

Table 4. below provides detail on all successful grants the Borough has received.

**Table 4. Community Benefit grants**

Grant	Received from	Income	Note
X4 200 kW Behind the Meter (BTM) community batteries rolled out in the Borough supporting additional local solar capacity, providing local storage solutions and building electricity network resilience and stability delivered by Mondo and supported by QCAN and BOQ. <b>Renewable Energy Pillar -Action 9.</b> <i>Neighbourhood Battery Trial</i>	State Government DEECA- to be delivered 2025 onward	\$1,200,000	Funding to community via Mondo.
One 100 kW behind the meter (BTM) battery at Queenscliff Recreation Reserve as part of a resilience project.	State Government DEECA- to be delivered 2025 onward	\$400,000	Funds direct to Council

Grant	Received from	Income	Note
<b>Renewable Energy Pillar -Action 5.</b> <i>Renewable Energy Production from Council Buildings.</i>			
<b>BSWCA-Resilient Community Assets</b> Projects developing an analysis of the impact of climate change on Council assets across the region (this year we will focus on a couple of key assets in the Borough at risk) and required interventions. <i>Barwon South West Climate Alliance priority is building collaboration across the region and working locally on projects to get increased regional outcomes, efficiencies and value on climate mitigation, adaptation and regional resilience.</i>	\$245,200 across all councils, Emergency Management Victoria government grant funded project- to be delivered 2025 onward. <sup>1</sup>	\$40,834	Accessed via alliance
<b>BSWCA- Collaborating with First Nations RAPs on climate</b> – working on project development with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation. <b>Wadawurrung Country, Cultural Heritage &amp; Values Pillar-Action 3.</b> <i>Reconciliation Action Plan</i>	State Government DEECA- to be delivered 2025 onward. <sup>1</sup>	\$32,848	Accessed via alliance
<b>BSWCA- Victorian Climate Resilient Councils</b> which will complement the BSWCA Council assets project and aims to reduce our risk on our buildings, assets, infrastructure and community from climate impacts	Led by the Western Alliance of Greenhouse Action- to be delivered 2025 onward. <sup>1</sup>	\$500,000	Accessed via alliance
<b>BSWCA- Greenhouse Alliance</b> <i>Neighbourhood Battery Investigation</i> National Battery Initiative joint funding applications and projects (Round 1 project completed (successful funding grant to the Borough and (21 Council's) for a business case on a Behind the Meter Battery BTM at QRR). <b>Renewable Energy Pillar -Action 5.</b> <i>Renewable Energy Production from Council Buildings.</i>		\$200,000	Accessed via alliance

Grant	Received from	Income	Note
<b>BSWCA-</b> VECO this award winning, largest emissions reduction project ever taken by local government is now powering 57 councils across Victoria with renewable electricity. The Borough is part of this Power Purchase Agreement, and all our buildings are powered with renewable (wind) energy as result, along with cheaper power bills. Sum of Total \$ (avoided costs) <b>plus estimated tariff and supply dollar savings is \$33,786.22.</b> <b>Renewable Energy Pillar -Action 10.</b> <i>Council Procurement of Renewable Energy.</i>	\$33,786.22		Direct \$ savings to Council
EV Fast Chargers (June 2023) <b>Sustainable Transport Pillar- Action 4.</b> <i>Electric Vehicle Infrastructure</i>	State Government DEECA	\$70,000	Funds direct to Council
Council Fleet Chargers <b>Sustainable Transport Pillar- Action 3.</b> <i>Eliminate Council's Transport Emissions</i>	State Government DEECA	\$7,280	Funds direct to Council
Introduce four bin waste system <b>Consumption &amp; Waste Pillar- Action 1.</b> <i>Introduce for bin waste and recycling collection system.</i>	State Government MWMG	\$72,000	Funds direct to Council
Queenscliff Neighbourhood house energy efficiency upgrades, battery, heating & cooling <b>Renewable Energy Pillar -Action 5.</b> <i>Renewable Energy Production from Council Buildings.</i>	State Government SV	\$21,000	Funds direct to Council
Through the development of the CERP action ATS then the Queenscliff Traffic Management Strategy BoQ was successful in a grant for the Safe Local Roads and Streets program to support the development and delivery of road safety infrastructure projects on local roads. <b>Sustainable Transport Pillar- Action 1.</b> <i>Active Transport Strategy.</i>	TAC & DTP (Department of Transport and Planning)	\$2,000,000	Funds direct to Council

Grant	Received from	Income	Note
To reduce fuel load along Ocean Road foreshore, Point Lonsdale. Removing woody weeds such as boxthorn, buckthorn and polygala- to be completed in 2025. <b>Environmental Regeneration Pillar- Action 3. Weed Control and Revegetation.</b>	Country Fire Association Vegetation Management Grant	25,000	Funds direct to Council
To undertake community education session on the importance of the Coastal Moonah Woodland and undertake complimentary weed spraying in the Narrows, Bunny woods and Rip View reserve where Volunteers have been hand weeding.- to be completed in September 2025. <b>Environmental Regeneration Pillar- Action 3. Weed Control and Revegetation.</b>	Port Phillip Bay Fund	25,000	Funds direct to Council
To produce a report to assist Council in understanding the risks and changes of the cliffs along the Borough coastline and ways to minimise risk to the community. <b>Adaptation and Resilience Pillar. Action 9. Erosion Strategy.</b>	Victorian Resilient Coast Grant	40,000	Funds direct to Council
Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan. This will enable a sustainable water future for the Queenscliffe region and is in line with Barwon Waters IWM Forum's Strategic direction statement. <b>Adaptation and Resilience Pillar. Action 12. Integrated Water Management (IWM).</b>	State Government DEECA	50,540	Funds direct to Council
Promote and improve household recycling services from May 2024 to June 2025 <b>Consumption &amp; Waste Pillar- Action 1. Introduce for bin waste and recycling collection system.</b> <b>Consumption &amp; Waste Pillar- Action 1. Conscious Consumption, Circular Economy &amp; Zero Waste.</b>	State Government SV	\$57,090	Funds direct to Council
<b>Total income</b>			<b>\$4,741,592</b>

## Notes

1. *Council has withdrawn membership from BSWCA which puts this funding at risk.*

### **A summary of measurable environmental and/or social benefits delivered by CERP and related initiatives.**

From the CERP's inception the Borough has nearly halved its carbon emissions since the declaration of the climate emergency in 2019. In 2019/20 our municipal emissions were 91,000 t CO<sub>2</sub>e and in 2022/23 they were 48,000 t CO<sub>2</sub>e. See Snapshot for details: [Queenscliffe, VIC :: Snapshot](#).

The CERP was a [Winner of Community Choice Award](#) - 2021 Cities Power Partnership Awards for a community developed and led plan. Over the five years of implementation the CERP has continued to be led by the community, connecting groups and local organisations.

As the smallest local government area in Victoria, the Borough has limited resources to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The CERP has enabled Council and the Community to come together and do more with less. This collaboration and partnership has enabled the many successful grant and joint projects and programs.

The list below are the CERP actions that have been implemented by Council and Council in partnership with the community. With the final section of the list demonstrating a snapshot of community-led actions.

#### **Council-Led Actions:**

##### **Pillar 1. Wadawurrung Country, Cultural Heritage & Values**

- [Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan](#) adopted 2024. The Reflect RAP identifies actions to be undertaken within four Pillars, Relationships, Respect, Opportunities and Governance. The RAP furthers the Borough's commitment in the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan to build our relationships with First Nations people and create an inclusive community.
- [Cultural Heritage Awareness](#) Training sessions delivered for the community, staff and council staff in 2022, 2024 & 2025.
- [Wadawurrung Country Plan](#)  
Ongoing monthly consultation meetings with Council officer and WTOAC when reviewing on ground projects or programs of works in the Borough.

##### **Pillar 2. Renewable Energy**

- Through the [Victorian Energy Collaboration \(PPA\)](#), (VECO) Council has 100% renewable energy for all Council buildings, tourist parks, streetlights, and public

facilities. Along with fifty-seven other councils. Council has saved \$33,786.22 by being part of this PPA.

- Council has waived fees with planning applications for households seeking to install rooftop solar.
- Energy audit and program of works (Heating and cooling upgrade, Battery and Solar) for the Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House (QNH). Received \$21,000 from Sustainability Victoria. As a result, the Queenscliff Neighbourhood house has minimal utility costs since installation, and their comfort levels have significantly increased. They are now warm in winter and cool in summer in the building.

*"Having solar power and battery storage at QNH has been a great addition. We now receive either no power bill or a very small one, and the house stays comfortable throughout the year. Participants appreciate the cool air-conditioning in summer, and in winter, the space feels warm and cozy."*

*Elisa Manager Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House*

- Council Energy Efficiency Audits and Education Program delivered by QCAN and Geelong Sustainability in 2023 & 2024 resulted in \$14,000 immediate saving for Queenscliff Hub and steps for energy efficient renewal of hot water systems at our tourist parks and other council venues, along with other works to be completed in 2025 onwards.

#### **Council supported the following community actions:**

- Worked with QCAN and the Barwon South West Community Power Hub to secure funding for a community battery feasibility study received via Geelong Sustainability Hub. This then resulted in \$1.2million received from a DEECA NBI 100 grant awarded to Mondo and QCAN for four Behind the Meter 200 kW community batteries supporting additional local solar capacity, providing local storage solutions and building electricity network resilience and stability in the Borough. The program is delivered by Mondo and supported by QCAN and BOQ.
- 25 kW solar system on the Point Lonsdale Bowls Club, which provides a model for other sporting clubs and buildings with large roof spaces to install solar.
- In 2021, Council partnered with Geelong Sustainability to deliver a solar bulk buy, resulting in the highest per capita take up of solar in the region.
- Partnered with Geelong Sustainability to deliver the [electric homes](#) program each year from 2022 resulting in the highest per capita take up of solar in the region, improving the efficiency and reducing the running costs of homes for residents.

### **Pillar 3. Sustainable Buildings**

#### *Council & Community Actions:*

- Support of the Energy Efficiency Audit and Education Program with QCAN and Geelong Sustainability in 2023 & 2024. Council subsidised home energy efficiency audits and QCAN Volunteer hours delivered the program for sixty-eight resident's homes. Over 250 QCAN volunteer hours to attend each home assessment, take notes and provide detailed report for homeowners outlining the energy assessor's findings and recommendations.
- Also, as part of the Energy Audit program all Council managed buildings were audited. Over \$14,000 was saved at Wirrng Wirrng (The Hub) Queenscliff when the energy audit and solar assessment process revealed savings could be made by a tariff change in the bills. Solar on all Council buildings was also assessed with recommendations for future installations and cost savings calculations for Council. Estimates of future financial savings for Council buildings have been provided to Council regarding both energy efficiency (audits conducted on all Council managed buildings) and rooftop solar (estimated costs, savings, and return on investment).
- The Borough participated in Sustainable House Day with Geelong Sustainability with home open in the Borough for 2023 & 2024.
- Community Energy Efficiency Information Session - funded by Council & coordinated by QCAN with a Geelong Sustainability energy assessor delivered for residents in March 2024.
- The Borough, in partnership with thirty-six other councils around the country through Climate Emergency Australia advocated to improve new homes. In 2022, Federal and State Building Ministers agreed to increase the minimum energy rating for new homes from 6 to 7 Stars. This will ensure new homes are more comfortable, liveable, accessible and energy efficient. It was the most significant upgrade to required energy standards for Australian homes in 12 years.

### **Pillar 4. Sustainable Transport**

#### *Council Actions:*

- Installing public EV chargers to help transition to zero-emission vehicles (thereby reducing harmful air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions) and providing a service to the community where there was none in the Borough by installing two 50 kW charging stations for electric vehicles. All electricity from Council's chargers is backed by renewable energy certificates through VECO from the Dundonnell wind farm near Mortlake, and Murra Warra II wind farm near Horsham 32431209.43 gC02e has been avoided, via more than 3921 charging sessions since install. Received \$70,000 grant from DEECA for installation.

- In 2023, Installed two 22kW chargers for Council Fleet in the Council carpark this was co-funded with DELWP, received \$ 7,280 in grant funding.
- In December 2023, Council's Active Transport Strategy was adopted by Council.
- Fleet Policy completed 2022 includes EV purchase as a preference.
- Council commenced the transition to a Zero emissions fleet. As of July 2025, Council has three electric cars (including both pool cars) and three hybrid cars, out of eleven cars. Some of the larger vehicles such as Utes are waiting on more cost-effective replacements.

## **Pillar 6. Adaptation and Resilience**

### *Council Actions:*

- The Borough has been a key Council from establishment (2021) of the Barwon South-West Climate Alliance (BSWCA) and in the development of the BSWCA priorities Action Plans, three-year plan, identifying Priority Projects and supporting actions aligned with the CERP. *As of July 2025, Council has withdrawn membership from BSWCA by not funding it in the current budget.*
- Integrated Water Management Plan (IWM) received \$ 50,540 in grant funding.

## **Pillar 7. Consumption & Waste**

### *Council Actions:*

- In August 2022, introduced Food and Organics (FOGO) service that have diverted more than 1122 tonnes of food and garden waste from landfill and reduced carbon emissions by 80% in a single year.

## **Pillar 8. Environmental Regeneration**

### *Council Actions:*

- In 2022, Council appointed a Vegetation and Foreshore Officer to oversee weed and vegetation management in the Borough, and a Vegetation Management Policy was adopted in 2024.
- In 2023-2024- 88 street trees and 714 plants were planted in the Borough.
- In 2024-2025- 176 trees and 4847 plants were planted in the Borough.

### **Community Actions:**

**Case studies (local benefits):**

*Point Lonsdale Bowls Club undertook an energy audit and installed a 25kW solar system on its large roof space, proving a model for other sporting clubs. Barwon Community Health has also undertaken an energy audit on its facilities and identified improvements, and Cottage by the Sea has installed solar panels, an EV charging station and switched from gas to electricity for its hot water heating.*

Below is a list of some of the community actions implemented. However, this is not an exhaustive list. It provides some examples of the work the community is doing in implementing the CERP. We have highlighted actions where Council has also provided support.

- Community Solar Program commenced in 2023, 2024 delivered by QCAN.
- 54 Energy audits undertaken, and significant QCAN volunteer hours over 250 hours.
- QCAN representatives on the Barwon South West Community Power Hub
- QCAN leading the local drive behind Geelong Sustainability community solar bulk buy in 2021.
- QCAN established and led the CERP Community Leaders Forums.
- QCAN representatives on the Barwon Region Alliance for Community Energy (BRACE).
- Junior QCAN, a program for local primary school aged children to act on climate change e.g. Ride to school days, Clean up days.

QCAN coordinated with support from Council several Community Leaders Forums in partnership with Council in the first three years of the CERP to promote the plan, review short-term CERP priorities and identify opportunities to work together to implement it.

Local organisations who attended one or more Forums and went on to implement their own actions. Below are a list of the organisations and examples of what they have implemented:

**Bellarine Community Health**

- An energy audit of BCH sites
- Establishing an Environmental Sustainability Advisory Group
- Replacing individual staff bins with a centralised bin system to separate waste and improve recycling
- Fitting timers to hydronic heaters
- Decommissioning a high energy using cool room
- Installing an electric vehicle charger for free community use

- Supporting local primary schools with active transport activities
- Providing opportunities for young people to learn about sustainable food practices through the Youth Guerrilla Garden and Farm My School and more...

### **Cottage by the Sea**

- Installation of a 22.4kW rooftop solar system will generate enough power to meet about 30 percent of Cottage by the Sea's annual energy needs. Along with the installation of an EV charging unit.

### **Queenscliff Music Festival**

#### **Queenscliff Music Festival (QMF) Partnership**

- A partnership between QCAN and QMF where QMF allocated Emission Reduction Credits (a voluntary contribution made by QMF festival attendees) to support QCAN and other organisations contributing to actions within the CERP, reducing local carbon emissions, and supporting our community to become a Zero Carbon Community. Donations by QMF have already been allocated to support solar at Queenscliff Primary School and Saint Aloysius Primary School. QCAN volunteers staffed a stall at the festival in 2023 and 2024, together with local conservation and environmental groups.

### **Queenscliff Neighbourhood House**

- Solar, Battery & Energy Efficiency upgrades.

### **Swan Bay Environment Association**

- Swan Bay Environment Association (SBEA) works in partnership to support the Environmental Regeneration Pillar. There were 6 Pocket Parks revegetated across the Borough, a total of 2,336 seedlings planted, and an estimated seventy volunteers involved. QCAN supported this action and Council with preparation, maintenance, and promotion of sites.

<b>Community Groups and Organisations involved in CERP Implementation:</b>
Anglican Church
Barwon South West Community Power Hub
Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group
Bellarine Catchment Network
Anglican Church
Barwon South West Community Power Hub
Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group
Bellarine Catchment Network
Anglican Church
Barwon South West Community Power Hub
Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group

<b>Community Groups and Organisations involved in CERP Implementation:</b>
Bellarine Catchment Network
Anglican Church
Barwon South West Community Power Hub
Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group
Bellarine Catchment Network
Lighthouse Arts Collective
Point Lonsdale Board Riders
Point Lonsdale Bowling Club
Point Lonsdale Civic Association
Point Lonsdale Primary School
Queenscliff Community Association
Queenscliff Cricket Club
Lighthouse Arts Collective
Point Lonsdale Board Riders
Point Lonsdale Bowling Club
Point Lonsdale Civic Association
Point Lonsdale Primary School
Queenscliff Community Association
Queenscliff Cricket Club
Lighthouse Arts Collective
Queenscliff Environment Forum
Queenscliff Historical Museum
Queenscliff Maritime Museum
Uniting Church
Queenscliff Environment Forum
Queenscliff Historical Museum
Queenscliff Maritime Museum
Uniting Church

### **3. Legislative:**

**An overview of how the Borough of Queenscliffe's climate emergency actions and initiatives compare with existing State and Federal legislation and strategies.**

Identification of potential duplication, overlap or redundancy with Council's climate actions and those undertaken by higher levels of government.

#### **Federal Government**

In 2012 the Council of Australian Governments (CoAG) prepared a joint paper entitled - *Roles and Responsibilities for Climate Change Adaptation in Australia*. The document set out the principles for the management of climate-change risks, and roles and responsibilities for adapting to climate change within the three tiers of government.

The paper states:

The three levels of governments in Australia have different responsibilities and therefore have differentiated, yet complementary, roles in helping Australia adapt to the impacts of climate change. In many cases climate change adaptation will be most effectively managed by a single State, Territory or Local Government. In other cases, a combined response by several governments or tiers of governments will be required.

In describing the role of Local Government, CoAG said:

Local governments are on the frontline in dealing with the impacts of climate change. They have a critical role to play in ensuring that particular local circumstances are adequately considered in the overall adaptation response and in involving the local community directly in efforts to facilitate effective change.

Among the direction provided to all tiers of Government, CoAG said that Local Governments would:

- Administer relevant state and territory and/or Commonwealth legislation to promote adaptation as required including the application of relevant codes, such as the Building Code of Australia.
- Manage risks and impacts to public assets owned and managed by local governments.
- Manage risks and impacts to local government service delivery.
- Collaborate across councils and with State and Territory Governments to manage risks of regional climate change impacts.
- Ensure policies and regulations under their jurisdiction, including local planning and development regulations, incorporate climate change considerations and are consistent with State and Commonwealth Government adaptation approaches.
- Facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in the local community, including through providing information about relevant climate change risks.
- Work in partnership with the community, locally based and relevant NGOs, business and other key stakeholders to manage the risks and impacts associated with climate change; and
- Contribute appropriate resources to prepare, prevent, respond and recover from detrimental climatic impacts

The adoption of the CERP and subsequent implementation goes some way to address the requirements of the CoAG agreement. The CERP and the actions Council undertakes to implement the objectives of the CERP fall into the category of a **complementary role** described in the COAG document.

The Borough CERP is unique because it also incorporates the collaborative approach with community as prescribed in the CoAG document. The CERP meets the requirements of the CoAG agreement by facilitating, supporting and working in partnership with local community.

There is clear overlap between the objectives of the Federal legislation and the CERP, in particular the *Climate Change Act 2022* which begins with objective to:

*to advance an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change drawing on the best available scientific knowledge.*

The targets within the CERP and the supporting actions are a local response to that overarching legislative objective.

### **State Government**

The *Roles and Responsibilities for Climate Change Adaptation in Australia* paper, includes a description of the roles for State Government. One of those roles is for State Governments to encourage climate resilience and adaptive capacity, which includes:

supporting Local Government to facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in the local community and to ensure that policies and regulations are consistent with State Government adaptation approaches.

There are two legislative triggers that the State employs to ensure alignment. The *Local Government Act 2020* includes an overarching governance principle - *that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted*

In many aspects the CERP meets this principle for Council. It includes clear mitigation actions and promotes environmental sustainability.

The CERP identifies some of the climate risks and includes actions which require Council to develop a deeper understanding of the climate impact risks. This aspect of the CERP also enables Council to meet the strategic planning principles set out under s.89 of the *Local Government Act 2020* which states:

*strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation.*

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 is the second legislative trigger; it requires councils to prepare a Municipal Public Health Wellbeing Plan every four years. Under section 26(3) of The Public health and Wellbeing Act 2008 in preparing a:

municipal public health and wellbeing plan, a Council must have regard to the State Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

The State Public Health and wellbeing Plan (Plan) includes the following priority area:

## Tackling Climate change and its impacts on health

Both climate change mitigation and adaptation-focused activities can create conditions that have benefits across a range of health and wellbeing priorities.

Council incorporated the municipal health and wellbeing plan into the Council Plan.

In many aspects the CERP enables Council to meet its statutory responsibility and address the States priorities as incorporated into the Council Plan as health and wellbeing objectives.

In both these cases the CERP enables Council to play a **complementary role** as defined by the CoAG agreement.

This complementary role does overlap with Federal and State functions and activity, but it does not duplicate the roles played by higher levels of Government. As the CoAG agreement introduction states:

*Governments at all levels, businesses, households and the community each have important, complementary and differentiated roles in adapting to the impacts of climate change.*

The CERP is part of our contribution to this broad collaborative approach.

### **Next Steps:**

This report for Council will become a background paper to the formal CERP review planned to commence in late 2025.