



Ordinary Meeting of Council Attachments

Monday 27 April 2026

Council Chamber

ATTACHMENTS

DIRECTOR CORPORATE

2. Reports of Councillor Briefings

Attachment 1:	2026 March 16 - Councillor Briefing Public Record	3
Attachment 2:	2026 March 27 - Councillor Briefing Public Record	4
Attachment 3:	2026 April 13 - Councillor Briefing Public Record	5

3. Councillor Representation Reports

Attachment 1:	2026 February 26 - Maroondah Business Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes	7
Attachment 2:	2026 March 04 - Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes	11
Attachment 3:	2026 March 18 - Maroondah Liveability Safety and Amenity Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes	16

DIRECTOR CITY GROWTH & PRECINCTS

. Adoption of the Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026-2030

Attachment 1:	Round 2 Consultation Summary - Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026-2030	21
Attachment 2:	Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026-2030 - Final for Adoption	25

1. Adoption of the Climate Adaptation Plan 2026-2031

Attachment 1:	Draft Climate Adaptation Plan 2026-2031 - Final - April 2026	45
Attachment 2:	Draft Climate Change Plan Engagement Report - March 2026	73



COUNCILLOR BRIEFING – PUBLIC RECORD

Briefing Details:

Date: Monday 16 March 2026 Time: 6:00pm Location: Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Realm

All items discussed at a Councillor Briefing are considered confidential in nature.

Attendees:

Councillors		
Cr Linda Hancock (Mayor)	Cr Daniella Heatherich	Cr Paul Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Claire Rex	Cr Kylie Spears	Cr Rob Steane OAM
Council Officers:		
Steve Kozlowski	Chief Executive Officer	
Tony Rocca	Director Corporate	
Adam Todorov	Director Assets & Leisure	
Marianne Di Giallonardo	Director Community	
Andrew Fuaux	Director City Growth & Precincts	
Joanne Ellis	Governance Officer	
Tim Cocks	Manager Leisure & Major Facilities	Item 2
Phil Medley	Manager Governance & Performance	Item 3

Apologies:

Councillors:	Cr Chris Jones, Cr Nathaniel Henderson and Cr Catherine Gordon
Council Officers:	Nil

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil

Items Discussed:

1	Council Meeting Agenda
2	Capital Funding for Community Groups - 2026/2027
3	Changes to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework
4	Items of a General Nature as Raised by Councillors

Record completed by:

Council Officer	Joanne Ellis
Title	Governance Officer



COUNCILLOR BRIEFING – PUBLIC RECORD

Briefing Details:

Date: 27 - 29 March 2026 Location: Phillip Island

All items discussed at a Councillor Briefing are considered confidential in nature.

Attendees:

Councillors		
Cr Linda Hancock (Mayor)	Cr Catherine Gordon	Cr Daniella Heatherich
Cr Paul Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)	Cr Claire Rex	Cr Kylie Spears
Cr Chris Jones	Cr Nathaniel Henderson	Cr Rob Steane OAM
Council Officers:		
Steve Kozlowski	Chief Executive Officer	
Tony Rocca	Director Corporate	
Adam Todorov	Director Assets & Leisure	
Marianne Di Giallonardo	Director Community	
Andrew Fuaux	Director City Growth & Precincts	

Apologies:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil

Items Discussed:

1	Long Term Outlook
2	Operational Outcomes
3	Pipeline Projects & Priorities
4	Strategic Issues
5	Councillor Forum

Record completed by:

Council Officer	Tony Rocca
Title	Director Corporate



COUNCILLOR BRIEFING – PUBLIC RECORD

Briefing Details:

Date: Monday 13 April 2026 Time: 6:00pm Location: Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Realm

All items discussed at a Councillor Briefing are considered confidential in nature.

Attendees:

Councillors		
Cr Linda Hancock (Mayor)	Cr Catherine Gordon	Cr Daniella Heatherich
Cr Paul Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)	Cr Claire Rex	Cr Kylie Spears
Cr Chris Jones	Cr Nathaniel Henderson	Cr Rob Steane OAM
Council Officers:		
Steve Kozlowski	Chief Executive Officer	
Stephen Bishop	Acting Director Corporate	
Adam Todorov	Director Assets & Leisure	
Marianne Di Giallonardo	Director Community	
Andrew Fuaux	Director City Growth & Precincts	
Joanne Ellis	Governance Officer	
Hannah White	Manager Finance & Commercial	Item 1
Nathan Bachmann	Coordinator Assets Strategic Projects	2
Grant Meyer	Manager City Futures	3
John Richardson	Coordinator Assets Projects & Facilities	4
Sherryn Dunshea	Manager Executive Office	5

Apologies:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Tony Rocca, Director Corporate

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil

Items Discussed:

1	Rates Collection and Financial Hardship Policy
2	Heathmont Village Reserve Enhancement Plan
3	Adoption of Climate Change Plan 2026-2031
4	Tender Evaluation Report - Contract 21103 Design & Construction of Bowling Green Canopy
5	Advocacy Projects 2026/27
6	ERG Advocacy Update
7	Community Assistance Fund - Approval Table for Individual/Organisation - April 2026
8	Councillor Delegates' Meeting Report
9	Items of a General Nature as Raised by Councillors

Record completed by:

Council Officer	Joanne Ellis
Title	Governance Officer



Maroondah Business Advisory Committee – Minutes

Meeting Details:

Date: Thursday 26 February 2026

Time: 9:30am - 12:00pm

Location: Karralyka - Mines Road, Ringwood East

Attendees:

<p>Councillors Cr Kylie Spears (Chair) Cr Chris Jones (Deputy Chair) Cr Rob Steane OAM</p> <p>Council Officers: Andrew Fuaux, Director City Growth and Precincts Chris Zidak, Manager Business and Precincts Rhiannon Mahony, Team Leader Business Development & Strategic Projects Chloe Messerle, Senior Governance Officer (Minute Taker)</p>
<p>Business Representatives: Jenny Newman, Maroondah Business Group Geoff Daniel, The Casual GM Simon Fuller, Contek Constructions James Braunegg, Micron21 Pty Ltd (entered the meeting at 9:41am) Marcus Young, Incarta IT Jessica Shaw, True Fairies Dr Louisa Ellum, Swinburne University of Technology Aman Chandra, AusPac Finance</p>

Apologies:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Steve Kozlowski, Chief Executive Officer Andrew Binks, Bayswater Business Precinct Coordinator
Business Representatives:	Greg Balmforth, Eastland QIC, Jodie Murphy, Eastland QIC, Claudia Gatt, Braille Tactile Signs Aust

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil
Business Representatives:	Nil

Items Discussed

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Spears opened the meeting and provided an acknowledgement of country.

2. WELCOME

Cr Spears welcomed all members and introduced new members.

3. ITEMS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ITEM 4.1

Cr Spears provided an update regarding the new Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference were confirmed.

CEO UPDATE - ANDREW FUAUX

ITEM 4.2

Andrew Fuaux provided an update on the changes at the Croydon Community Cultural Hub and upcoming upgrade to Croydon Main Street.

He also discussed the ways in which Melbourne's East councils are approaching working more collaboratively on initiatives to create shared value to benefit the region.

James Braunegg entered the meeting at 9:41am.

MBG UPDATE - JENNY NEWMAN

ITEM 4.3

Jenny Newman provided an update regarding policy, governance and future proofing MBG, noting recent board changes.

Member survey results from 2025 are providing guidance on what members value, event preferences and format & logistics of events.

SECTOR UPDATES - COMMITTEE MEMBER ROUND TABLE

ITEM 4.4

The Casual GM - Shifts in the structure of the corporate sector workforce is driving a new wave of ex-corporate employees starting management consulting businesses. New technologies such as AI are changing the businesses and corporate sector.

Incarta - Impact of AI is significant, and will include significant job losses. Companies are using it in development, and it creates lots of opportunities, however AI must be able to be used with a level of competence and confidence. A systematic analysis of scientific literature found that of 30 published models, not one was correctly predicting what the designers said they were. This is a major issue that needs to be addressed.

Real estate - Buyers are back in the market but prices have not peaked yet. Rental market is tight and continues to fall due to investors. Presentation is key where previously it was based on location.

Liquor Licensing/Hospitality consulting and training - New Services Victoria model technology integration being navigated by sector.

IT Industry - Risk management focus and rationalisation of software and infrastructure - stock market supply chain pressures. Cautionary tales regarding the use of AI.

AusPac Finance - interest rates going up along with inflation, economic forecasts and predictions are not always reflecting the outcome. Tenure is critical for investment. Unregulated private lending is becoming an issue.

Contek Constructions - Labour costs increasing and additional compliance impacting profitability and sustainability Material costs increasing. Public and private sector is further tightening budgets, price persisting as key competitive factor.

True Fairies - Event demand declining as costs of living rise. Noticing more adults using event function spaces than children's functions. In the creative sector,. Emerging demand for neurodiverse-friendly events. AI voiceovers are taking over a standard voiceovers.

Micron21 - Growing emphasis on sovereign infrastructure and sovereign data safety and security capabilities. Overseas political events impacting, power and water consumptions an industry issue. Noticing an increase in attempted cyber-attacks.

Braille Tactile Signs - Overall sentiment remains cautiously optimistic, with resilience, capability and innovation shaping the sector's direction in 2026. Cost pressures have moderated slightly, however continue to impact margins and skilled labour shortages persist. There is growing emphasis on sovereign capability and Australian-made supply chains.

2026 BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAM

ITEM 4.5

Rhiannon Mahony provided an update on the planned 2026 Business Support Program which included -

- Maroondah BizMonth - May 2026 - Theme: Building on Success
- Maroondah Business Excellence Awards (Nominations open in April; Awards Gala Dinner 17 September, Sponsorship program now open)
- BizHub Coworking - workspace enhancements, dedicated meeting room, refreshed messaging, digital marketing campaign and coworking software upgrades.
- Other events: Women in Business (Q4 2026) and Future East Showcase (Q3 2026)
- BizHub website upgrade migration to Council website for improved user experience and accessibility (live 1 April 2026)
- Small Business Friendly Council Charter - Council's commitment to make it easier to start, run and grow a business locally.

BUSINESS GROWTH AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY UPDATE

ITEM 4.6

Chris Zidak spoke about undertaking and implementation of the Business Growth and Resilience Strategy, the upcoming Final Draft Strategy and Public Exhibition on 2026 before formal Council adoption.

Chris spoke about the ways in which businesses can be affected and provided an understanding as to how Councils can find ways to assist with growth and resilience. Further to that providing assistance through Council's contacts to assist businesses.

CENTRE FOR REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION UPDATE ITEM 4.7

Chris Zidak shared a question previously asked - *What would be a game changing initiative for your sector delivered by the Centre for Regional Knowledge & Innovation?*

Chris discussed the Mapping Business Support Functions through the Resourcing Matrix provided and highlighting Serviced Delivery Planning and the Development of Operating Plans.

FOCUS SECTOR - MBAC MEMBER - DR LOUISA ELLUM, SWINBURNE ITEM 4.8
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Swinburne provided an update on the institute's new strategy, Ad Astra. Aligned with State and Federal governments, Jobs and Skills Councils looking at the cross over of industry and tertiary education - *What are the cohorts that we need to be focusing on and how do we do this?* - and focuses on improving access and equity into tertiary education for all learners.

Working effectively with the qualifications and the employment sectors is a requirement to understand the future and create education streams of the future. There is an advance towards stackable modular credentials whilst building more foundational supports and additional scaffolded entry points so people can get where they want to go, even it requires taking a bit longer.

Collaboration between Swinburne and Maroondah will allow for broader lens on tertiary education pathways.

WORKSHOP: BUSINESS WORKFORCE SKILLS (MCC/SUT PRIORITY ITEM 4.9
PROJECT)

Chris Zidak spoke about the partnership between Council and Swinburne University of Technology, highlighting the following workshop on Business Workforce Skills - identifying the objectives and discussing the outcomes.

The committee broke into two groups and discussed the most pressing skills gaps in each workforce sector, the future skills crucial to the sector's success, barriers to closing the skills gap and ways to initiate change.

GENERAL BUSINESS - CR SPEARS ITEM 4.10

Cr Spears advised there was no general business.

MEETING CLOSE - NEXT MEETING: 14 MAY 2026 ITEM 4.11

Cr Spears closed the meeting advising the next meeting day is May 2026 to be held at Realm.

The Meeting concluded at 12:00pm.



Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee – Minutes

Meeting Details:

Date: Wednesday 4 March 2026

Optional Pre Tour	Time: 6:30pm -7:00pm	Location: Realm Building
Committee Meeting	Time: 7:00pm - 8.30pm	Location: Realm Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

Attendees:

Councillors

- Cr Nathaniel Henderson (Chair)
- Cr Kylie Spears (Deputy Chair)
- Cr Paul Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)

Council Officers:

- Andrew Fuaux, Director City Growth and Precincts
- Chris Zidak, Manager Business & Precincts
- Elissa Bates, Manager Creative Places
- Elise Murphy, Coordinator Arts and Culture
- Brit Josephs, Theatre Programs and Events Coordinator
- Joanne Ellis, Governance Officer (Minute Taker)

Community and Creative Industries Representatives:

- Caitlyn Lyons-Wood - Director of Strategic Design and Insights, AUSTRAC
- Denise Warren - Ringwood Arts Society President and Artist
- Grace Kop - Box Office Administration, MSO and Administration Officer, NGV
- Joanne Watt - Multi-Arts and Community Development
- Katie Stackhouse - Independent Artist
- Kim Meadowcroft - Art Guide - Publisher and Editor
- Kimberley Meagher - Historian
- Lynette Orzlowski - Professional Artist and Arts Educator
- Paul Janssen - President of the Croydon Citizens' Band and Musician
- Willow Woodman - Maroondah Symphony Orchestra Committee Member and Musician
- Zya Kane - Independent Performer, Director, Producer and Theatre Maker

Apologies:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil
Community and Creative Industries Representatives:	Maryanne Leavey - Theatre and Events Manager, Aquinas College

Sharyn Mullens Taylor OAM - Executive Director, Fresh Theatre for Social Change and Head of Arts, Luther College
 Wendy Catling - Independent Artist and Visual Arts Faculty Coordinator, Wesley College

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil
Community and Creative Industries Representatives:	Nil

Items Discussed

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Henderson opened the meeting and read an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. WELCOME

Cr Henderson welcomed all to the meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2025 ITEM 3

The minutes of the October 2025 meeting were moved by consensus.

4. ITEMS

MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS - QUICK ROUND TABLE ITEM 4.1

The group went around the table to introduce themselves. Members were asked to update their contact details for Council records.

MAAC TERMS OF REFERENCE - OVERVIEW AND ADOPTION ITEM 4.2

The 2026 MAAC Terms of Reference were moved by consensus.

SERVICE PROFILE PRESENTATION - Q&A ITEM 4.3

Chris Zidak introduced the item.

Elissa Bates provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Creative Places Service Profile and links to the Council Plan.

Brit Josephs discussed the Venue Operations including Karralyka, Federation Estate, Hall Hire and Café services at Maroondah venues.

Elise Murphy discussed Arts and Cultural Services in Maroondah.

Members asked a variety of questions about service delivery and engagement, and Elissa provided the information as requested.

DRAFT CREATIVE MAROONDAH STRATEGY 2026-2030 FINAL
CONSULTATION WORKSHOP - PRIORITY ACTIONS

ITEM 4.4

Elissa Bates advised the Committee that the Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026-2030 is in its second and final stage of community consultation, with the draft strategy now available for review by the community. This strategy replaces the Arts & Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025, and will inform Creative Places service delivery for the next four years.

Elissa provided the timeline for the second round of consultation which closes on 2 April with the Strategy being presented to Council for approval on 18 May and commencing on 1 July 2026 through until 30 June 2030.

The Committee were divided into 3 groups to discuss the outcome areas from the Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026-2030 and to rate their importance.

Group 1 discussed Outcome Area One: **Creative Community** and determined the priority actions for Year 1 and 2 implementation to be:

- **1.1** Support First Peoples community-led arts and cultural development through resource sharing, joint initiatives and collaboration with Aboriginal services, artists, and organisations.
- **1.3** Review operational grants to ensure all Council funding is in line with industry best practice for public funding and aligned with council's adopted grant policies and guidelines.
- **1.4** Connect our creative community groups through joint programming, co-tenancies, arts events and activations.
- **1.5** Engage young people and LGBTQI+ communities through responsive arts initiatives, training and mentorship programs.
- **1.7** Deliver accessible arts and cultural development projects that enhance wellbeing, creativity and social inclusion for those experiencing barriers to participation including those living with disability.

Group 1 also discussed Outcome Area Two: **Creative Places** and determined the priority actions for Year 1 and 2 implementation to be:

- **2.1** Continue to optimise Karralyka as a regionally significant performing arts and function centre through facility, program and audience development
- **2.4** Deliver an annual free and low cost "Arts in the Park" program featuring unique arts events and ephemeral installations to increase participation, activation and vibrancy of arts precincts.
- **2.6** Continue to realise the Wyreena Master Plan including completion and re-activation of the upgraded Conservatory Café to position this regional community arts centre for success.

- **2.7** Integrate creative way finding and public arts elements into urban and infrastructure design projects within current and future major arts and community facilities and precincts.
- It was noted that all items relating to Maroondah Federation Estate revitalisation and the development of Croydon Community Wellbeing Hub were already established as a Council priority for years one and two.

Group 2 discussed Outcome Area Three: **Creative Programs** and determined the priority actions for Year 1 and 2 implementation to be:

- **3.3** Expand the offering of low-cost and free arts initiatives that target and support arts engagement by those with financial barriers to participation.
- **3.6** Explore an ongoing framework for children and young people to inform creative programming for their peers within arts venues.
- **3.7** Support youth-led initiatives, mentorship programs, and youth representation on arts working groups and committees.
- **3.8** Further develop creative opportunities for older adults to engage with community, including inter-generational arts initiatives.
- **3.14** Explore joint exhibition programs with local arts groups where there is a broader community benefit upheld by an equitable engagement process.

Group 2 also discussed Outcome Area Four: **Creative Partnerships** and determined the priority actions for Year 1 and 2 implementation to be:

- **4.2** Continue to develop the Maroondah Arts Network to connect artists, arts workers, businesses, services and enthusiasts through relevant and engaging networking and training opportunities
- **4.5** Support cross-sector collaborations and joint projects with key social, cultural and community service providers using the arts as a tool for targeted engagement.
- **4.6** Encourage and provide professional advice to external arts and community groups, schools and arts organisations about opportunities, industry links and best practice and
- **4.7** Work in partnership with Mullum Mullum Aboriginal Gathering Place and other First Peoples service providers on First Peoples led arts projects that support Reconciliation principles.
- **4.11** Working in partnership with Your Library, continue to explore and deliver collective programs that support learning and engagement with arts- literature initiatives.
- **4.13** Continue to nurture and develop relationships with local arts groups through program partnerships, tenancies, community facility hire rates, and cross-promotion to steward local arts staying within Maroondah.

Group 3 discussed Outcome Area Five: **Creative Industry** and determined the priority actions for Year 1 and 2 implementation to be:

- **5.2** Advocate for affordable creative workspaces and studios within Maroondah, including co-working and maker-space models.
- **5.7** Develop and deliver artist-in-residence and mentoring programs at Wyreena and Maroondah Federation Estate, prioritising local and emerging artists to help grow and strengthen their practice.
- **5.10** Work with commercial and community stakeholders to explore the potential to attract major creative services/organisations to locate within Maroondah to boost local cultural economy.

- **5.11** Develop educational partnerships with tertiary institutions to enable community-based learning through formal placements and mentorship programs for disciplines such as theatre production, curatorial, public art and arts management disciplines.
- **5.12** Continue to deliberatively engage with industry and community representatives of the Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee to guide local creative service priorities; harness opportunities; and discover emerging trends.

Group 3 also discussed Outcome Area Six: **Creative Communications** and determined the priority actions for Year 1 and 2 implementation to be:

- **6.5** Use data-metrics and data collected from attendance, participation, sales, engagement and feedback mechanism to continuously refine and improve creative services and reach.
- **6.6** Establish a partnership model to promote local community arts activities within Council venues, and artistic achievements through Creative Places media channels.
- **6.7** Establish easy to use feedback loops such as surveys, polls, online engagement platforms etc that encourage quick and simple ways to provide feedback on creative services at events and arts venues.

Elissa advised the Committee she will distribute the link to the “Your Say” page for feedback on the Strategy and encouraged all Committee members to take the time to make a submission.

ACTION: Elissa to distribute the link to the “Your Say” page for feedback on the Strategy which closes on 2 April 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 4.5

Denise Warren queried how to obtain further information about the draft Strategy. Elissa advised the link to the “Your Say” page contains information about the background of the Strategy, and invited members to make contact if they would like a follow up consultation meeting.

Elissa Bates advised she would send information to committee members about how to follow the arts in Maroondah including social networks and mailings lists to subscribe to, noting the importance of members being informed of current service offerings.

ACTION: Elissa to send members the links to social networks and mailing lists.

CLOSE OF MEETING - NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026,
KARRALYKA

ITEM 4.6

Cr Henderson closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The Meeting concluded at: 8:39pm



Maroondah Liveability Safety and Amenity Committee – Minutes

Meeting Details:

Date: Wednesday 18 March 2026 Time: 9:30am - 12:00pm Location: Meeting Rooms
1 & 2, Realm

Attendees:

Councillors

Cr Claire Rex (Chair)
Cr Rob Steane OAM (Deputy Chair)
Cr Daniella Heatherich (left the meeting at 11:33am)

Council Officers:

Kirsten Jenkins, Manager Community Safety and Projects
Nicole Daws, Place Manager Activity Centres
Sharyn Davey-Sharman, Coordinator Local Laws
Rosie Sheehan, Community Development Officer
Joanne Ellis, Governance Officer (Minute Taker)
Michael Blowfield, Transport and Sustainability Planner Item 4.4
Martyn Furlong, Team Leader Local Laws Item 4.5
Belinda Rose, Acting Manager Community Safety Item 4.6

Community Representatives:

Terrence Flynn
Ken Rosenhain
Margaret Matters
Don Kordick (arrived at 9:48am)
Louise Daniel

Agency Representatives:

Sam Bartlett, Croydon Main Street Traders Association
Gordon Allan, QIC Eastland
Senior Sergeant Melanie Woods, Victoria Police
Senior Sergeant Kate Isherwood, Victoria Police
Senior Sergeant Ryan Wheeler, Victoria Police
Sarah Treweek, Yarra Valley Water
Jeska Dee, Melbourne Water
Peta Koopmans, Mullum Mullum Aboriginal Gathering Place (arrived 10:08am)

Apologies:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Andrew Fuaux, Director City Growth and Precincts Marianne Di Giallonardo, Director Community Anita Ransom, Coordinator Strategic Planning and Sustainability
Community Representatives:	Nil
Agency Representatives:	Acting Senior Sergeant Jo Konomas, Croydon Police Station, Victoria Police Senior Sergeant Ray White, Ringwood Police Station, Victoria Police Kathryn Collier, METEC Acting Inspector Adam Clarkson, Maroondah Police Service Area - Local Commander, Victoria Police Anthony Glover, Metro Trains Senior Sergeant Michelle Maslen, Victoria Police Michael Hassett - Melbourne East Bicycle User Group

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil
Community Representatives:	Nil
Agency Representatives:	Nil

Items Discussed

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Cr Rex opened the meeting and read an Acknowledgement of Country

2. WELCOME

Cr Rex welcomed all to the meeting

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

ITEM 3

The minutes were moved by consensus.

4. ITEMS

COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS

ITEM 4.1

The group went around the table to introduce themselves.

CONFIRMATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE ITEM 4.2

The Terms of Reference were moved by consensus.

PROPOSED TIME CHANGE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS ITEM 4.3

The Committee determined to retain the current meeting time of 9:30am - 11:30am.

PRINCIPAL PEDESTRIAN NETWORK ITEM 4.4

Michael Blowfield, Transport and Sustainability Planner provided the Committee an update on the Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) Review.

Michael advised the Committee that a review was undertaken of the PPN which was introduced in 2009. This was prompted by changes in the urban landscape and demographics among other factors.

Michael noted the community had been invited to provide feedback in a range of ways to develop an updated plan that best reflects current needs. The consultation period has recently closed and the feedback is currently being analysed.

Michael requested each Committee member to provide information on each of the following:

- Was any of the feedback a surprise?
- Is the feedback consistent / different to what you would expect from your community network / organisation?
- What are your thoughts on the priority scoring criteria and tiers?

The above information provided by each Committee member will be included in the consultation report for the PPN.

The Victoria Police members on the Committee advised it would be beneficial for them to be provided with the data surrounding areas where people do not feel safe.

Don Kordick arrived at 9:48am

Peta Koopmans arrived at 10:08am

STREET ACTIVITIES POLICY REVIEW ITEM 4.5

Sharyn Davey-Sharman, Coordinator Local Laws and Martyn Furlong, Team Leader Local Laws provided the Committee with information regarding the current Street Activities Policy Review.

Sharyn explained the purpose of the review and how feedback is being sought from businesses, internal stakeholders and the community and to ensure the Policy and associated Guidelines align with best practice.

Martyn discussed the items covered under the Street Activity Policy and also provided information about activities that are not covered under this Policy including festivals, sporting events and extended outdoor dining.

Martyn explained the footpath activity zones and the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and their impact on footpath trading activities.

The Committee were broken up into three groups to discuss the current principles for the Street Activity Policy.

Group 1: Public Safety and Accessibility for All.

Feedback included:

- Need to balance vibrancy and safety.
- Want areas to feel inviting.
- If people feel safe this drives confidence for people to engage in a space.
- If trading and dining could be located directly in front of the shop then wait staff would not have to cross pedestrian traffic.

Group 2: Vibrant Street Life and Prosperous Economy.

Feedback included:

- Variety of business types in areas to attract customers.
- Passive security provided by customers.
- Encouraging customers to engage in their local areas.

Group 3: Attractive Streetscape and Leisure Opportunities.

Feedback included:

- Enjoyment of outdoor dining.
- Need to feel safe from traffic.
- Sheltered from weather.

TOBACCO AND E-CIGARETTE POLICY REVIEW

ITEM 4.6

Belinda Rose, Acting Manager Community Safety provided a powerpoint presentation relating to the Draft Tobacco and E-Cigarette Policy.

Belinda advised that Council are currently undertaking community consultation surrounding a proposed policy which expands on the current State Government legislation. The community consultation closes on 7 April.

Belinda explained that Council are hoping to expand the current 10 metre smoke / vape free zone at underage sporting events to include all sporting events and extend the 4 metre smoke / vape free area at the entrance of childcare centres and kindergartens to be 10 metres around these buildings.

Belinda noted that signage would be provided advising any restricted spaces and that smoke and vape-free requirements would be included in all community group leases and licences. There was some discussion regarding the inadequacy of regulations preventing increasing numbers of vape and tobacco retailers opening up.

The Committee were split into groups of 2 to provide feedback on the proposal's benefits and challenges.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons including:

- Who was expected to enforce these rules?
- Are there incentives Council can offer community groups to discourage tobacco and e-cigarette usage?
- Cost and ability of Council to resource enforcement services when required.
- Community “self-enforcement” - most people will do the right thing particularly if it is well signed
- Community education surrounding expectations.
- It is good in theory but practical implementation may be a challenge.

Cr Heatherich left the meeting at 11:33am

CLOSE OF MEETING - NEXT MEETING: 3 JUNE 2026

ITEM 4.7

Cr Rex closed the meeting and thanked all members for their attendance.

She advised the next meeting will be held on 3 June at 9:30am

The Meeting concluded at: 11:40am

Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026 - 2030

Round 2 Consultation Summary

Consultation Overview

The Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026–2030 provides a framework for the delivery of priority areas for creative services in partnership with the Maroondah community over the next four years and replaces the current Arts and Cultural Development Strategy (2020-2025).

Informed through strategic alignment with the Council Plan, Maroondah 2050, current policy directions, and best practice, this strategy recognises the transformative role of creativity in shaping vibrant, resilient, and inclusive communities.

The development of the Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026–2030 was shaped by extensive community and industry consultation and engagement, with 5,191 responses across all consultation platforms and activities, resulting in significant data that directly shaped the strategy themes and priorities.

The strategy is supported by six strategic outcome areas of Creative Community, Places, Programs, Partnerships, Industry and Communications that deliver the vision of “*A vibrant, creative and connected community*”.

Consultation Activities

- **Your Say Community Consultation Round 1:** Through the Your Say Consultation Survey, we gathered input from over 167 residents of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.
- **Targeted Stakeholders:** Engagement with key internal Council services, local artists, creative businesses, cultural organisations, and educators provided sector-specific insights, representing around 180 contributions.
- **Café Consult:** Interactive sessions at the Council Cafe at Maroondah Festival enabled us to connect with families, young people, and culturally diverse, receiving a total of 4,680 contributions from around 1,306 people.
- **Council Advisory Committees:** Feedback was sought through workshops with five of Maroondah’s Advisory Committees, including the Arts, Disability, Environment, Liveability, Safety and Amenity, Community Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committees; plus the Youth Wellbeing Advocates Group and the Reconciliation Partnership Group, representing around 120 contributions.
- **CMT & Council Briefing:** The draft strategy was presented to CMT on 9 February 2026, and then at Councillor Briefing on 16 February 2026. Feedback provided by Councillors was directly input into the draft survey that was presented for Round 2 consultation.
- **Your Say Community Consultation Round 2:** The updated draft strategy was posted on Your Say and sought survey inputs over a 6 week period, resulting in 44 responses, plus direct consultation with MAAC, Maroondah Reconciliation Partnership Group and Youth Wellbeing Network. Rich feedback was provided regarding the action priorities, and gap analysis which is summarised in the remaining sections of this document.

Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026 - 2030

Round 2 Consultation Summary

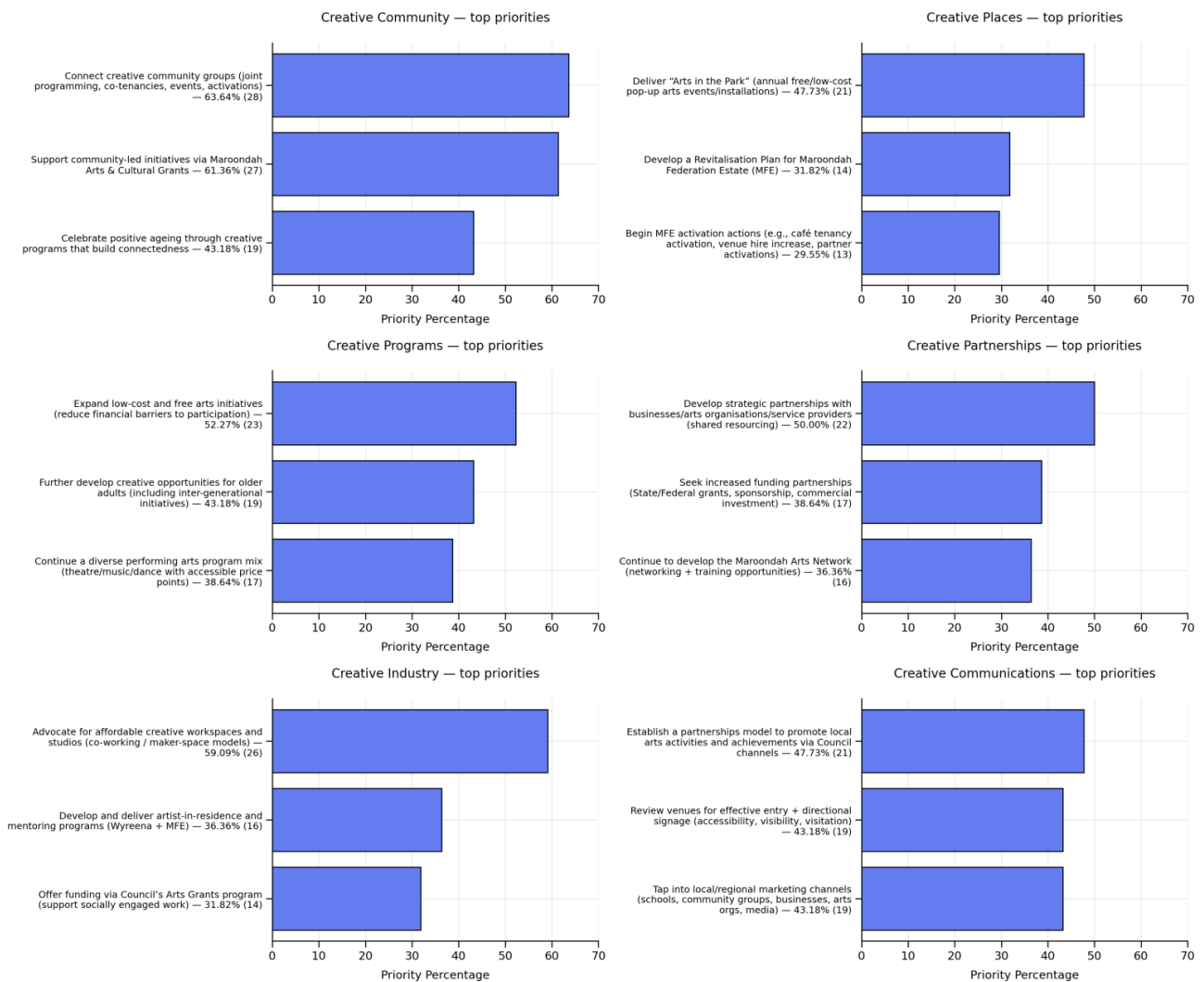
Round 2 Consultation Summary

Survey Contributions

- 44 survey contributions
- Genders represented: 75% female; 20% male; 2.5% non-binary; 2.5% prefer not to say
- Ages represented: 15years - 84 years, most were 40 - 69yrs
- Suburbs: 95% Maroondah, 5% adjoining Council areas
- Past contributors: 20% contributed to Round 1 consultation; 80% new contributors

Priority Actions

Respondents selected their top three actions for each outcome area, summarised as follows, and reflected in the strategy as Years 1 & 2 priorities, or ongoing Years 1-4 deliverables.



Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026 - 2030

Round 2 Consultation Summary

Feedback on the Strategy Action Plan

Survey respondents were asked to provide comment on the action plan, and specifically if ‘anything was missing’. Overall, the feedback was incredibly positive, and key inputs have not altered the strategy direction in any way, instead reaffirm the importance of key directions, placing greater emphasis on selected items to expand in detail. A summary of this feedback along with the actions taken to address these inputs within the final strategy is captured in the table below.

Theme / gap area	Feedback themes	Actions Taken to address
No gaps identified by 80% of respondents	Respondents felt the draft was already comprehensive and did not identify missing actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action, positive feedback noted.
Broaden the definition of “arts/creative”	Concern that the Strategy reads as weighted toward visual/fine arts, with performing arts and other creative practices less visible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added a new principle to expand the scope of creative expression ref; Expanded language and glossary to reflect expanded reference to performing arts.
Performing arts pathways + local opportunities	Requests for clearer development pathways for local performing artists, including ways to connect, collaborate, and create new work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added new action item 3.2
Affordable performance spaces for community groups	Community bands/theatre groups want practical support, especially affordable rehearsal/performance venues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded items 3.2 and 3.3
Affordable/secure studios & workspaces	Desire for more artist workspaces: permanent studios, medium-term tenancies, and pop-up/project spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded item 2.17
Place-based activation specifics (MFE, café, music venue)	Some respondents nominated practical missing actions for Maroondah Federation Estate (MFE).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Café tenancy is part of Item 2.12, added music/arts pop ups to this item; Wont state that MFE be a music venue unless this comes out of Items 2.11 & 2.13
Identity and suburb distinctiveness	Feedback that the Strategy should more explicitly address how Council helps shape identity—supporting distinct suburb identities while building collective belonging.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded description of Item 2.4 to include specifics around site, village identity & place.
Ambition: more exposure, residencies, awards & exchange	Need for stronger cultural development through access to significant exhibitions, spaces, awards and development programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated and expanded Items 1.10 & 2.17 to highlight awards and spaces Various arts mentoring & training references reinforced throughout.

Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026 - 2030

Round 2 Consultation Summary

Theme / gap area	Feedback themes	Actions Taken to address
Innovation/excellence + socially engaged practice	Concern that funding/criteria could over-emphasise “community benefit” and exclude ambitious/experimental or socially engaged work that sparks dialogue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update to Item 1.2 to reflect balance of grant purpose. • Item 3.14 also expanded to reflect Council’s role in supporting new work by community.
Health & wellbeing / cross-sector partnerships	Suggestion to explicitly link arts strategy delivery with health outcomes and cross-sector funding/partnerships (hospitals/care facilities).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded item 1.5 to specify services including health and wellbeing joint arts initiatives
Accessibility (more concrete measures)	Requests for more specific accessibility commitments beyond general statements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Item 2.8 to be more specific and measurable
Improve lay-person readability	Some feedback focused on too greater use of arts language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated glossary to more plain English • Reviewed whole document for less industry language, greater accessibility
Wayfinding / signage (venue visibility)	A small number of comments flagged practical visibility issues for civic arts venues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included wayfinding as part of accessibility in Item 2.8

The final Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026 - 2030 is now fully reflective of all elements of consultation, and ready for adoption by Council.

MAROONDAH
2050



Draft Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026–2030

Working towards a vibrant and prosperous community



Contents

Executive Summary	3
Introduction	4
About our Creative Services & Spaces	4
What the Evidence Tells Us	5
The Benefits of Arts Participation	5
Evidence of Local Demand	6
Our Creative Industry is Growing	7
Victorians Value the Arts	7
Community Consultation	7
What We Did.....	7
Key Community Indicators - What You Told Us.....	8
A Strategy for the Future.....	9
Strategy Vision.....	9
Our Guiding Principles	9
Strategic Context	9
Council Plan	10
Maroondah 2050	10
Industry Context.....	10
Key Strategy Outcome Areas & Actions	11
Strategy Action Plan.....	12
Outcome Area One: Creative Community	12
Outcome Area Two: Creative Places	13
Outcome Area Three: Creative Programs	14
Outcome Area Four: Creative Partnerships	16
Outcome Area Five: Creative Industry	17
Outcome Area Six: Creative Communications	18
Tracking our Progress.....	19
Annual Action Plan Measures	19
Service Performance Measures	19
References & Glossary.....	20
References	20
Glossary.....	20

Executive Summary

The Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026–2030 presents a bold and inclusive vision for the future of arts, culture, and creativity in Maroondah. Building on our city’s proud tradition of artistic excellence and cultural diversity, this strategy outlines a clear roadmap to nurture creativity, foster innovation and ensure that everyone in Maroondah can engage with the arts.

With a vision of “*A vibrant, creative and connected community*” shaped by extensive community consultation and informed by industry data and trends, the strategy recognises creativity as a powerful driver of community wellbeing, economic growth, and social connection, and is structured around six key outcome areas:

- **Creative Community:** Empower and engage our diverse community through creative expression, collective projects and opportunities for arts participation.
- **Creative Places:** Activate and enhance public spaces and cultural venues to reflect Maroondah’s unique identity, improve accessibility and foster a sense of belonging, pride and cultural identity.
- **Creative Programs:** Innovative, high-quality arts and cultural programs that inspire participation, social connection and lifelong learning within our diverse community.
- **Creative Partnerships:** Strengthen collaboration with artists, organisations, businesses, and the broader community to grow Maroondah’s creative sector.
- **Creative Industry:** Nurture a sustainable and thriving creative economy and cultural tourism in Maroondah by supporting opportunities with creative businesses, artists and industry led initiatives.
- **Creative Communications:** Creative services, venues and initiatives are highly visible, accessible and engaging for our diverse community, and we seek feedback often to help guide continuous service improvements.

Together, these outcome areas provide a comprehensive framework of priority actions to guide Maroondah’s creative future. The Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026–2030 reaffirms our commitment to making arts and culture accessible to all and invites our diverse community to join us in bringing this vibrant vision to life.

Introduction

The Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026–2030 provides a framework for the delivery of priority areas for creative services in partnership with the Maroondah community over the four-year period from July 2026 to June 2030.

Informed by extensive community consultation, current policy directions, and best practice, this strategy recognises the transformative role of creativity in shaping vibrant, resilient, and inclusive communities.

Our approach is anchored in the six strategic outcome areas of Creative People, Places, Programs, Industry, Partnerships and Communications, whereby Council commits to a range of priority actions that aim to achieve the strategy vision of “*A vibrant, creative and connected community.*”

This strategy provides a clear roadmap for Council to enhance its role as service provider, partner and supporter of creative community development, and demonstrates a commitment to investing in our creative services, spaces, programs, people and sector.

About our Creative Services & Spaces

The Creative Maroondah Strategy informs the service priorities for Council’s Creative Places Services, whose role it is to promote a vibrant, connected, and creative community through delivering and supporting a wide range of creative programs, projects, services, exhibitions, activations, public art, grants, and arts venue management across Maroondah. The Service consists of three key service pillars:

Arts and Cultural Services

- Wyreena Community Arts Centre venue and program management – classes, events, play spaces, tenancies and projects
- Exhibitions, collections and gallery management and programs – Art Space at Realm, Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery and Arts Lounge Wyreena
- Arts activation and cultural development – socially engaged arts events, installations and projects
- Public art and creative placemaking initiatives – public art commissions and public programs
- Creative industry development – annual grant program, network events, professional development and learning.

Creative Precincts, Policy and Planning

- Realm Precinct & Ringwood Town Square Activation Framework
- Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct Planning
- Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee, industry networks and panels
- Creative Places policies, planning and strategies.

Karralyka & Venue Services

- Karralyka Centre management
- Council presented Theatre Season
- Community and Professional theatre programs
- Theatre and Function rooms hire and hospitality and event services
- Meals on Wheels food production services
- Maroondah Federation Estate venue management
- Community halls facility management.

What the Evidence Tells Us

The Benefits of Arts Participation

General Wellbeing and Mental Health

- Reduced Stress and Anxiety: [A 2019/20 World Health Organization \(WHO\) report](#) found that participation in the arts can reduce stress and anxiety and improve overall wellbeing.
- Mental Health: [Creative Australia 'Creating Wellbeing' Report 2021](#) research into social impacts and wellbeing reports that 98% of people who engage in the arts say it makes them feel happy and 1 in 5 people engage in the arts for mental health benefits.
- 100 + hours of engagement in arts and cultural activities has been shown to result in better health benefits and outcomes according to a report by [VicHealth – Promoting Everyday Creativity at a Local Level](#).

Education and Cognitive Development

- Academic Performance: Arts participation enhances academic achievement and school engagement for young people and children, improving confidence and school retention, as reported within the research paper by [Creative Australia "Next Generation Now", 2025](#)
- Cognitive Skills: A study published in the 2022 [Editorial: Psychological and Physiological Benefits of the Arts in 'Frontiers in Psychology'](#) found that students who participate in music and arts have improved memory, attention, and critical thinking skills.

Social Benefits

- Community Engagement: 73% of people surveyed by the [Creative Australia National Arts Participation Survey 2023](#) agreed that the arts help bring people together and foster a sense of community.
- Social Skills: Participation in group arts activities increases social tolerance and empathy, according [Creative Australia "Next Generation Now", 2025](#)

Physical Health

- Active Ageing: Older adults who participate in arts programs show improved mobility, fewer doctor visits, and better overall health according to [Creative Australia 'Creating Wellbeing' Report 2021](#)
- Recovery and Rehabilitation: Arts engagement has been linked to faster recovery rates in hospital settings, with patients experiencing less pain and shorter hospital stays, as research through [Creative Australia 'Creating Wellbeing' Report 2021](#)

Economic Impact

- Employment: In Australia, the creative arts sector employs over 600,000 people and contributes billions to the economy ([Key Economic Indicators, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023](#)).
- Economic Contribution: In 2023, cultural and heritage tourism contributed approximately \$16 billion to the Australian economy ([Tourism Research Australia 2023](#)).
- Visitor Economy: 44% of international visitors to Australia participated in at least one cultural or heritage activity during their trip ([Tourism Research Australia, 2023](#)).
- Tourism: Cultural tourists spend on average, 20% more per trip than other tourists ([Creative Australia National Arts Participation Survey 2023](#)).

Evidence of Local Demand

As part of the Maroondah Council Plan and Maroondah 2050 Visual Community Survey, our community provided the following feedback about the importance of a Creative Community:

- High Value on Arts and Culture:** Art Centres and libraries were identified by our community as the top performing service area of Council for the past three years, according to the VLGA [Community satisfaction survey | Maroondah City Council](#). 30% of survey respondents took the time to provide specific commentary on their satisfaction and aspirations for the arts, with particular enthusiasm for affordable arts programs, and support for public art and placemaking to improve vibrancy, activation and connection within local spaces.
- High levels of engagement with strategy consultation:** High interest in the creative services was further highlighted by the impressive level of engagement with the Creative Maroondah Strategy consultation activities, where nearly 2,000 residents and stakeholders opted to complete the survey, attend meetings and workshops to provide ideas and explore the future of creative service delivery.
- High level of community participation in the service:** The current participation and engagement rates within the Creative Services portfolio is one of the highest rates for participation across all Maroondah services, refer below.
- High level of local arts industry engagement:** Council services have an increasing level of engagement with local artists as partners, stakeholders, contractors or network members indicating the service is highly relevant to their practice.

Participation & Engagement Summary



91,323 people attended **Karralyka** for events and activities in 2024/25 which is 13% higher than the previous year¹



447 local artists/ community members participated in **arts networks** and related events in 2024/25 which is 81 more than the previous year¹



241,005 people **visited** the Realm **arts spaces**, Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery and Wyreena Community Arts Centre in 2024/25 which is 16% more than the previous year¹



8024 people **participated in arts and culture activities** in the Ringwood arts precinct and Wyreena Community Arts Centre in 2024/25 which is 17% more than the previous year¹



200 individual **Maroondah artists/arts and cultural groups** were supported to produce and present their work in 2024/25 which is 18 more than the previous year¹

¹ Internal data as at 30 June 2025

Our Creative Industry is Growing

According to the [2021 ABS Census](#), approximately 1,800 people in Maroondah are employed in creative and cultural occupations such as visual arts, design, media, performing arts, writing, architecture, digital and technical arts support services, most with tertiary qualifications.

Creative industry jobs make up about 2.4% of Maroondah's total workforce. This is slightly below the Greater Melbourne average, reflecting Maroondah's suburban profile according to the 2021 ABS data.

There are currently over 300 registered businesses in Maroondah classified under creative industries according to [ABS Industry Classification - ANZSIC](#) with local creative industry development rising over the past three years. This provides an opportunity for Council to connect and support new businesses and support their success within Maroondah in partnership with our Business Support services.

Victorians Value the Arts

The [Creative Australia Creating Value: National Arts Participation Survey 2023](#) provides a detailed analysis of the Victorian feedback on the value and need for the arts within community life. The Survey found that:

- 97% of Victorians aged 15 years and over, engage in creative and artistic events, with 62% ensuring children and young people have access to creative experiences to support learning and development.
- 84% of Victorians acknowledge the significant positive impact of the arts and creativity on areas such as wellbeing and happiness, child development, cultural awareness, community identity, lifelong learning and employment.
- 68% of Victorians acknowledge that cost may be a barrier for some people and believe that ensuring accessibility for all is the highest priority.

Community Consultation

What We Did

The development of the Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026–2030 was shaped by extensive and community engagement resulting in extremely solid data that directly shapes this strategy, hearing from our diverse community through several deliberative consultation practices:

- **Your Say Community Consultation:** Through the Your Say Consultation Survey, we gathered input from over 167 residents of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. A second round of consultation enables the community to provide feedback on the draft strategy.
- **Targeted Stakeholders:** Engagement with local artists, creative businesses, cultural organisations, and educators provided sector-specific insights.
- **Café Consult:** Interactive sessions at the Council Cafe and Maroondah Festival enabled us to connect with families, young people, and culturally diverse groups in a relaxed, accessible setting receiving a total of 4,680 contributions from around 1,306 people.
- **Council Advisory Committees:** Feedback was sought through workshops with five of Maroondah's Advisory Committees, including the Arts, Disability, Environment, Liveability, Safety and Amenity, Community Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committees; plus, the Youth Wellbeing Advocates Group and the Reconciliation Partnership Group.

7

Key Community Indicators - What You Told Us

Across all levels of engagement, several key themes consistently emerged as important to the Maroondah Community forming the key “Community Indicators” to guide the strategy and action plan framework.

- **Accessibility and Inclusion:** Provide creative programs, collections and places that are accessible to all, including people with disabilities, older adults, young people, and CALD communities.
- **Celebration of Diversity and Local Identity:** Celebrate Maroondah’s unique cultural identity, neighbourhood character, history and First Peoples stories through creative projects, programs and collections.
- **Support for Local Artists and Creative Industry:** Nurture local talent, provide affordable creative spaces for artists to practice and present their work, steward networking, training and employment opportunities to grow the local creative sector.
- **Activation of Public Spaces and Creative Placemaking:** Invest in public art and other initiatives such as public performances, cultural tours and art play that enliven neighbourhoods and reflect local histories and future visions.
- **Creative Programs for our diverse community:** Create opportunities for creative engagement, participation, learning and leadership for all, and key demographics such as Youth, Disability and Older Adults, with opportunities for intergenerational engagement.
- **Sustainability and Innovation:** Commitment to environmentally responsible creative practices, enviro-arts initiatives, and the use of new sustainable technologies in the arts.
- **Partnership and Collaboration:** Strong partnerships between Council, community groups, schools, and businesses are seen as essential for a vibrant creative sector.
- **Communication and Engagement:** Need for better communication about available arts opportunities and events and more regular opportunities to give feedback.

A Strategy for the Future

Strategy Vision

A Vibrant, Creative and Connected Community.

The vision that underpins this strategy reflects Council and Community aspirations for creative services. The vision supports a thriving community where the arts is part of everyday life, with equitable access to creative participation opportunities for our diverse community, driving community wellbeing, innovation, life-long learning, community identity and creative industry growth.

Our Guiding Principles

Maroondah's Creative services are delivered in line with the following arts and cultural development principles, as follows:

- **Creativity comes in many forms:** Creative disciplines are wide in scope, from visual arts to performance arts, music, dance and theatre, new and digital media, literature and storytelling - and all play a pivotal role in community wellbeing.
- **Enable Inclusivity and Accessibility:** Ensure creative opportunities are accessible for all members of the community to participate and engage with, regardless of age, ability, background, or socioeconomic status.
- **Foster Collaboration and Partnership:** Foster partnerships between local artists, community groups, educational institutions, and businesses to strengthen the creative ecosystem.
- **Celebrate Diversity in all its forms:** The arts provide a platform for diverse voices and stories, reflecting the richness of Maroondah's diverse community.
- **Enhance Innovation and Experimentation:** Encourage innovative thinking, risk-taking, and experimentation in creative practices and programming.
- **Promote Placemaking and Community Identity:** Use creativity to enhance public spaces, build a sense of belonging, and reflect the unique identity of Maroondah.
- **Encourage Community Wellbeing and Connection:** Participation in the arts is linked to improved mental health, resilience, and social inclusion.
- **Generate Creative Industry Growth:** Creative industries generate jobs, attract investment, and stimulate local economies.
- **Inspire Lifelong Learning:** Arts engagement fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and innovation across all ages.

These principles guide strategy development, service methodology and underpin the value placed on a Creative and Connected Maroondah.

Strategic Context

The Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026–2030 follows the former Arts and Cultural Development Plan (2020-2025) and is a key enabler of Council's long-term vision and strategic plan, delivering tangible actions that make Maroondah a more creative, connected, and future-ready city.

Council Plan

Key Outcome Area: A Vibrant and Prosperous Community

Our community's aspiration

Maroondah is a vibrant and prosperous destination. Creative precincts, placemaking, and experiences make Maroondah a culturally rich place to live, work, play and visit. Our strategic location and competitive strengths facilitate economic development, and local businesses are supported to be successful and sustainable.

Key Council goals and directions

- Facilitate vibrant places and spaces through placemaking initiatives and events, including public art and arts activations.
- Enhance cultural precincts and venues as vibrant places where the community can connect, learn and create.
- Facilitate and program a diverse range of arts and cultural initiatives and experiences through engagement with the local creative sector.

Maroondah 2050

The Maroondah 2050 vision supports the Council Plan for a vibrant and prosperous community where creative services facilitate places and spaces through placemaking initiatives and events, enhancing cultural precincts and venues, and delivering a diverse range of arts and cultural initiatives and experiences including:

- A range of creative events and entertainment
- Diverse range of arts that express the community's unique cultures, heritage and characteristics
- Enhancement and revitalisation of spaces in Maroondah through the arts.

The Creative Maroondah Strategy reflects this community vision and focus areas through a range of key outcomes and deliverables over the four-year plan duration.

Industry Context

The Creative Maroondah Strategy is informed and guided by National and State policies, regulations, and funding priorities, ensuring it links local needs to the broader industry.

Creative Australia: Revive Cultural Policy (2023–2027) sets a national framework for supporting arts, culture, and creativity, First Peoples arts, and creative industries as drivers of economic and social wellbeing. There is an emphasis on the importance of local government in fostering cultural participation and creative economies.

NAVA (National Association for the Visual Arts) is the peak body advocating for best practice in the visual arts across Australia and provides a Code of Practice for Visual Arts, Crafts and Design that informs best practice in wages and conditions of employment within local government.

Creative Victoria: Creative State Strategy (2028) is the state vision for the sector, and Creative Maroondah aligns with many of the priority areas including growing the creative industries, supporting artists, and increasing access and affordability of arts and culture within local communities. This alignment is beneficial for future funding opportunities and partnerships.

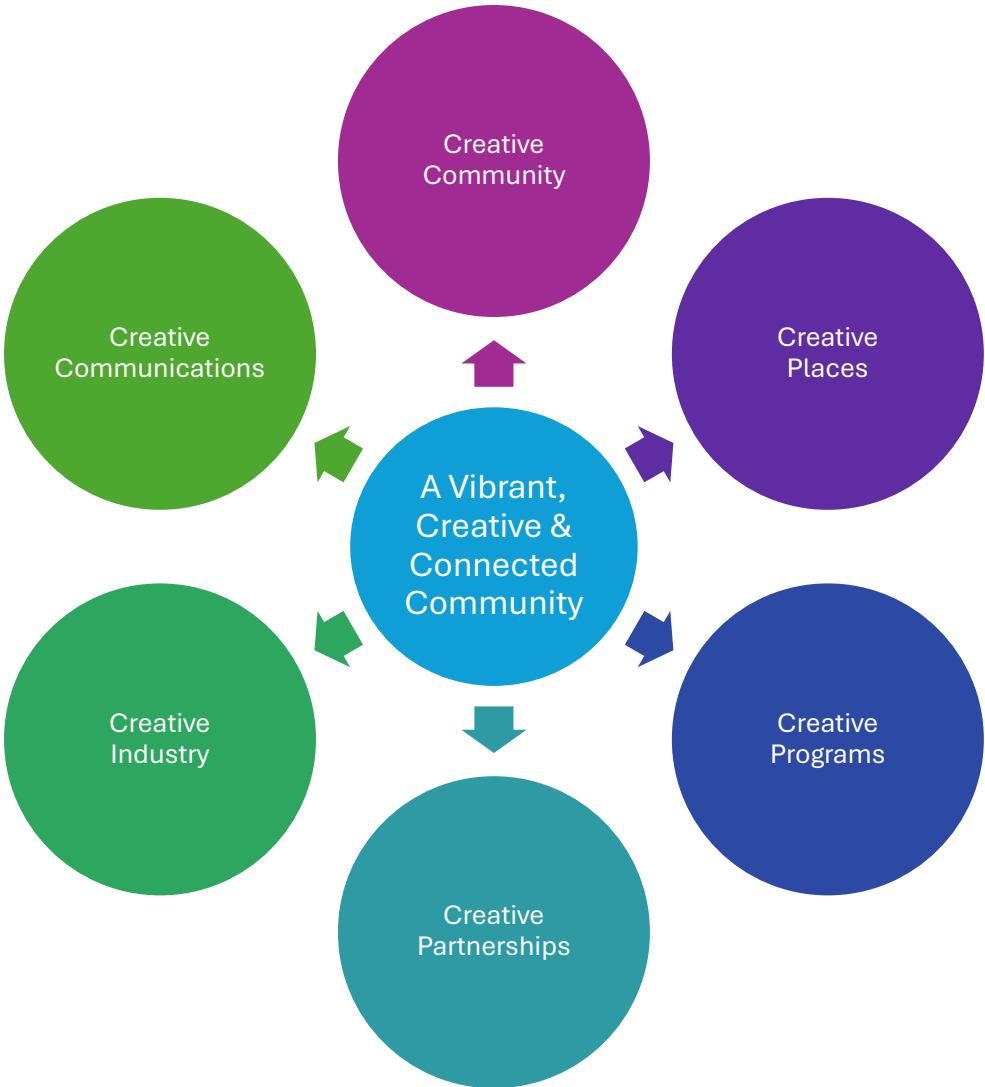
Victorian Local Government Act 2020 requires councils to develop community-focused strategies, including cultural and creative plans, that reflect local needs and aspirations, and encourages alignment with state priorities in arts, diversity, and community wellbeing.

Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework sets out commitments to supporting Aboriginal self-determination and cultural expression, which informs local strategies' focus on First Peoples arts and engagement.

Industry related Regulations and Laws including *Copyright Act 1968*: Governs intellectual property right; *Safe Work Act 2011*: Regulates workplace health and safety; *Child Safety Standards*: Informs legislative child safety practices and screening; and *National Building Codes*: Governs building construction, accessibility, emergency regulations.

Key Strategy Outcome Areas & Actions

Six key outcome areas emerged from consultation data and are well aligned with Council Plan and Maroondah 2050 priority areas and industry strategic directions. The key outcome areas and are defined in the below diagram, and form a framework for the Action Plan, which offers a suite of measurable deliverables for each outcome area, alongside a clear timeframe.



Strategy Action Plan

The following action plan provides a suite of measurable deliverables across the life of the Creative Maroondah Strategy and will be delivered in partnership with our community and industry stakeholders.

Timeframe key: Year 1 = 2026/27; Year 2 = 2027/28; Year 3 = 2028/29; Year 4 = 2029/30

Outcome Area One: Creative Community

Vision: To empower and engage our diverse community through creative expression, collective projects and opportunities for arts participation.

Key Community Indicators:

- Celebration of Diversity and Local Identity
- Partnership and Collaboration
- Accessibility and Inclusion

Creative Community Priority Actions		
Action	Timeframe	Measure
1.1 Support First Peoples' creative and cultural expression by embedding culturally safe participation pathways, removing access barriers and enabling community-led creative initiatives.	Year 1 - 4	Number and impact of First Peoples initiatives
1.2 Provide an equitable, well governed Arts and Cultural Grants Program that enables artists and community groups to initiate innovative, ambitious socially engaged projects that deliver measurable community outcomes.	Year 1 - 4	Number and impact of arts projects funded
1.3 Review Arts Operational Grants to ensure all Council funding is in line with public funding is equitable and reflects best practice and Council's adopted grants policy framework.	Year 1-2	Review completed and actioned
1.4 Connect local art and cultural community groups through creating pathways for collective programming, promotions, tenancies and events to support community cultural development and engagement.	Year 1 - 4	Number and impact of joint initiatives
1.5 Strengthen engagement with local community health and social support services through creating pathways for participation and engagement that support community health and wellbeing outcomes.	Year 1 - 4	Number and impact of joint initiatives
1.6 Engage young people and LGBTQI+ communities through responsive arts initiatives, training and mentorship programs that support social inclusion, wellbeing, leadership and participation.	Year 1 - 4	Number and impact of youth initiatives
1.7 Engage CALD communities in activities that strengthen cultural development, cultural safety and celebration, and promotes cross-cultural exchange through accessible and diverse arts participation.	Year 1 - 4	Number and impact of joint initiatives
1.8 Engage people with disability in creative activities through developing accessible pathways for participation in activities that strengthen community engagement, wellbeing and connection.	Year 1 - 4	Number and impact of joint initiatives
1.9 Celebrate positive ageing through providing creative programs and services that enable connectedness and participation for inter-generational and older adults through arts participation and engagement.	Year 1 - 4	Number and impact of joint initiatives
1.10 Recognise and celebrate creative achievements and excellence locally and beyond through annual award and acquisition programs such as the Mayoral Exhibition Awards, and the McGivern Art Prize.	Year 1 - 4	Engagement and impact of arts prizes and awards
1.11 Engage with the local performing arts community (theatre, dance, music etc) through creating accessible pathways for performance, new work, residencies and networking opportunities within Karralyka and other major arts venues.	Year 1 - 4	Number and impact of joint initiatives

Outcome Area Two: Creative Places

Vision: Activate and enhance public spaces and cultural venues to reflect Maroondah’s unique identity, improve accessibility and foster a sense of belonging, pride and cultural identity.

Key Community Indicators:

- Activation of Public Spaces and Creative Placemaking
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Support for Local Artists and Creative Industry

Creative Places Priority Actions

Action	Timeframe	Measure
2.1 Continue to optimise Karralyka as a regionally significant performing arts and function centre through facility optimisation, program development, performing arts partnerships, quality service delivery and diverse audience engagement.	Years 1-4	Delivery of service planning initiatives
2.2 Continue to realise the Wyreena Master Plan, including completion and re-activation of the upgraded Conservatory Café to position this regional community arts centre for future success.	Years 1-2	Progress on masterplan.
2.3 Promote, enhance and preserve the Maroondah Art Collection through increased exhibitions in civic spaces, selective acquisitions, suitable storage, digital database management and virtual website galleries.	Years 2-4	Well managed civic collection.
2.4 Embed public art within village and activity centre revitalisation projects through integrated planning and resourcing modelling, to help strengthen a unique village identity, community safety, visitation and connection to place.	Years 1-4	Number and impact of projects.
2.5 Commission new public art within existing Council owned venues and precincts to enhance vibrancy, visibility, identity and improved visitor experiences.	Years 1-4	Number and impact of projects
2.6 Introduce public art within select major new and upgrade infrastructure projects through collective planning and resource modelling to deliver impactful creative placemaking outcomes within major civic site developments.	Years 1-4	Number and impact of projects
2.7 Deliver the ‘Arts in the Park’ program of unique, small-scale creative events and experiences that support accessibility, diverse participation, site activation and visitation to major arts venues and precincts.	Year 1	Number and impact of projects.
2.8 Undertake an accessibility audit within all major arts facilities (e.g. accessible wayfinding, wheelchair access, braille, Auslan, assisted listening systems, neuro-diverse spaces etc) to remove barriers to participation.	Year 3	Audit complete and actioned
2.9 Facilitate greater connections between major arts facilities within Maroondah through cross-promotion and collective programming.	Year 2-4	Number of joint initiatives
2.11 Develop a Revitalisation Plan for Maroondah Federation Estate (MFE) including measures to improve identity, visibility, purpose, tenancy optimisation and community engagement within this major cultural venue.	Year 1-4	Plan developed and actioned
2.12 Delivery of series of ‘quick wins’ to activate MFE, including café tenancy, courtyard public art, pop up events and artist residency opportunities.	Year 1-2	Actions delivered within budget.
2.13 Undertake service demand analysis for community halls and MFE to inform asset planning and facility optimisation that responds to local demand.	Year 1	Optimisation of assets
2.14 Realise the vision for the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct and Cultural Hub through effective planning and delivery of the operational, programming, public art and activation of this significant new precinct.	Years 1-4	Building complete
2.15 Review the K-Café service delivery model and healthy choices program to ensure the best fit for café services is applied with Councils Aquatic facilities.	Year 1-2	Reviewed and actioned.
2.16 Review and update the current Public Art Policy and Civic Art Collection Policy to align with best practice, optimise impact and inform programming.	Year 1	Reviewed and actioned.
2.17 Identify spaces across the municipality that might support creative practitioners through affordable studios, co-working, pop up activations and residencies across all art forms.	Year 2-4	Number of creative residencies.

Outcome Area Three: Creative Programs

Vision: Deliver innovative, high-quality arts and cultural programs that inspire participation, social connection and lifelong learning within our diverse community.

Key Community Indicators:

- Creative Programs for our diverse community
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Support for Local Artists and Creative Industry

Creative Programs Priority Actions		
Action	Timeframe	Measure
3.1 Continue to host and deliver a diverse mix of high quality, accessible and engaging performing arts programs within Karralyka in partnership with professional, touring and community performing arts groups.	Years 1-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.2 Explore development pathways to support new work, mentorships, arts incubators, commissions and accessible rehearsal space for emerging performing artists, primarily within Karralyka.	Year 2	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.3 Secure local interest and tenancies for performing arts program delivery within the new Croydon Community Wellbeing - Black Box Theatre.	Years 2-3	Number of new partnerships
3.4 Continue to expand and diversify the range of high quality and engaging visual arts programs including exhibitions, arts incubators and arts development programs that reflect local interests.	Years 1-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.5 Expand the offering of low-cost and free arts initiatives that target and support arts engagement by those with financial barriers to participation, with a key focus on local families and children.	Years 1-2	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.6 Further evolve digital and hybrid arts programs that support increase youth arts participation and those interested in emerging arts technologies.	Years 2-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.7 Engage with local schools through joint programs that deliver learning outcomes and invite regular participation by students in local arts and cultural activities and events.	Years 2-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.8 Explore an ongoing framework for children and young people to inform creative programming for their peers within arts venues.	Years 2-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.9 Support youth-led initiatives, mentorship programs, and youth representation on arts working groups and committees.	Years 1-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.10 Further develop creative opportunities for older adults to engage with community through inclusive, inter-generational creative programs.	Year 1	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.11 Continue expanding creative programs that are accessible and of interest to people living with disabilities or other barriers to participation.	Years 2-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.12 Align with environmental and sustainability priorities through eco-arts programs, partnerships, education and venue management practices.	Years 2-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.13 Deliver creative programs that support cultural development, celebrate diversity and cultural heritage and encourage cross-cultural engagement.	Years 1-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs

Action	Timeframe	Measure
3.14 Expand support for community-led arts initiatives through providing expert advice, training, industry resources, partnership opportunities and best practice modelling to guide new, innovative work within community.	Years 2-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.15 Further develop civic, heritage and public art public programs including guided tours, talks and self-guided digital maps to promote engagement with the arts, history and natural environment.	Years 1-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.16 Explore joint exhibition programs with local arts groups where there is a broader community benefit upheld by an equitable engagement process.	Years 2-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs
3.17 Engage with local historical societies to help preserve, share and celebrate local history through arts and cultural initiatives.	Years 2-4	Number, diversity and impact of programs



Outcome Area Four: Creative Partnerships

Vision: Strengthen collaboration with artists, organisations, businesses, and the broader community to grow Maroondah’s creative sector.

Key Community Indicators:

- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Creative Programs for our diverse community
- Support for Local Artists and Creative Industry

Creative Partnerships Priority Actions		
Action	Timeframe	Measure
4.1 Continue to work with the Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee (MAAC) Industry and Community members to identify priorities, opportunities and sector trends to guide future service planning.	Years 1-4	MAAC impact on service development.
4.2 Continue to develop the Maroondah Arts Collective network to connect artists, arts workers, creative businesses, services and arts enthusiasts through relevant and engaging networking and training opportunities.	Years 1-4	Number, diversity and engagement with network
4.3 Develop strategic partnerships with local businesses, arts organisations, and service providers to co-deliver projects, events and initiatives through a shared resourcing model.	Year 1	Number and impact of partnerships
4.4 Seek increased funding partnerships through State and Federal grants, sponsorship and commercial investment for arts programs, projects and venues that support Council Plan objectives.	Year 1-4	Successful funding partnerships and outcomes.
4.5 Deliver a range of targeted arts and cultural development program partnerships with local groups and services that utilise the arts as a means for engagement participation.	Years 1-4	Number and impact of partnerships
4.6 Encourage program partnerships with local arts and cultural groups across other key Council service areas including Festivals and Events, Community Services and Community Wellbeing.	Years 1-4	Number and impact of partnerships
4.7 Continue to work in partnership with Mullum Mullum Aboriginal Gathering Place, Reconciliation bodies and other First Peoples service providers to enable First Peoples led arts and cultural initiatives through resource sharing, joint initiatives and industry partnership networks.	Years 1-4	Number and impact of partnerships
4.8 Collaborate with the Eastern Regional Councils to identify opportunities for regional arts project development, cultural tourism and co-funding opportunities.	Years 2-4	Number and impact of partnerships
4.9 Further develop exhibition partnerships with local arts groups and artists that support community arts display across Council facilities and precincts.	Years 2-4	Number and impact of partnerships
4.10 Investigate industry partnership pathways for local businesses to connect with local artists to display and sell their work.	Year 3	Number and impact of partnerships
4.11 Working in partnership with Your Library, continue to explore and deliver collective programs that support learning and engagement with arts- literature initiatives.	Years 1-4	Number and impact of partnerships
4.12 Continue to develop local community arts partnerships by enabling access to affordable spaces, joint initiatives and funding, training programs and audience development strategies.	Years 1-4	Number arts groups in Maroondah

Outcome Area Five: Creative Industry

Vision: Nurture a sustainable and thriving creative economy and cultural tourism in Maroondah by supporting opportunities with creative businesses, artists and industry led initiatives.

Key Community Indicators:

- Support for Local Artists and Creative Industry
- Communication and Engagement
- Partnership and Collaboration

Creative Industry Priority Actions		
Action	Timeframe	Measure
5.1 Facilitate professional development opportunities for creative practitioners, services and organisations through a training programs, industry networks and masterclasses to help build local skills, capacity and sector growth.	Years 1-4	Number and diversity of training programs
5.2 Advocate for affordable creative workspaces and studios within Maroondah, including co-working and maker-space models that support creative industry development.	Year 1	Number of creative workspaces filled
5.3 Continue to offer individual artists the opportunity to apply for funding through Councils Arts Grants program to deliver projects that support arts engagement and professional development.	Years 1-4	Funded arts development projects
5.4 Encourage the employment and commissioning of local artists, arts suppliers and services within Councils procurement framework.	Years 1-4	Number of local artists procured
5.5 Foster innovation and entrepreneurship by linking local arts organisations, groups and artists with industry initiatives such as creative and business awards, forums and cross sector networking events.	Years 1-4	Number of artists engaged in industry activities
5.6 Collect and share data on the value and impact of the creative industries in Maroondah to inform advocacy and future planning, including the use of industry programs such as Culture Counts to support regional benchmarks.	Years 1-4	Quality data is shared and deemed useful
5.7 Develop and deliver artist-in-residence and mentoring programs within major arts facilities, prioritising local and emerging artists to help grow and strengthen their practice.	Year 1	Residency program established
5.8 Foster volunteer and student placement opportunities within creative services to enhance future sector capacity and pathways to arts employment.	Years 2-4	Volunteer & Student program established
5.9 Participate in cross Council Eastern regional joint initiatives and Victorian based creative sector developments that secure collective interest and investment creative industries and positions Maroondah as a prime arts destination.	Years 2-4	Successful regional projects delivered
5.10 Incentivise major arts organisations and commercial arts touring companies to present major work and locate their services within Maroondah to enhance creative sector development and boost cultural economy.	Years 3-4	Number and value of commercial arts presentations
5.11 Continue to consult industry and community representatives of the Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee to guide local creative service priorities, harness opportunities and discover emerging trends.	Years 1-4	MAAC consultation delivered
5.12 Continue to connect with tertiary institutions in the development of industry-based learning, employment and mentoring pathways to support students accessing industry experience.	Years 2-4	Number and impact of partnerships

Outcome Area Six: **Creative Communications**

Vision: Creative services, venues and initiatives are highly visible, accessible and engaging for our diverse community, and we seek feedback often to help guide continuous service improvements.

Key Community Indicators:

- Communication and Engagement
- Partnership and Collaboration

Creative Communications Priority Actions		
Action	Timeframe	Measure
6.1 Continue to evolve strategic communications and engagement campaigns through enhanced service branding and design, multi-channel platforms, engaging content and high-visibility approaches effectively reaches diverse audiences and inspires participation.	Years 1-4	Increased audience engagement levels
6.2 Review all creative venues for effective entry and wayfinding signage that promotes visibility and purpose for all major arts venues.	Year 2-3	Effective signage delivered
6.3 Tap into local and regional marketing channels such as local school E-News, community groups, businesses, arts and cultural organisations and media organisations to promote and extend reach into new market segments and regions.	Year 1	Increased audience engagement levels
6.4 Review all communications content across all promotional platforms for readability, accessibility and multi-lingual options.	Year 2	Accessible content delivered
6.5 Use data-metrics and data collected from attendance, participation, sales, social media and feedback mechanisms to continuously refine and improve creative services and reach.	Years 1-4	Data informs engagement planning
6.6 Develop communications pathways to cross-promote local community arts activities, industry news and special interest stories within arts media channels.	Year 1	Community channels activated
6.7 Establish easy to use feedback loops such as surveys, polls, online engagement platforms etc that encourage quick and easy ways to provide feedback on creative services at events and arts venues.	Years 1-4	Feedback channels activated
6.8 Continue to seek service improvement feedback directly from industry stakeholders, user groups, partners and community using strategic engagement strategies and platforms, to inform future service improvements.	Years 1-4	Feedback informs service planning
6.9 Undertake annual evaluation of this strategy and provide updates to the community on progress and delivery of the actions.	Years 1-4	Feedback informs service planning

Tracking our Progress

Annual Action Plan Measures

Each priority action will be assessed against the stated measures within the action plans, and outcomes reported to Councillors, key stakeholders, partners, Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee and those following the Your Say Creative Maroondah Strategy updates.

Service Performance Measures

Creative Places Services will collect annual data across all service areas, as part of the strategy annual reporting, and in line with the Council Plan measures. This will provide macro trends on the Community attendance, creative sector support, and overall satisfaction with services and venues, as follows:

- Creative places and precincts (Council owned) attendance at all venues
- Karralyka attendance
- Artists and creative groups supported to present their work
- Community satisfaction with arts centres and libraries
- Community satisfaction with community and cultural activities

Community Satisfaction Measures

State of Maroondah 2025 [Community Satisfaction Survey](#) results indicate that in 2024/25:

- 72% of survey responses indicated community satisfaction with community cultural activities, rated above metro and state-wide council averages)
- 77% of survey responses indicated community satisfaction with arts centres and libraries (Council's top performing and most well-regarded service area, rated above metro and state-wide council averages)

This strategy commits to Council seeking regular feedback on community satisfaction levels, allowing services to respond and adapt to the changing community interests and needs for Creative Services within Maroondah, reflected in these satisfaction levels continuously improving.

References & Glossary

References

- [Maroondah City Council Plan 2025-2029](#)
- [Maroondah 2050](#)
- [Maroondah Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2024/25](#)
- [Maroondah Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Health Report 2020](#)
- [Creative Australia 'Creating Wellbeing' Report 2021](#)
- [VicHealth – Promoting Everyday Creativity at a Local Level.](#)
- [Creative Australia "Next Generation Now", 2025](#)
- [Frontiers in Psychology Editorial: The Psychological and Physiological Benefits of the Arts 2022](#)
- [Creative Australia Creating Value: National Arts Participation Survey 2023](#)
- [Key Economic Indicators, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023](#)
- [Tourism Research Australia Report 2023](#)
- [2021 ABS Census](#)
- [ABS Industry Classification - ANZSIC](#)

Glossary

Creative Programs: Encompasses all forms of arts and cultural expression including but not limited to visual arts (painting, drawing, sculpture, print & digital media, murals etc), performing arts (dance, theatre, music, comedy etc), literature, film, crafts, design, and new media.

CALD: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse peoples.

Creative Industry: Businesses and individuals engaged in the production, distribution, and promotion of creative goods and services, including design, digital media, publishing, and the performing and visual arts. This strategy focuses upon initiatives that support the growth, sustainability, and innovation of the creative sector.

Creative Placemaking: The process of activating and enhancing public spaces through Council and Community arts led interventions including public art, installations and design elements.

Creative Venues: Facilities managed by Creative Services including Wyreena Community Arts Centre, Maroondah Federation Estate, Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, ArtSpace at Realm, Karralyka Centre and Community Halls.

Impact: A measure of stakeholder and participant feedback on an initiative where they express that the activity met shared goals and delivered measurable positive outcomes.

Inclusion: Ensuring equitable access and participation in arts and culture for all members of the community, regardless of background or ability.

Partnerships: Collaborative relationships between Council, artists, organisations, businesses, and the community to deliver shared outcomes.

Programs: Structured activities, events, workshops, and initiatives that engage the community in arts and culture.

Public Art: Artworks of a temporary or permanent nature created for public spaces, often reflecting local stories, history, or identity. These might include outdoor or indoor spaces with a range of applications including freestanding sculpture, digital projections, murals, lighting and temporary activations.

MAROONDAH
2050



Draft Climate Adaptation Plan 2026-2031

Working towards a green and sustainable community



Contents

- Acknowledgement of Country2
- Executive Summary3
- 1. Climate Change in Maroondah5
 - Maroondah context5
 - Purpose5
 - Climate change and caring for Country6
- 2. What does the evidence say?6
 - What is climate change?6
 - Council’s role in addressing climate change7
 - Co-benefits of climate action8
 - What has Council done so far to address climate change?9
 - Community emissions11
- 3. What we did and what you told us?13
- 4. A plan for the future16
 - A vision for a climate resilient Maroondah16
 - Strategic Framework16
 - Outcome area 1 - Reducing Council’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions17
 - Key directions19
 - Outcome area 2 - Building a Resilient Maroondah20
 - Key directions21
 - Outcome area 3 - A Climate Ready Community22
 - Key directions23
 - Tracking our progress23
- 5. Climate Change Action Plan24
- 6. References and Glossary27
 - References27
 - Glossary27


Acknowledgement of Country

We, in the spirit of Reconciliation, acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as traditional custodians of the land now known as the City of Maroondah, where Indigenous Australians have performed age-old ceremonies. We acknowledge and respect their unique ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection to it. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.


Executive Summary

Climate change is already impacting Maroondah. It poses a significant environmental, social and financial risk to Maroondah City Council and the Maroondah community. It is essential that Council plan and prepare for climate change to ensure the ongoing sustainability of Council operations and services, while also supporting the Maroondah community to do the same.


Impacts of climate change




Increasing average temperatures




More very hot days and heatwaves



Longer fire seasons with more high fire danger days





More storm and flooding events

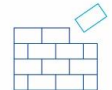



Less annual rainfall


Climate change risks to Council and community



Increased demand of and disruption to Council services



Power and communications outages



Damage to Council assets



Damage to natural environments and local biodiversity



Increased maintenance costs for Council assets



Increased administration costs and inadequate budgets



More frequent periods of drought and water restrictions



Increased energy and water costs



Claims of negligence



Regulatory non-compliance



Uncertainty transitioning to low carbon products



New climate reporting requirements



Reduced staff availability during extreme weather events


Cancellation of Council events, activities and services


Climate anxiety and declining mental health


Health impacts of heat and storm events


Higher cost of living and food insecurity


Higher insurance costs and rates of underinsurance

Maroondah City Council has a long history of climate action, first setting an emissions reduction target in 2001 to cut emissions by 20% from 1995 levels by 2010 as part of the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Program. Since 2011/12, Council has achieved a more than 65% emissions reduction from Council operations, with the Carbon Neutral Strategy 2014/15-2020/21 and the Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy 2018/19-2021/22 each providing a clear pathway for climate action across Council's operations.

The Climate Adaptation Plan 2026-2031 combines climate change mitigation and adaptation actions into a single plan and provides the next steps to continue to prepare Council and the community for the impacts of climate change, including:

- Climate change mitigation: reducing Council's greenhouse gas emissions
- Climate change adaptation: preparing for the impacts of climate change on Council operations and services
- Embedding climate change in Council processes and decision-making
- Meeting Council's legislative obligations (including *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Climate Action Act 2017*) to address climate change

- Supporting the Maroondah community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change

This Climate Adaptation Plan 2026-2031 presents the following vision for a climate resilient Maroondah:

Maroondah is a strong and climate resilient community, with declining greenhouse gas emissions for both Council operations and across our community.

The Plan also presents Council's new emissions reduction target:

Council will reduce operational scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 50% of 2021/22 levels by 2035.

Key directions and actions are presented across three outcome areas. Each outcome area supports the Maroondah 2050 community vision as well as outcomes of the Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031.

1. Reducing Council's greenhouse gas emissions
2. Building a resilient Maroondah
3. Climate ready Maroondah

Climate action also provides a broad range of co-benefits, including improving building design and quality, lowering operating and renewal costs, reducing energy and water waste, supporting safe, vibrant, and accessible parks and outdoor recreation facilities, promoting an active and healthy community, and creating strong and healthy ecosystems. Similarly, actions Council is already taking to deliver community building outcomes can also contribute to a more climate resilient Maroondah.

This Plan recognises that while climate change poses a risk, thoughtful and well-planned action today also presents an opportunity to improve economic outcomes and maintain a safe, healthy and resilient Maroondah for tomorrow.

1. Climate Change in Maroondah

Climate change is a global issue with local impacts. Maroondah is already facing many of the impacts of climate change, such as more frequent extreme heat and storms, damage to local biodiversity, and rising insurance costs.

Climate change poses risks to both Maroondah City Council and the Maroondah Community. This Climate Adaptation Plan supports the community vision outlined in Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together, working towards a green and sustainable community and a safe and liveable community in Maroondah.

This Plan recognises that while climate change poses a risk, thoughtful and well-planned action today also presents an opportunity to improve economic outcomes and maintain a safe, healthy and resilient Maroondah for tomorrow.

Maroondah context

The City of Maroondah covers an area of 61.4 square kilometres in outer eastern Melbourne, including suburbs of Bayswater North, Croydon, Croydon Hills, Croydon North, Croydon South, Heathmont, Kilsyth South, Ringwood, Ringwood East, Ringwood North and Warranwood. The City also includes small sections of Kilsyth, Park Orchards, Vermont and Wonga Park suburbs.

The traditional owners of the land on which the City of Maroondah now sits are the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation. The Wurundjeri People have lived on this land for tens of thousands of years and have a deep spiritual connection and care for Country.

Maroondah has a population of 119,354 people across 44,167 households. Approximately 25% of the population was born overseas, with the United Kingdom, China, India and Myanmar the most common countries.

The City of Maroondah has 649 hectares of open space, with 578 parks and reserves containing approximately 750,000 trees, including 46 bushland reserves. Council prioritises planting indigenous species across Council reserves to support local biodiversity. The municipality also has good transport connectivity, with 39 kilometres of shared trails, including the Mullum Mullum Creek, Eastlink, Tarralla Creek and Dandenong Creek trails. Additionally, there are two train lines and numerous bus lines operating throughout Maroondah, providing both active and public transport options.

Purpose

The Climate Adaptation Plan has been developed to support a green and sustainable Maroondah and a safe and liveable community today and into the future. This Plan will help to build resilience to climate change in Council's operations and services, and reduce Council's operational greenhouse gas emissions. This Plan will also support the Maroondah community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve its ability to be more resilient to the effects of climate change.

What is 'climate resilience'?

Climate resilience is the ability of a community, ecosystem, or system to prepare for, withstand, and recover quickly from climate-related shocks and stresses, like extreme heat, floods, or droughts, while maintaining essential functions and adapting to future changes.

What is 'sustainability'?

Sustainability can be defined as "balancing economic, social and environmental factors. It is concerned with how we can manage resources to ensure future generations have the same opportunities that we enjoy today" (City of Melbourne, 2016).

Climate change and caring for Country

A strong, healthy and connected natural environment is central to a strong, healthy and resilient Maroondah and Maroondah community.

The Wurundjeri Woi-Wurung People of the Kulin Nation have cared for this land for tens of thousands of years. Their ongoing connection to the land, water and sky Country, depicted in their principles outlined in the Whole of Country Plan, highlights the importance of caring for Country. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage connects deeply to land, trees, waterways and biodiversity across Maroondah and the broader region.

Climate change poses an inherent risk to Country. Caring for Country is a central principle to address climate change in Maroondah. If we prioritise the health of our natural environment, we are in a strong position to address climate change.

The Climate Adaptation Plan prioritises taking small but meaningful steps to encourage those who live, work, learn and play in Maroondah to act in a way that supports our natural environment. We look to collaborate with Wurundjeri Woi-Wurung, incorporating their principles as we move forward in the management of climate change.

2. What does the evidence say?

What is climate change?

Climate change is caused by the amplification of the natural greenhouse effect. It is caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, in our atmosphere from activities such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation. These greenhouse gases trap more heat in the atmosphere, warming the oceans and supercharging weather systems.

Climate change is causing hotter and drier weather, more intense storms and flooding, and more severe bushfires and periods of drought. The flow on effects will impact more than just our environment. It will disrupt healthcare, food chains and supply systems, make responding to extreme weather and emergencies more difficult, and place pressure on global financial markets.

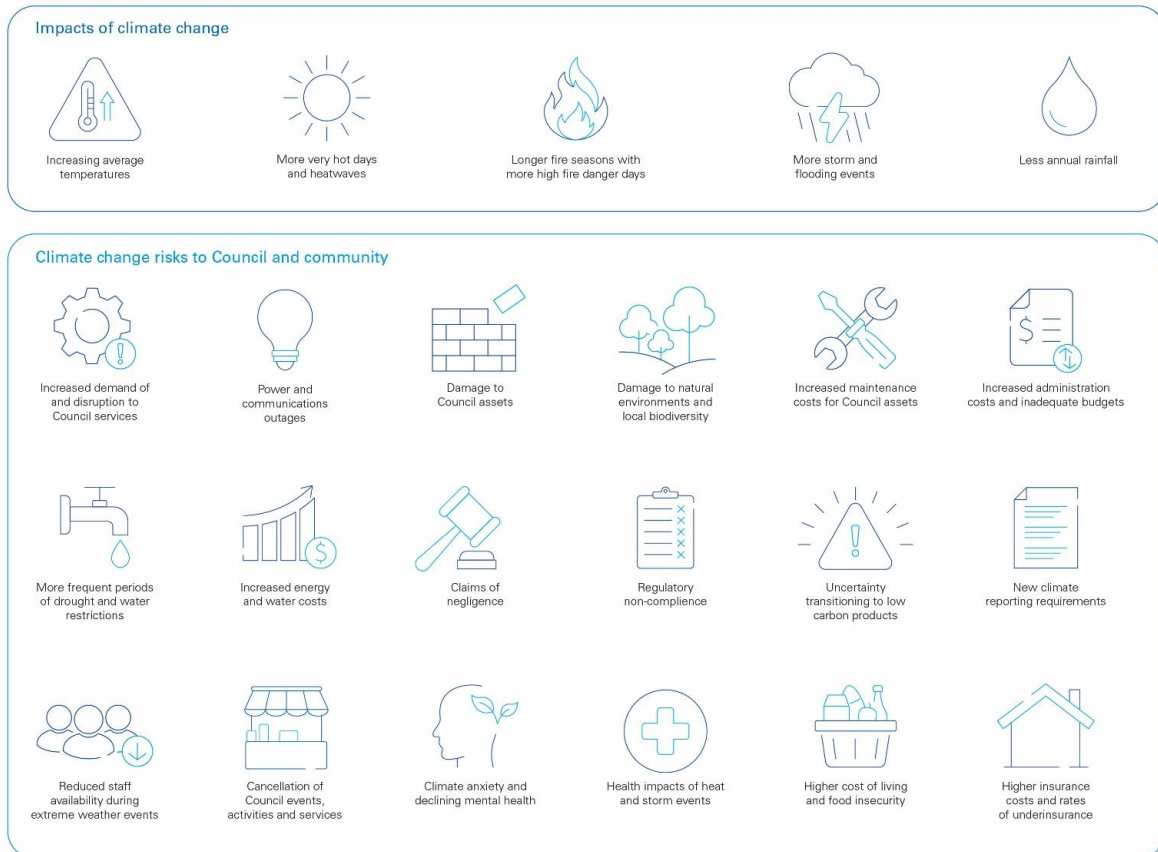
Addressing climate change requires action across the community and all levels of government, including Maroondah City Council.

Maroondah is already experiencing the effects of climate change, with impacts including:

- Hotter average temperatures and more days of extreme heat
- Lower annual rainfall totals, with more rainfall coming in intense rainfall events leading to localised flooding
- Increased frequency and intensity of storm events, including wind and hail
- Increased length and intensity of bushfire seasons

The impacts of climate change will affect the health and resilience of Maroondah, including:

- Damage to buildings, infrastructure, and a decline in the natural environments and biodiversity from extreme weather and long-term climatic patterns
- Disruption to Council services
- Increased asset and infrastructure construction and management costs
- Power and communications outages
- More frequent periods of drought and water restrictions
- Increased energy, water, and food costs and insecurity
- Higher insurance costs and rates of underinsurance
- Heat related illnesses and exacerbation of existing physical health conditions
- Increased climate anxiety and declining mental health



It is widely accepted that some level of climate change is locked in. However, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and the associated greenhouse gas emissions still plays an important role in limiting the severity of future climate change.

Council’s role in addressing climate change

Addressing climate change requires collaboration between federal, state and local governments, alongside businesses, organisations and community members. Council has a legislated responsibility to lead and support the Maroondah community to prepare for the impacts of climate change, including under the following Acts:

- *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)*
- *Climate Action Act 2017 (Vic)*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)*
- *Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic) - General Environment Duty*

Maroondah’s Climate Adaptation Plan has been developed to support existing Victorian and Australian emissions reduction targets, along with climate adaptation plans. The Victorian Government has a legislated state target to be net zero by 2045, with interim state-wide emissions reduction targets based on 2005 emissions levels:

- 28-33% emissions reduction by 2025
- 45-50% emissions reduction by 2030
- 75-80% emissions reduction by 2035

The Australian Government (DCCEEW, 2025) has set the following 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement:

Australia's 2035 target is a 62-70% reduction in net national greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 emissions levels, covering all sectors of the economy and all greenhouse gases.

This will be implemented as an emission budget over 2031–35. This target aligns with Australia's Net Zero Plan, which charts out Australia's path to achieving our commitment to reach net zero by 2050.

The Climate Adaptation Plan details Council's actions to strengthen:

- Climate change mitigation: reducing Council's greenhouse gas emissions
- Climate change adaptation: preparing for the impacts of climate change on Council operations and services
- Embedding climate change in Council processes and decision-making
- Meeting Council's legislative obligations to address climate change
- Supporting the Maroondah community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change

What is 'climate change mitigation'?

Climate change mitigation means "a human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases" (IPCC 2018).

What is 'climate change adaptation'?

Climate change adaptation means "the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects" (IPCC 2018). This means taking actions to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and make the most of opportunities that arise. Climate change adaptation isn't only about preparing for extreme weather. It is also about preparing to transition to more sustainable practices, and new 'green' markets and technologies.

What is 'embedding climate change'?

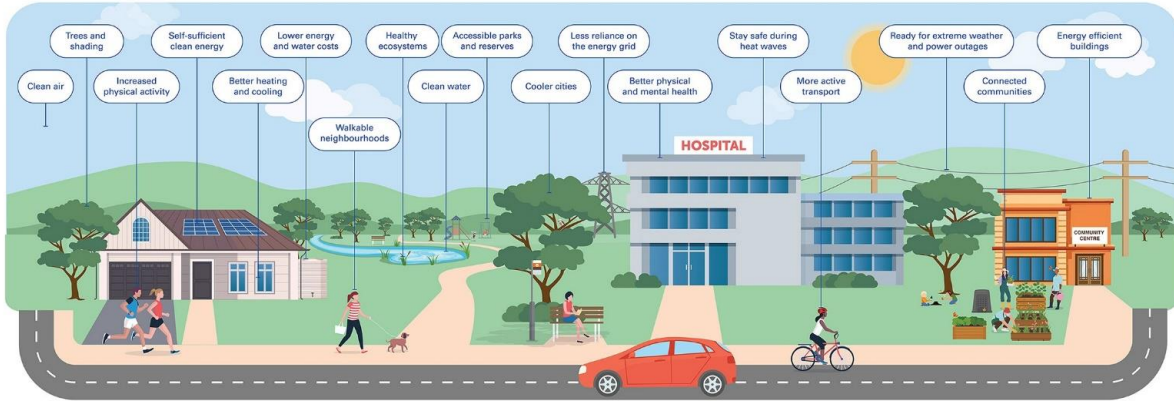
Climate change will impact all areas of Council and the Maroondah community. It's important to look for ways to address climate change as a part of Council's regular operations. This includes in Council decision-making processes, policies, strategies, plans, and budgets. Making climate change action a part of 'business as usual' will ensure Council is prepared for the impacts of climate change. It will also ensure there is adequate budgeting for the rising costs of emergency management, asset maintenance, utility costs, and insurance premiums.

Co-benefits of climate action

The actions outlined in the Climate Adaptation Plan will improve Council's resilience to climate change and support a strong, healthy and vibrant Maroondah. Actions taken to address climate change also have additional benefits to both Council and our community. This includes:

- Supporting safe, vibrant, and accessible parks and outdoor recreation facilities, promoting an active and healthy community
- Creating strong and healthy ecosystems and supporting Maroondah community groups who care for our natural environment
- Enhancing building design to improve user comfort and building quality, lowering operating and renewal costs, and reducing energy and water waste
- Reducing Council's reliance on, and exposure to price fluctuations in the energy market
- Improving community health outcomes by:
 - Improving air quality
 - Decreasing heat-related illnesses and supporting vulnerable residents through extreme heat
 - Increasing walkability and active transport options around Maroondah

- Identifying opportunities to address the rising cost of living, including:
 - Reducing energy and water costs by improving efficiency and identifying behaviour change opportunities within our community
 - Reducing transport costs by improving low-cost active transport infrastructure



What has Council done so far to address climate change?

Council has recognised the importance of addressing climate change for decades. Key achievements are outlined below:

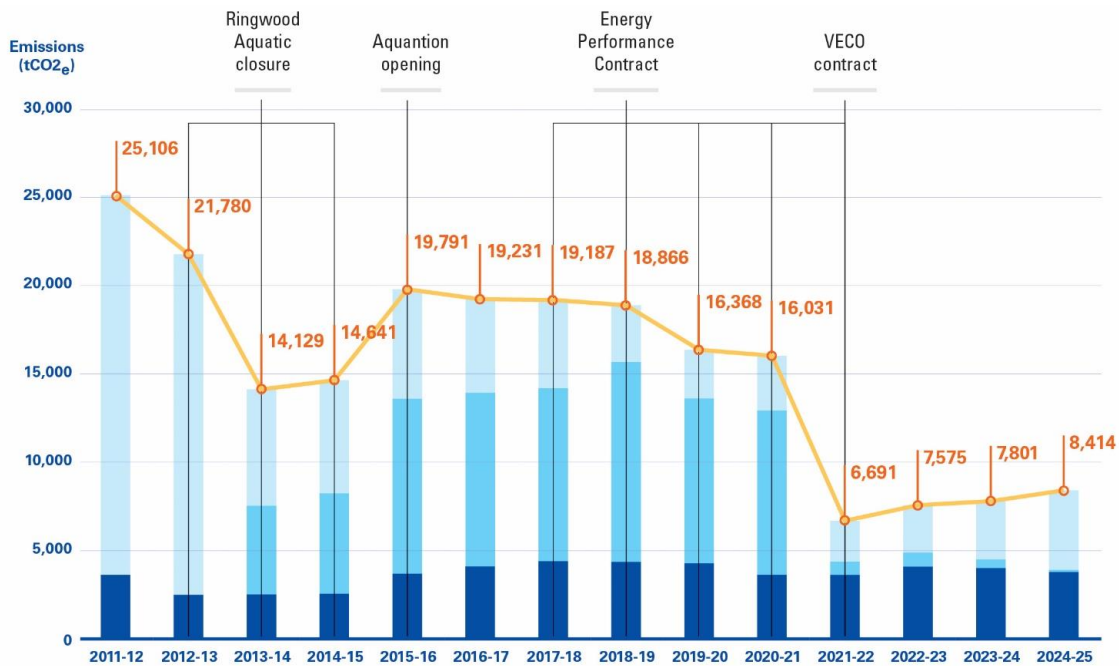


These plans not only demonstrate Council’s long-term commitment to address its legislated obligations but also recognise the success of past plans which have achieved a more than 65% emissions reduction from Council operations since 2011/12.

There are a wide range of completed and ongoing projects arising from these strategies that have contributed to reducing Council’s greenhouse gas emissions, including:

- Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) power purchase agreement - purchasing renewable electricity from July 2021, in partnership with councils across Victoria
- EAGA Joint Energy Performance Contract (EPC) to improve energy efficiency at Aquahub, Aquanation, The Rings, Maroondah Federation Estate, and Realm
- Improving energy efficiency of Council buildings using best practice and environmentally sustainable design (ESD)
- Upgrading street lighting to energy efficient LED lights
- Installing solar PV across Council facilities
- Reducing waste to landfill and encourage recycling and composting from Council buildings
- Encouraging energy saving behaviour for Council building users
- Encouraging active and public transport options over personal vehicles
- Capturing and reporting on energy and emissions data

The graph below outlines Council’s greenhouse gas emissions since 2011/12 alongside the major emissions reduction activities.



Measuring emissions - What is tCO₂e?
 Greenhouse gases are measured using tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). This is because different greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, all have different abilities to trap heat and contribute to climate change. Carbon dioxide is considered the benchmark for measuring greenhouse gas emissions, so emissions from other greenhouse gases are converted into the equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide by applying their global warming potential (GWP).

Climate change is already recognised as a risk affecting Council operations and services and is embedded in existing strategies and plans across Council. This includes:

- Maroondah 2050 and the Council Plan
- Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031
- Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031
- Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030
- Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2023-2026
- Waste, Litter and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030
- Asset Management Strategy
- Open Space Strategy 2016
- Water Sensitive City Strategy

The Climate Adaptation Plan supports existing and future Council strategies and plans to further strengthen Council’s climate response.

Community emissions

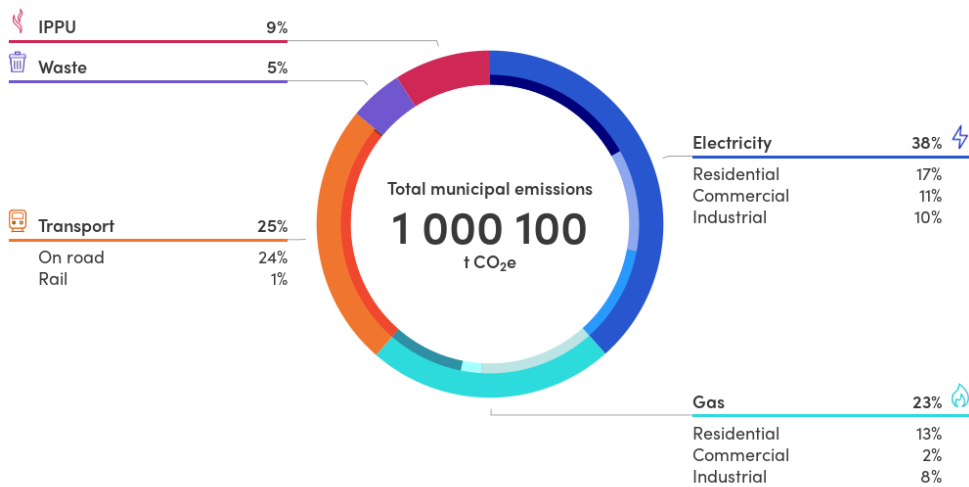
Our community plays an important role in climate change mitigation. The Maroondah community, including commercial, industrial and residential sources, contribute approximately 99% of Maroondah’s greenhouse gas emissions. This includes emissions from energy consumption (electricity, gas, fuel), transport, waste and industrial processes and product use (IPPU) (industrial processes, refrigerant use).

Since 2018/19, our community has reduced emissions by approximately 12.6% from 1,144,000 tCO₂e to 1,000,100 tCO₂e (Snapshot, 2025). Businesses and households continue to look for opportunities to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. This can include:

- Installing solar PV and energy efficient products
- Prioritising environmentally sustainable design when constructing or retrofitting buildings
- Choosing more active forms of transport and reducing reliance on private vehicles
- Making changes to common behaviours, such as turning off lights and appliances when not in use
- Sending less waste to landfill, including using programs such as household FOGO bins

Maroondah

2023/24 municipal emissions snapshot



3. What we did and what you told us?

The Draft Climate Adaptation Plan 2026-2031 was released for community consultation between 7 November and 12 December 2025. Consultation included a survey on Council's Your Say website where participants were asked:

1. What is your age group?
2. How are you connected to Maroondah?
3. Are you providing a response on behalf of a group or organisation?
4. How concerned are you about climate change? (Not concerned, slightly concerned, moderately concerned, very concerned, extremely concerned)
5. How much support do you have for the proposed three outcomes of the draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031? (Strongly support, support, neutral, oppose, strongly oppose)
6. Please provide any comments about the draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031
7. What would you like more information on? (Transport other than my car, reduce energy bills, navigating worries about climate change, prepare for extreme weather or power outages, advice for solar or energy efficient appliances, gardening and growing food)
8. If you would like information on a topic not listed above, please list it here
9. How would you like Council to provide information
10. Would you like to be kept updated on this project and similar future consultations?

A series of pop ups, including Café Consult at the Maroondah Festival, and storytimes at Realm and Croydon Libraries were held to reach more people. Pop ups provided an opportunity for community members to answer two questions:

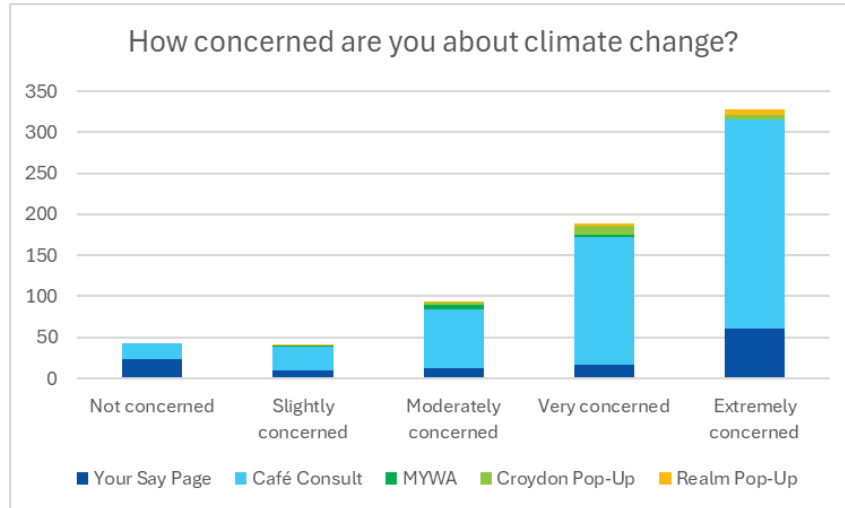
1. How concerned are you about climate change?
2. What would you like more information on? (Select 3 options)

Council officers also met with the Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates and Wurundjeri Woi-Wurung Aunties to discuss key themes and priority areas of the Climate Adaptation Plan.

Across the consultation period, total responses included:

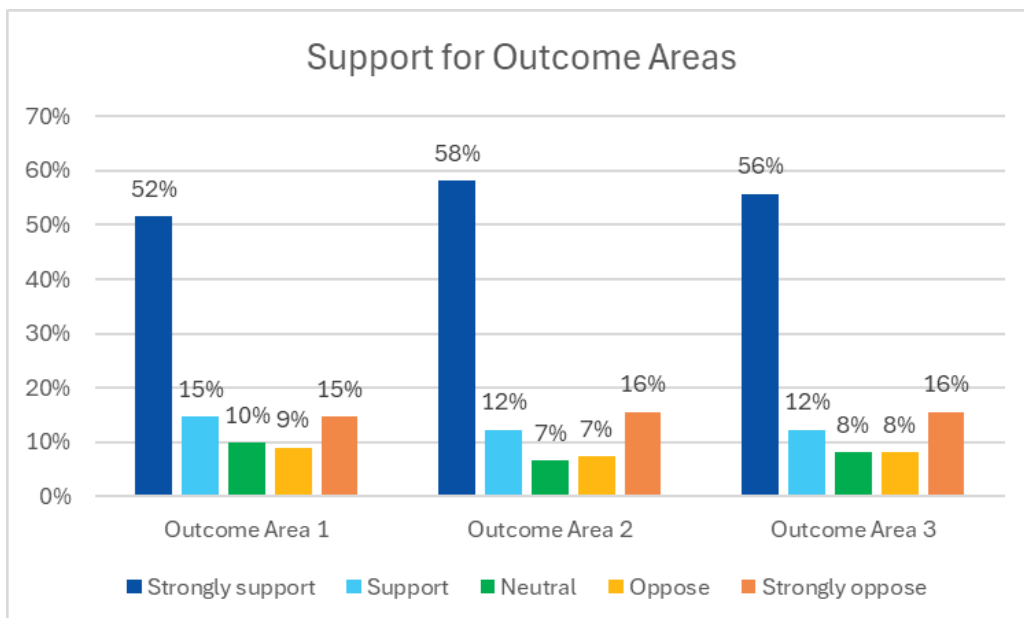
- Your Say page survey: 122 responses
- Café Consult, Maroondah Festival: 532 people
- Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates: 9 people
- Croydon and Realm Library pop ups: 31 people
- In person consultation with Wurundjeri Woi-Wurung Aunties
- Direct written submissions: 1

Climate change was generally considered concerning across the Maroondah community, with 74% of respondents expressed they were either "very" or "extremely concerned" about climate change and only 6% "not concerned" about climate change.



Feedback provided from the Your Say survey found that most survey respondents supported all three outcome areas of the draft Climate Adaptation Plan:

- Outcome Area 1: Reducing Council’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - 66% of respondents supported or strongly supported Outcome Area 1
 - 24% of respondents opposed or strongly opposed Outcome Area 1 (including 1 person who opposed OA1 as it was not ambitious enough)
- Outcome Area 2: Building a Resilient Maroondah
 - 70% of respondents supported or strongly supported Outcome Area 2
 - 23% of respondents opposed or strongly opposed Outcome Area 2
- Outcome Area 3: A Climate Ready Community
 - 68% of respondents supported or strongly supported Outcome Area 3
 - 24% of respondents opposed or strongly opposed Outcome Area 3



Feedback from the comment box in the Your Say survey fell into three main categories:

1. The draft Climate Adaptation Plan is not ambitious enough and/or Council should push for net zero as soon as possible
2. The draft Climate Adaptation Plan provides appropriate and ambitious direction for Council to pursue climate action
3. Climate change is not an issue and/or there is nothing that Council can or should be doing to address it

Feedback has been incorporated into the Climate Adaptation Plan where possible and appropriate. It is important to recognise that the consultation did not seek feedback on the legitimacy of climate science, nor Council's responsibility to respond to climate change. Council relies on the local, national and global science community to understand the predicted impacts of climate change on Maroondah. Council's responsibilities to respond to climate change are also clearly outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Climate Action Act 2017*.

Detailed responses to community comments can be found in the Draft Climate Adaptation Plan Engagement Report.

4. A plan for the future

A vision for a climate resilient Maroondah

Maroondah is a strong and climate resilient community, with declining greenhouse gas emissions for both Council operations and across our community.

Strategic Framework

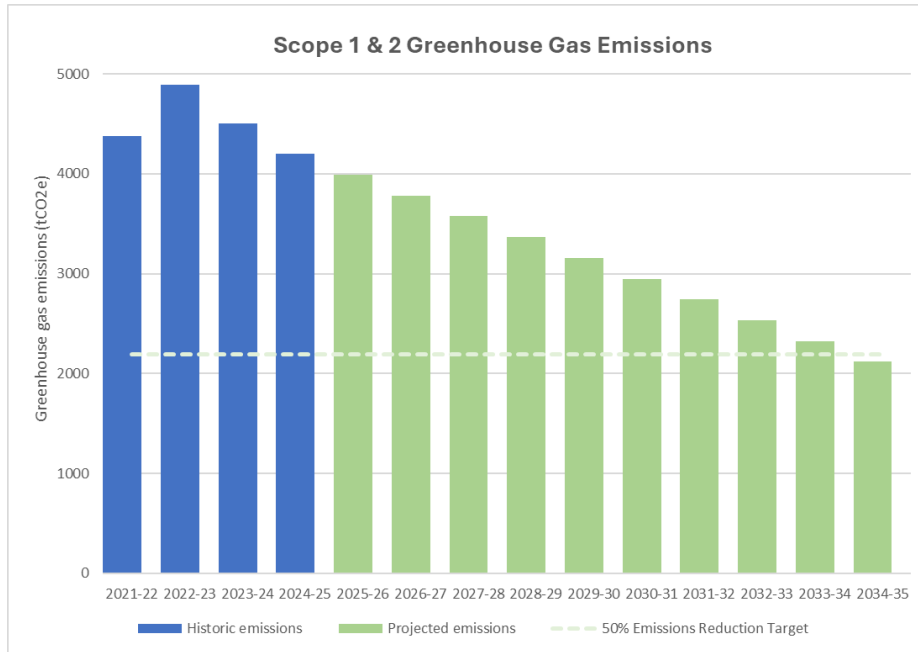
The Climate Adaptation Plan 2026-2031 responds to key directions presented in the Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031. It presents a plan to address climate change mitigation and adaptation within Council operations, as well as supporting a climate ready community, across three outcome areas.



Outcome area 1 - Reducing Council’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Council will reduce operational scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 50% of 2021/22 levels by 2035.

Council plays an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while leading our community in climate change mitigation actions. Council is prioritising reducing scope 1 and 2 emissions by electrifying assets and moving away from gas where possible, improving energy efficiency, and shifting to renewable energy sources. This follows the increasing availability and feasibility of new technologies, such as electrification of aquatic centres and fleet, over recent years. Forecasted emissions reduction over the next decade are outlined in the graph below.



Understanding Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Council's operational greenhouse gas emissions can be categorised into direct (scope 1) and indirect (scope 2 and 3) emissions, depending on the level of control that Council has over the emissions (Clean Energy Regulator, 2025).

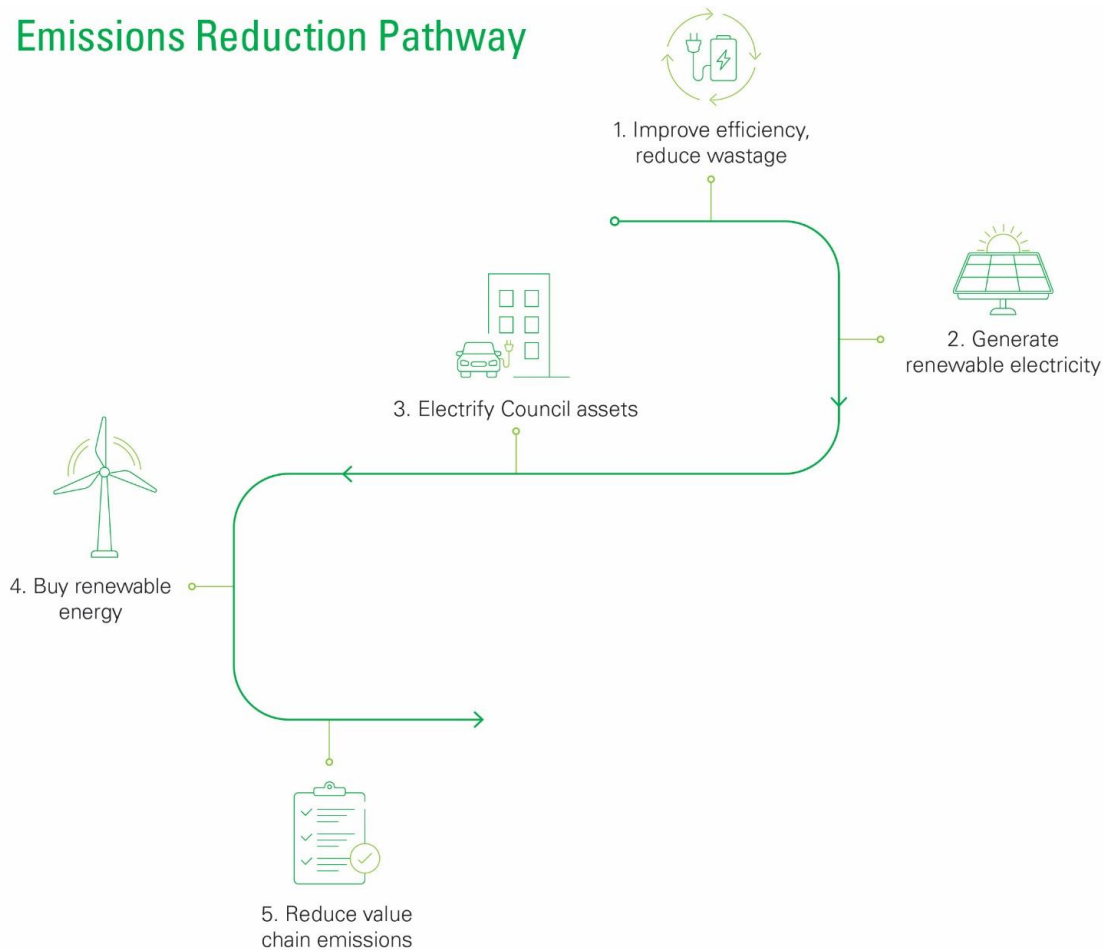
Scope 1: Emissions directly released into the atmosphere from Council’s activities (eg. Burning natural gas for heating, or petrol in vehicles)

Scope 2: Indirect emissions released from the production of electricity (eg. Electricity purchased from the grid)

Scope 3: Indirect emissions released during the production, delivery or disposal of goods and services used by Council (eg. Food and drink, IT services, paper, building materials, etc.).

Council will use the emissions reduction pathway below to prioritise actions that will deliver the greatest drop in operational greenhouse gas emissions. The emissions reduction pathway begins by reducing the overall energy consumption of Council assets and the associated emissions, then steps through five emissions reduction stages. Actions and implementation timeframes are dependent on the development of a business case or feasibility study, including budget availability and indirect benefits (eg. social, process efficiency) where possible.

Emissions Reduction Pathway



1. **Improve efficiency, reduce wastage**

The first step to reducing our operational emissions is improving energy and water efficiency to reduce the total energy and water consumption of Council assets. This includes:

- Council buildings
- Public and street lighting
- Irrigation at parks, reserves and sporting ovals

By using best-practice techniques and investing in quality buildings and new technologies, we will reduce energy and water wastage and operating costs. This will deliver long term cost and emissions savings, as well as community-centred assets and facilities.

2. **Generate energy**

Council is continuing to invest in solar photovoltaic (PV) systems across Council facilities. Solar PV is an effective way to reduce the reliance on grid-power and reduce electricity costs. Solar PV generates renewable electricity onsite, reducing operating and electricity distribution costs and emissions.

3. Electrify

Many Council buildings currently rely on natural gas, including Council's three aquatic centres, Aquanation, Aquahub, and the Croydon Memorial Pool, as well as sporting pavilions and community facilities. Similarly, Council fleet and plant equipment is primarily petrol and diesel based.

Replacing natural gas and fuel consumption with electric alternatives will enable us to move from non-renewable and emissions intensive energy sources to renewable energy sources. Using onsite generation from solar PV wherever possible also means Council will produce more of the energy we use.

4. Buy renewable - the Victorian Energy Collaboration

In 2021, Council joined with other members of Victorian Greenhouse Alliances, including EAGA, to purchase 100% renewable electricity for large Council sites. Since then, Council has expanded this to all Council operated facilities and street lighting. The project is the largest emissions reduction project undertaken by the local government sector in Australia and has resulted in significant emissions and costs savings for Council.

5. Reduce scope 3 emissions

Value chain, or scope 3 emissions, include emissions associated with producing, transporting and disposing of products or services used by Council, such as food, paper, construction materials, and equipment. Reducing our scope 3 emissions can be achieved by either using less of a product or service or switching to a lower emission alternative product.

One of the biggest challenges in reducing scope 3 emissions is in the availability of reliable emissions data. Council has been reporting on some scope 3 emissions data where available, however there is still work to be done. Recent changes to national mandatory sustainability reporting are expected to improve the availability of scope 3 emissions factors and data over coming years, but this will still require improvements to Council's data collection capabilities.

Scope 3 Emissions

In the short term as more data becomes available, Council's operational scope 3 emissions will appear to rise significantly. This should not be a barrier for improving data collection, but instead an opportunity to build a comprehensive understanding of scope 3 emissions and to set an ambitious scope 3 emissions reduction target in the future.

Key directions

- 1.1 Reduce scope 1 emissions by electrification of Council assets and reduce Council's reliance on fossil fuels
- 1.2 Reduce scope 2 emissions by investing in renewable energy sources and storage for Council assets
- 1.3 Reduce scope 3 (value chain) emissions using sustainable procurement processes and responsible use of resources
- 1.4 Improve Council's environmental data quality and reporting capabilities to better facilitate opportunities for emissions reduction

Outcome area 2 - Building a Resilient Maroondah

Climate change is already affecting the health and resilience of our environment and community. It is increasing the frequency of extreme weather and affecting supply chains, increasing the pressure on Council operations and services, households, and local businesses and organisations.

A resilient Maroondah is a climate-ready Maroondah. We will become more prepared for the impacts of climate change by embedding climate change as part of Council's "business as usual" decision making processes instead of using isolated actions to address climate change. For example, how can Council manage parks and reserves to ensure they are climate resilient and continue to be a valuable community asset with healthy ecosystems that support active lifestyles, mental health, and connection to nature?

1. Resilient buildings and infrastructure

Council has buildings, assets, and infrastructure around Maroondah that provide Council services and support the community. Buildings and infrastructure may be vulnerable to both damage from extreme weather, and higher maintenance and replacement costs from long term climate change. It is important that we embed climate change adaptation measures into building and infrastructure planning and design. This will reduce asset vulnerability and ensure Council's services are adaptable and resilient.

2. Resilient environments

Leafy green neighbourhoods and high canopy cover are often highlighted as one of Maroondah's most loved features by our community. Plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms within Maroondah also form interconnected ecosystems and support local biodiversity. It is important to recognise the unique role of vegetation, biodiversity and green infrastructure in improving the resilience of the Maroondah environment to climate change.

Extreme weather events can cause damage to ecosystems, while long term changes to climatic patterns, such as warmer average temperatures and droughts, can place additional stresses on the environment. This amplifies the pressures of urbanisation on the natural environment, such as the urban heat island effect and damage to local habitats.

Council is already embedding climate change in the management of Council bushland, parks, reserves, golf courses, and tree maintenance, but there is still more work to be done. This includes species selection, weed and pest management, watering regimes and the use of recycled or harvested stormwater. Embedding climate change into the management of Maroondah's natural environments now will support healthy and resilient environments today and into the future.

Green infrastructure

Green infrastructure describes the use of vegetation and natural systems to deliver ecosystem services such as clean air, clean water, stormwater management and flood mitigation, and local cooling. Green infrastructure can also be used to achieve environmental, social and economic outcomes, including mental and physical health benefits of getting outside, more liveable neighbourhoods and more resilient local biodiversity. This is often in contrast to traditional "grey" or built infrastructure, such as roads, paths and stormwater drains.

3. Reliable and responsive Council services

Council provides a broad range of services to the Maroondah community, all of which are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. These include:

- Waste collection
- Road and footpath maintenance
- Maternal and child health services
- Public health and immunisation services
- Meals on Wheels
- Occasional Care
- Youth programs
- Seniors' programs

Considering the impacts of climate change in planning ensures that Council services are resilient and able to support the Maroondah community. These impacts may include the effects of extreme weather on service delivery, disruptions to supply chains, the rising cost of living and insurance, or a lack of access to cool spaces.

4. Preparing for and responding to emergencies

Extreme weather is not new in Maroondah. The area has been exposed to droughts, heatwaves, floods, and storms throughout its history. Maroondah, and the eastern region of Melbourne, have emergency management plans that are enacted in the case of local emergency. The plans include local councils, response and recovery agencies, and relevant local businesses and community representatives.

Climate change supercharges extreme weather events. As a result, they may become more frequent and more severe, affecting emergency management and recovery planning, budgeting and resourcing.

Maintaining Council operations and services before, during and after emergency events will be embedded in business continuity planning across service areas.

5. Transition to a low carbon economy

Climate change brings uncertainty and unpredictability. Transition risks are risks associated with the transition to a low carbon economy. This means moving away from fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emitting activities and replacing them with low carbon alternatives, such as wind and solar electricity generation.

Risks associated with this transition may include:

- Energy market uncertainties, including availability and price
- Changes to state and federal climate change policies
- Changes to mandatory climate reporting requirements
- Knowledge gaps in new sustainable products and technologies, and reporting requirements and methodologies
- Policy, legal and reputational risks caused by a failure to address climate change
- Market and financial risks

6. Risk, reporting, and compliance

Council has responsibilities under State and Federal legislation to address and embed climate change in Council decision making. We are currently updating our climate change risk assessment and risk register. This will manage the ongoing and evolving risks associated with climate change and further encourage embedding climate action across all Council departments and services.

Key directions

- 2.1 Use shared resources and technical expertise through the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) to advocate to state and federal governments for support to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, maximising efficiencies of scale
- 2.2 Use green infrastructure and best-practice management tools to adapt to climate change and support the ongoing health and resilience of existing vegetation and biodiversity across Maroondah
- 2.3 Identify opportunities to improve the resilience of built assets and infrastructure to climate change
- 2.4 Embed climate change adaptation and risk management in decision making processes
- 2.5 Embed climate change risk in emergency management

Outcome area 3 - A Climate Ready Community

Maroondah is a strong and vibrant community, filled with passionate and knowledgeable individuals, groups and organisations who are already implementing climate action. 'Friends of' groups, libraries and toy libraries, repair cafes, and food support organisations are just some of the ways our community shares knowledge and resources to build a more climate resilient Maroondah.

Council's role is to support the Maroondah community, ensuring that we can tackle the challenges posed by climate change together.

1. **Reducing community emissions**

Businesses, organisations, and residents across Maroondah contribute approximately 99% of Maroondah's greenhouse gas emissions. Actions such as prioritising environmentally sustainable design and improving energy efficiency of appliances, installing solar PV and batteries, and implementing behaviour change, not only helps to reduce community emissions, but also reduces energy and water costs.

Improving building quality through draught proofing, insulating, shading, and following good design principles, such as building orientation, also makes homes healthier and more comfortable during hot and cold weather. Some of these solutions can be implemented at low cost and with minimal effort by both homeowners and tenants.

The availability and accessibility of active and public transport infrastructure, including walking and cycling infrastructure, can also play a role in reducing community emissions while also improving mental and physical health outcomes, and cost of living pressures.

2. **Managing emergencies, building resilience**

Climate change brings an increased risk of extreme weather events, such as extreme heat and heatwaves, storms and heavy rainfall, and bushfires. This can lead to property damage, accessibility issues, and power outages. It can also pose a significant risk to community health and wellbeing.

The most vulnerable members of our community are also often those hardest hit by extreme weather events and rising costs from impacts to supply chains. Connected communities are more resilient to emergencies, sharing information, resources, support and friendship.

3. **Knowledge building and sharing**

Climate change can seem overwhelming, and climate anxiety is increasingly common across the community. Sharing knowledge and information can make challenges seem more manageable and empower individuals to make sustainable choices in their own lives. This may include identifying ways to improve home energy efficiency and using environmentally sustainable design and draught proofing, choosing native vegetation for drought tolerant gardens, or helping to install solar PV or batteries. Every action moves us towards becoming a climate ready community.

There is also an opportunity to embed the Wurundjeri-Woi-wurung principles of caring for Country within knowledge building and sharing across the municipality. This may include:

- Supporting residents to plant indigenous species in their gardens
- Encouraging people of all ages to spend more time in the natural environment.
- Providing support and resources to help our community understand the role of natural systems in our everyday lives, (eg. clean air, clean water, shade and local cooling, biodiversity, etc.) and the benefits of creating a built environment that embraces natural ecosystem services rather than working against them.

Key directions

- 3.1 Identify opportunities to encourage a connection to nature and care for Country
- 3.2 Identify opportunities to improve the accessibility of active transport options around Maroondah and reduce reliance on vehicles
- 3.3 Deliver programs to reduce waste to landfill and encourage the circular economy in Maroondah
- 3.4 Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change
- 3.5 Identify opportunities to improve emergency preparedness and community resilience to climate change

Tracking our progress

Climate change reporting is becoming more comprehensive as large corporations in Australia are required to complete mandatory climate reporting under legislation introduced by the Australian Government. This has recently expanded to include climate risk reporting, in addition to emissions reporting. As of 2025, there is no requirement for Council to complete this mandatory reporting, however, Council is working on improving reporting functionality and data collection methodology, in preparation for the likelihood that we will be required to complete this reporting in the future.

Annual greenhouse gas emissions reporting is also essential to evaluating the success of emissions reduction actions. Annual organisational emissions reporting will continue to follow best practice and will be published on Council's website, with total greenhouse gas emissions to be included in Council's Annual Report.

The associated Climate Change Action Plan identifies key actions to address climate change mitigation, adaptation, risk management, and opportunities to support our community to manage the impacts of climate change. The evolving nature of climate change means that actions must be dynamic and adaptable based on both operational and community needs. Climate change will also be embedded across Council policies, strategies and plans as they are developed, with new actions developed as required or as legislation changes.

Climate Change Action Plan progress will be reviewed annually. An interim review of the Climate Adaptation Plan will be completed in 2028 and a full review conducted in 2031.

5. Climate Change Action Plan

Key Directions	Actions	Time Frame (years)		
		1-2	2-4	4+
Outcome Area 1: Reducing Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions		1-2	2-4	4+
1.1 Reduce scope 1 emissions by electrification of Council assets and reducing Council's reliance on fossil fuels	Transition at least 50% of Council's passenger fleet vehicles from internal combustion engines (ICE) to electric vehicles (EV) by 2030			•
	Electrify at least one of Council's aquatic centres by 2035			•
1.2 Reduce scope 2 emissions by investing in renewable energy sources and storage for Council assets	Investigate further opportunities for onsite energy storage, including battery and thermal energy storage, to maximise benefits of solar PV and reduce export to the grid		•	•
1.3 Reduce scope 3 (value chain) emissions using sustainable procurement processes and responsible use of resources	Investigate sustainable procurement principles for purchasing processes to increase the use of low-carbon materials and to reduce waste		•	
	Review Council's Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure to reflect current best practice and meet evolving assets needs and technologies	•		
	Identify opportunities for additional technical support and resources to improve accessibility and feasibility of new low-carbon materials		•	
1.4 Improve Council's environmental data quality and reporting capabilities to better facilitate opportunities for emissions reduction	Cease Climate Active certification and prioritise emissions reporting using best practice without the need to purchase carbon offsets	•		
	Conduct annual reporting of Council's operational greenhouse gas emissions in line with best practice, clearly defining emissions scope boundaries based on the availability of data and accurate emissions factors	•	•	•
	Improve data collection for scope 3 emissions and review Council's emissions boundary annually, based on best practice and available data	•	•	•
	Monitor and respond to standards used for mandatory reporting and re-evaluate emissions reduction targets based on necessary scope boundaries. Review the need to incorporate scope 3 emissions in Council's emissions reduction target upon introduction of mandatory reporting.	•	•	•
	Investigate opportunities to streamline and/or automate data capture and reporting through the Council finance system and utilities management platform	•		

Outcome Area 2: Building a Resilient Maroondah				
2.1 Use shared resources and technical expertise through the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances to advocate to state and federal governments for support to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, maximising efficiencies of scale	Advocate for funding to enhance the climate resilience of Council infrastructure and buildings following disasters	•	•	•
	Participate in EAGA projects that support ongoing emissions reduction and adaptation outcomes for Council and the community	•	•	•
	Advocate for the further roll-out of the Snapshot community emissions platform to continue tracking annual community emissions	•	•	•
2.2 Use green infrastructure and best-practice management tools to adapt to climate change and support the ongoing health and resilience of existing vegetation and biodiversity across Maroondah	Review and update the Water Sensitive City Strategy	•		
	Strengthen the protection, health and longevity of vegetation and biodiversity across Maroondah and restore/create new habitat in key locations. <i>For more detail, please see the Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030</i>	•	•	•
	Effectively manage blue-green infrastructure to maximise environmental and social benefits		•	
2.3 Identify opportunities to improve the resilience of built assets and infrastructure to climate change	<i>For more detail, please see the Asset Management Plan</i>	•	•	•
2.4 Embed climate change adaptation and risk management in decision making processes	Embed climate change in relevant Council policies, plans, strategies and reports	•	•	•
	Embed climate change in position descriptions of all relevant staff members in climate change related roles and responsibilities	•		
	Develop climate change training for Council staff and Councillors	•		
	Review climate change risks within operational risk profiles and business continuity plans	•	•	•
2.5 Embed climate change risk in emergency management	<i>For more detail, see Municipal Emergency Management Plan and Municipal Fire Management Sub Plan 2023-26</i>	•		

Outcome Area 3: A Climate Ready Community				
3.1 Identify opportunities to encourage a connection to nature and care for Country	Continue to be a member of the Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning to boost education about sustainability, environment and indigenous culture in our schools and foster leadership and citizenship by young people.	•	•	•
	Encourage children and young people's passion for environmental protection and sustainability. <i>For more detail, see Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy and associated action plans</i>	•	•	•
3.2 Identify opportunities to improve the accessibility of active transport options around Maroondah and reduce the reliance on vehicles	<i>For more detail, see Maroondah Transport Strategy 2025-2035</i>	•	•	•
3.3 Deliver programs to reduce waste to landfill and encourage the circular economy in Maroondah	<i>For more detail, see Waste, Litter and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030</i>	•	•	•
3.4 Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change	Add a "sustainability" category in the Council community grant program	•		
	Promote programs, such as Solar Savers and My Energy and Water Saver Kits, to support Maroondah residents and businesses to electrify and reduce their energy usage and costs	•	•	•
	Investigate opportunities to subsidise energy efficiency actions and outcomes for Maroondah residents	•		
	Provide community education for climate change adaptation and mitigation via workshops, webinars or online educational videos and resources	•	•	•
	Investigate opportunities to work with or promote sustainability or climate action focused community groups to deliver community education workshops or knowledge sharing	•		
3.5 Identify opportunities to improve community resilience to climate change and emergency preparedness	Support connections within the Maroondah community to build resilience to climate change and emergency preparedness	•	•	
	Support vulnerable residents to address preparedness for extreme weather and emergency events. <i>For more detail, see Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy and associated Action Plans</i>	•		
	Create a Maroondah Cool Places Map to improve community knowledge of places to visit and ways to stay cool during extreme heat	•		

6. References and Glossary

References

Choice 2023, 'Weathering the Storm: Insurance in a Changing Climate',
<<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/weathering-the-storm-insurance-in-a-changing-climate/>>

City of Melbourne 2016, 'Resilient Melbourne', viewed 26 November 2021,
<https://resilientmelbourne.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/COM_SERVICE_PROD-9860726-v1-Final_Resilient_Melbourne_strategy_for_web_180516.pdf>

Clean Energy Regulator 2025, 'Emissions and energy types', viewed 18 August 2025,
<<https://cer.gov.au/schemes/national-greenhouse-and-energy-reporting-scheme/about-emissions-and-energy-data/emissions-and-energy-types>>

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) 2025, 'Australia's 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution', Canberra.

IPCC, 2018: Annex I: Glossary [Matthews, J.B.R. (ed.)]. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 541-562, doi:10.1017/9781009157940.008.

Snapshot 2025, 'Maroondah', <<https://snapshotclimate.com.au/locality/australia/victoria/maroondah/>>

Glossary

Adaptation

The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects.

Best practice

A method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark.

Biodiversity

The term given to the variety of life on Earth. It is the variety within and between all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems within which they live and interact.

Climate change

Climate change is caused by the amplification of the natural greenhouse effect. It is caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, in our atmosphere from activities such as burning fossil fuels. These greenhouse gases trap more heat in the atmosphere, warming the oceans and supercharging weather systems.

Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA)

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action is a formal collaboration of eight Councils in Melbourne's east, working together on regional programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate regional adaptation.

Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)

The sustainable design of buildings seeks to provide a framework to include sustainability in the whole of the building process including planning, design, construction, occupancy and decommissioning. The aim is to create comfortable and healthy indoor environments while reducing resource use (including energy and water consumption), waste, and operating costs.

Greenhouse gas emissions

The seven major greenhouse gases emitted from burning fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas are water vapour; carbon dioxide (CO₂); methane (CH₄); nitrous oxide (N₂O); hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs); per fluorocarbons (PFCs); and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Green infrastructure

The use of vegetation and natural systems to deliver ecosystem services such as clean air, clean water, stormwater management and flood mitigation, and local cooling. Green infrastructure can also be used to achieve environmental, social and economic outcomes, including mental and physical health benefits of getting outside, more liveable neighbourhoods and more resilient local biodiversity. This is often in contrast to traditional "grey" or built infrastructure, such as roads, paths and stormwater drains.

Mitigation

A human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

A power purchase agreement or PPA is a direct agreement between an electricity consumer, or group of consumers, and seller. They are increasingly used by organisations as a method of purchasing renewable energy to cover all their electricity consumption without having to install renewable generation, such as solar PV panels, on site. Meanwhile, solar and wind farm developers use PPAs to fund their projects to guarantee an ongoing income stream.

Resilience

Resilience is the capacity of a system to deal with change and continue to develop. Melbourne is made up of hundreds of interdependent systems that support our critical services (e.g. transport, healthcare, energy, local support networks). An interruption to one of these systems can have cascading impacts across Melbourne.

Sustainability

Sustainability encompasses the simple principle of taking from the earth only what it can provide indefinitely, therefore leaving future generations with no less than we have access to ourselves.

Victorian Electricity Collaboration (VECO)

A group power purchase agreement (PPA) including over 60 Victorian councils that has provided Council with renewable electricity from Victorian windfarms since 2021.

To contact Council



Call

1300 88 22 33 or (03) 9298 4598
SMS 0480 020 200
Translating and Interpreting Service 131 450
National Relay Service (NRS) 133 677



Live chat online

www.maroondah.vic.gov.au



Email

maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Follow our social media





Engagement Report

Draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031

March 2026



Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
2	What we did.....	3
2.1	Engagement and Reach.....	5
3	What we were told - Your Say Page	5
3.1	Your Say Survey Participants.....	6
3.2	Your Say Survey Feedback Results.....	7
4	What we were told - Consultation with community groups	12
4.1	Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates.....	12
4.2	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC).....	13
4.2	Direct Written Responses.....	13
5	What we were told - Café Consult at Maroondah Festival.....	14
6	What we were told - Library Pop Ups.....	16
7	Recommendations.....	18
8	Appendices.....	19
	Appendix 1: Comments from the Your Say Page Survey	19
	Appendix 2: Feedback from the Your Say Visioner Board.....	35
	Appendix 3: Direct Written Response.....	37
	Appendix 4: Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates Consultation	40

1 Introduction

Climate change is already impacting Maroondah. Preparing for the expected impacts of climate change is essential to achieving the community vision outlined in Maroondah 2050:

Maroondah is a safe, inclusive and vibrant community, striving for a green, prosperous and sustainable future for all.

The Draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031 presents a roadmap for how Council will:

1. Reduce Council's operational greenhouse gas emissions
2. Prepare Council operations and services for the impacts of climate change
3. Support the Maroondah community to prepare for the impacts of climate change, including reducing community emissions

Community consultation for the Draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031 was conducted between 7 November to 12 December 2025 to understand the community priorities in addressing climate change across both Council operations and the wider Maroondah community.

694 individuals provided feedback throughout the consultation period, including via the Your Say webpage, Maroondah Festival Café Consult, library pop up, Council's advisory committees, and direct consultation with Wurundjeri.

74% of respondents were either very or extremely concerned about climate change, demonstrating a clear expectation for Council to address climate change. There was also general support (66-70%) across all outcome areas of the Draft Climate Change Plan.

Feedback from the comment box in the Your Say survey fell into three main categories:

1. The draft Climate Change Plan is not ambitious enough and/or Council should push for net zero as soon as possible
2. The draft Climate Change Plan provides appropriate and ambitious direction for Council to pursue climate action
3. Climate change is not an issue and/or there is nothing that Council can or should be doing to address it

As Council has a legislated responsibility to address climate change under the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Climate Action Act 2017*, consultation was not seeking opinions on whether Council should address climate change, nor the legitimacy of climate science.

This Engagement Report provides a summary of all feedback received and Council's response to feedback.

2 What we did

Consultation for the Draft Climate Change Plan was launched on Council's Your Say page for 6 weeks from Friday, 7 November to Friday, 12 December 2025. The Your Say page included a copy of the Draft Climate Change Plan, a short survey about the plan, and a series of frequently asked questions and other relevant documents. Participants were also invited to post a small action they are currently taking to address climate change in their own lives.

Given climate change is expected to impact the whole Maroondah community, consultation was targeted at anyone who “lives, works or plays” in Maroondah, including all ages and backgrounds.

The Your Say page was promoted through various Council channels, including newsletters, social media, at customer service centres, the Maroondah Festival, and pop-ups and library story times at both Croydon Library and Realm. Local community groups were also contacted directly via email to encourage a response to the Your Say Page survey given the important role of community groups in preparing a climate-ready Maroondah. Postcards promoting the survey were also left at community venues, including CRISP nursery and community centres.

Questions included in the Your Say page survey included:

1. What is your age group?
2. How are you connected to Maroondah?
3. Are you providing a response on behalf of a group or organisation?
4. How concerned are you about climate change?
5. How much support do you have for the proposed three outcomes of the draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031? (Strongly support, support, neutral, oppose, strongly oppose)
6. Please provide any comments about the draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031
7. What would you like more information on? (Transport other than my car, reduce energy bills, navigating worries about climate change, prepare for extreme weather or power outages, advice for solar or energy efficient appliances, gardening and growing food)
8. If you would like information on a topic not listed above, please list it here
9. How would you like Council to provide information
10. Would you like to be kept updated on this project and similar future consultations?

Pop up consultations were conducted at Maroondah Festival Café Consult, Croydon Library, and Realm. These pop-ups provided community members with the opportunity to talk to a Council officer about the draft Climate Change Plan and answer two questions:

1. How concerned are you about climate change?
2. What would you like more information on? (Select 3 options)
 - a. Transport other than my car
 - b. Reduce energy bills
 - c. Navigating worries about climate change
 - d. Prepare for extreme weather or power outages
 - e. Advice for solar or energy efficient appliances
 - f. Gardening and growing food

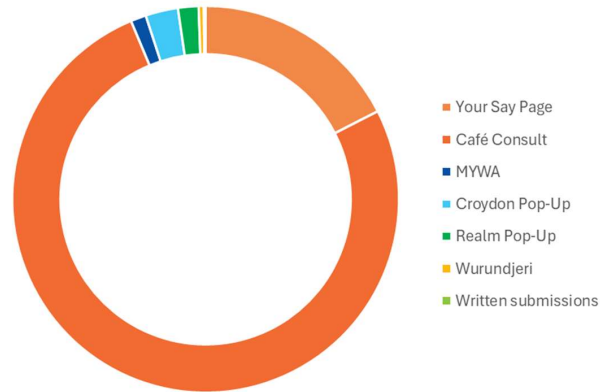
Council officers attended a Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates meeting during the consultation period to capture feedback from young people in Maroondah. Other Council advisory committees, including Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee, Maroondah Livability, Safety and Amenity Advisory Committee, Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee, Maroondah Community Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee, and Maroondah Inclusion, Accessibility and Equity Advisory Committee were consulted on development of the draft plan between May and June 2025. These committees are made up of representatives from community groups, organisations and businesses, as well as Maroondah residents. Advisory committees were involved in workshops focusing on Outcome Area 3 and provided feedback on how Council could best support the Maroondah community to reduce emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Notification of the public consultation period was provided to advisory committee members in November 2025.

Council officers also participated in a Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation consultation session with Wurundjeri Aunties in December 2025.

2.1 Engagement and Reach

Almost 700 people and organisations provided feedback on the draft climate change plan during the Plan’s consultation period. This includes:

- Your Say page survey: 122 responses
- Café Consult, Maroondah Festival: 532 people
- Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates: 9 people
- Croydon and Realm Library pop ups: 31 people
- In person consultation with Wurundjeri Woi-Wurung Aunties
- Direct written submissions: 1



Unfortunately, a social media ad campaign was blocked by Meta (Facebook and Instagram) as climate change was considered too political as a topic, despite the best efforts by the Communications Team. This significantly reduced the online reach and promotion of the consultation and, by extension, reduced the number of responses received.

Communication channels promoting the consultation include; Council website banners and page pop ups, various Council online newsletters, displays and seed paper postcards at Council service centres and facilities, organic (unpaid) social media posts, Council customer service messages on hold, Maroondah News printed publication, and Mayoral community update video.

3 What we were told - Your Say Page

Feedback was primarily sought through responses to a survey on the Maroondah City Council Your Say Page. The survey was promoted broadly across Council channels and publications. Survey responses were received throughout the consultation period with results summarised below.

The Your Say Page provided an opportunity for users to leave a comment about “what you are already doing to help, make a pledge or you can 'like' a comment you support from other folks below”. This was an open form noticeboard that allowed anonymous submissions and was intended to connect the dots between small actions taken on a day-to-day basis throughout the community and the role of Council in supporting local climate action. Comments included:

- Share experiences with changing to an all-electric, efficient home to show others how to cut their energy bills.
- We have installed solar panel and feel that the rebate for that power is just not enough. We are unable to afford a battery at the moment
- To reduce energy use in winter we wear warmer clothes and use knee blankets rather than turn on heating and use ceiling fans in summer.
- Recycle bath water
- Handheld hose watering only
- Pull out weeds - no poison spraying

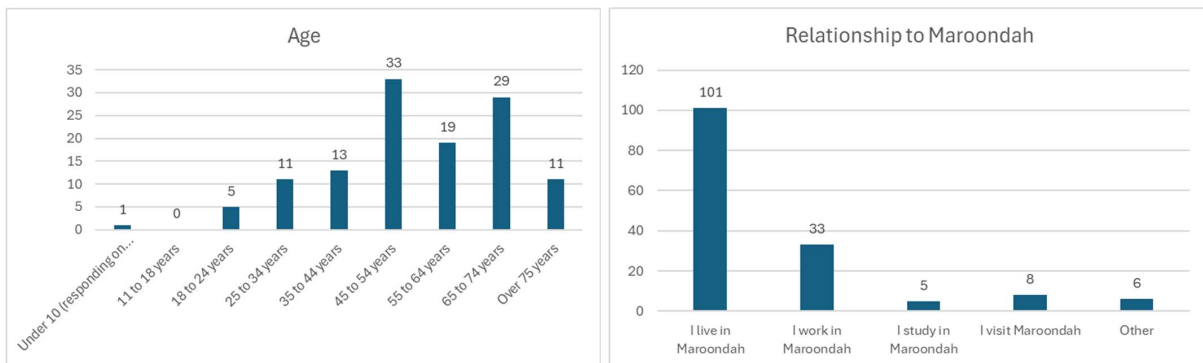
- Plant bird and insect attracting plants
- I ride my bike or walk to the shops so I don't have to drive my car
- I am planting as many native plants in our garden as I can, to give birds, bees, butterflies and insects; shelter and water.
- I put my heater on 19 degrees in winter and wear cosy clothes, and my cooler on 27 degrees on hot days and wear breezy clothes.
- I shut my curtains on hot days during the day

These responses demonstrate that many in our community are already doing small things every day to live more sustainably.

The comment section was also used by some community members to provide specific feedback of how Council should be responding to climate change rather than through the survey. These have been included in Appendix 2.

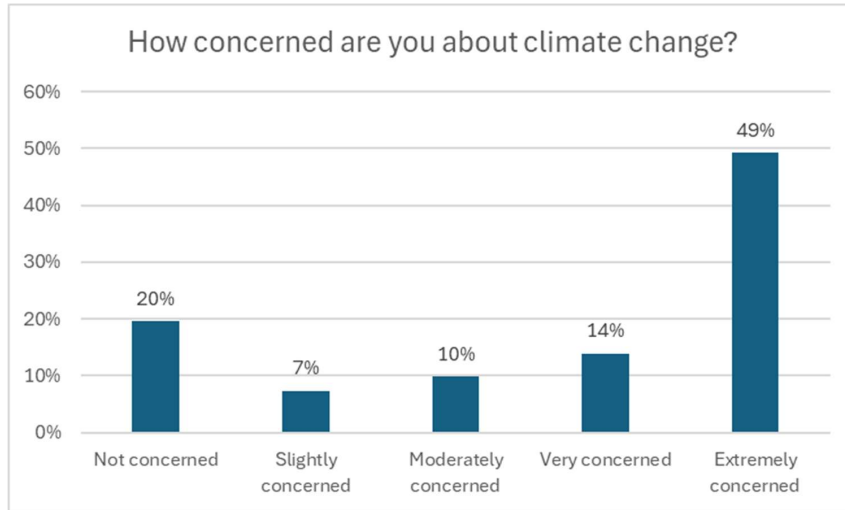
3.1 Your Say Survey Participants

122 survey responses were received, including 5 responses from organisations active within Maroondah. The age range of survey participants and their relationship to Maroondah is detailed below:



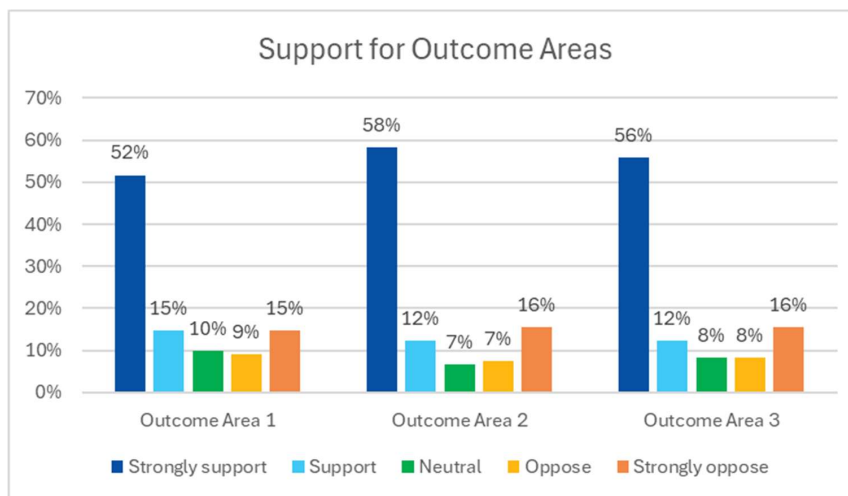
3.2 Your Say Survey Feedback Results

Responses from the Your Say survey showed that 63% of respondents were either very or extremely concerned about climate change. 10% of people were moderately concerned, 7% were slightly concerned, and 20% were not concerned.



Feedback provided from the Your Say survey found that most survey respondents supported all three outcome areas of the draft Climate Change Plan:

- Outcome Area 1: Reducing Council’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - 66% of respondents supported or strongly supported Outcome Area 1
 - 24% of respondents opposed or strongly opposed Outcome Area 1 (including 1 person who opposed OA1 as it was not ambitious enough)
- Outcome Area 2: Building a Resilient Maroondah
 - 70% of respondents supported or strongly supported Outcome Area 2
 - 23% of respondents opposed or strongly opposed Outcome Area 2
- Outcome Area 3: A Climate Ready Community
 - 68% of respondents supported or strongly supported Outcome Area 3
 - 24% of respondents opposed or strongly opposed Outcome Area 3



Feedback from the comment box in the Your Say survey fell into three main categories:

1. The draft Climate Change Plan is not ambitious enough and/or Council should push for net zero as soon as possible
2. The draft Climate Change Plan provides appropriate and ambitious direction for Council to pursue climate action
3. Climate change is not an issue and/or there is nothing that Council can or should be doing to address it

Feedback: The draft Climate Change Plan is not ambitious enough and Council should push for net zero as soon as possible

One submission noted the following:

The proposed 50% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2035 is achievable, but not ambitious, particularly given Council has already reduced emissions by nearly 70% since 2011/12 through VECO, LED upgrades, and efficiency measures. With rapid advancements in electrification and renewable technologies, Council is well positioned to bring timelines forward or lift the target to reflect what is now possible — and necessary — for climate leadership.

Council understands the pressing nature of climate action and greenhouse gas emissions reduction at a personal, household, organisational, national and global scale. However, it is also important to recognise that Council must act financially responsibly and within the limitations of available budgets. The Draft Climate Change Plan seeks to balance the long-term financial sustainability of Council (of which climate change poses significant and real threats) with appropriate climate mitigation and adaptation. For this reason, the following emissions reduction target has been set:

Council will reduce operational scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 50% of 2021/22 levels by 2035.

The target considers that most of the simple or low-cost emissions reduction actions have already been completed, and the remaining emissions are from harder or more costly-to-reduce sources. The target also considers asset renewal schedules and existing commitments, project lead times and costs, and ongoing operational savings to determine a realistic and achievable rate of emissions reduction. Actions are written in such a way that Council will aim, where possible, to exceed expected emissions reductions, but recognises a significant number of unknowns, including uncertainty in supply chains due to risks associated with climate change. The Draft Climate Change Plan proposes the use of an emissions reduction pathway to prioritise in the following order:

1. Improve efficiency, reduce wastage to reduce the energy demand of Council assets
2. Generate electricity on site
3. Electrify Council assets
4. Purchase renewable electricity through the Victorian Energy Collaboration
5. Reduce scope 3 or value chain emissions

Specific actions outlined in the Draft Plan include a plan to implement two significant projects to reduce scope 1 emissions; the electrification of at least one of Council's three aquatic centres by 2035, and the electrification of 50% of Council's fleet by 2030. Technology to implement these projects was not feasible until recent years and it is still an evolving space. Council currently purchases net zero electricity for all council buildings and street lighting, significantly reducing scope 2 emissions. The final step in the hierarchy presented in the Plan is better capturing scope 3 emissions data so a pathway for further emissions reduction can be developed.

While it is recognised there is a community demand for further action, project feasibility and financial sustainability is also considered an important component to decision making. Instead, Council will maintain the proposed target but will seek to exceed it if/where possible.

Feedback: The draft Climate Change Plan provides appropriate and ambitious direction for Council to pursue climate action

One submission noted the following:

I think it is excellent to see the local council taking real measures to help mitigate climate change and prepare the community to deal with the challenges. It's such a global issue, and most focus on mitigation is at a federal level, but local action makes a huge difference.

Council recognises the support for both climate change mitigation and adaptation actions presented in the Draft Climate Change Plan.

Feedback: Climate change is not an issue or there is nothing that Council can or should be doing to address it

One submission noted the following:

A total waste of time and energy. Australia has virtually zero impact on climate change and Maroondah absolutely zero. Stop wasting your time and get on with running Maroondah.

Comments opposing the Draft Climate Change Plan focused on the relevance of climate science, suggesting climate change is not a threat to the Maroondah community or Council operations. There were also comments regarding the insignificance of Council's total contribution towards global emissions, particularly in comparison to countries such as China and India, or that climate change mitigation or emissions reduction should be left to other levels of government. It is recognised that Council and the broader Maroondah community contribute a smaller portion of global emissions than entire countries, however Council has set an emissions reduction target to achieve the following outcomes:

- To meet Council's legislated obligations to align with state and federal emissions reduction targets and its responsibility to future generations under the *Local Government and Climate Action Acts*
- To act as a role model to Maroondah residents and businesses, demonstrating the broad range of social, financial and environmental benefits to improving energy efficiency and lowering emissions of buildings and infrastructure
- To prioritise operational efficiency, reduce long-term operating and maintenance costs, and improve the thermal comfort and associated accessibility of Council's assets
- To ensure Council's assets and services meet community needs and expectations both now and into the future

In many instances, survey participants who opposed the mitigation outcome area tended to oppose the entire plan. These comments do not recognise Council owned assets (eg. Buildings, roads, and stormwater and public lighting infrastructure) are vulnerable to climate change, including but not limited to rising insurance premiums and risk of long term under insurance or uninsurability of Council assets, rising energy prices, and changes to operating and maintenance requirements. The Climate Change Plan is as much about adaptation of Council's processes, procedures and asset management planning to the expected climate risks as it is about climate mitigation.

It is important to note that consultation did not seek to determine the legitimacy of climate science. Council is relying on the Australian and global science community to guide climate projections and the associated impacts if climate change on a local, regional and national scale. Comments questioning the existence of climate change or stating it is “climate hysteria”, or a “hoax” have not prompted any changes to the Draft Climate Change Plan for this reason.

Other comments

Feedback on many specific climate-related topics were also raised. Detailed responses to comments can be found in Appendix 1.

The importance of community education and home energy efficiency:

Outcome Area 3 recognises the importance of supporting our community to make sustainable choices, recognising the environmental, financial and social benefits of many of these actions. While Council does not offer any financial incentives for installing energy efficiency or solar/battery installations for residents, the Solar Savers program is a Council-run program that supports residents to access the various funding streams available from state and federal governments. Ongoing support of programs, such as Solar Savers and the My Energy and Water Saver Kits, is included under *Key Direction 3.4 Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change.*

Concerns regarding increasing urban development and population growth:

Building new homes within an existing area allows for the preservation of farmland and land of environmental significance that is located on the urban fringe. It also means that these homes have good access to existing public transport, services, retail and health needs and employment, reducing travelling time and emissions from transport. Good design of new buildings can reduce emissions by making new homes more energy efficient.

Transport planning should include improved active transport networks and better public transport infrastructure:

The Maroondah Transport Strategy 2025-2035 provides further detail regarding Council’s plans to continue to improve active transport. Council also considers ancillary infrastructure (eg. seating, drinking fountains, tree planting for shade) as part of the development and planning of active transport routes, as per Victorian guidelines to ensure comfort and safety when using these routes. The Maroondah Bicycle Network Plan (currently in development) will also include further details on improvements to cycling paths across the municipality.

Public transport, including bus and train routes and service frequency, is a State Government responsibility, however Council continues to advocate for more bus and train services to meet the growing needs of the Maroondah community. Advocacy positions are included in the Maroondah Transport Strategy.

Greater protection and recognition of the value of trees and vegetation for mitigating climate risks, including extreme heat and flooding:

Outcome area 2 - Building a Resilient Maroondah highlights the important role of Maroondah’s leafy green suburbs in preparing for the impacts of climate change, as well as the impacts of climate change on the natural environment. However, the Climate Change Plan is not intended to be a planning document nor make changes to the Maroondah Planning Scheme. The Maroondah Planning Scheme has existing controls that protect vegetation, however, recent changes made by the State Government have made it more difficult for Council to protect vegetation and implement the actions in the Vegetation Strategy. Council will continue to advocate for the protection of vegetation through the Planning Scheme.

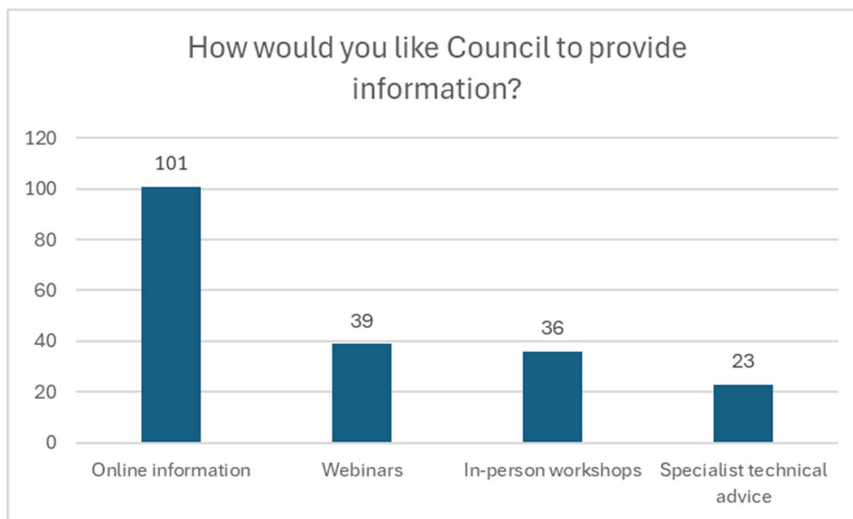
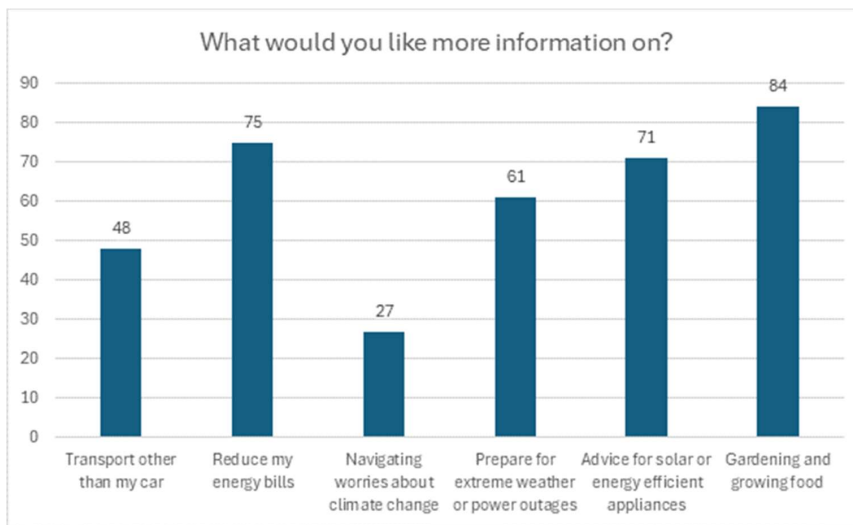
Climate change action is not considered a responsibility of Council and/or climate change is not real:

Council has a legislated responsibility to address climate change under the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Climate Action Act 2017*. The Draft Climate Change Plan seeks to prepare Council assets and

services for the predicted impacts of climate change and ensuring environmental, social and financial sustainability of Council operations and services over the coming years. Emissions reduction makes up only one component of this, however emissions reduction projects usually have a satisfactory return on investment, and climate-related projects undergo feasibility and business case planning prior to implementation. Council must also prepare for the upcoming renewable energy transition to ensure it is not exposed to price spikes and increasing service operation costs.

What would you like more information on?

Survey participants were also asked to choose 3 topics they would like Council to provide more information on, and how they would like to receive this information. The two most popular options were “Gardening and growing food” and “Reduce my energy bills”, with most people showing a preference for online information over webinars, in-person workshops, and specialist technical advice. This feedback will be incorporated into the design of an education program to support Outcome Area 3.



4 What we were told - Consultation with community groups

4.1 Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates

The Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates (MYWA) is a group of 16 young people, aged 15 - 25 who meet regularly with Council Youth Services staff to:

- Provide their perspectives to inform Council strategies, plans and projects
- Work with Council teams to find better ways to involve young people in Council planning and activities
- Design and deliver the annual Maroondah Youth Forum
- Support Council teams on projects and events involving young people

About the consultation

Council officers attended the MYWA meeting on Wednesday, 5 November 2025. Officers presented information about Council's responsibilities to respond to climate change and key details from the Draft Climate Change Plan. MYWA members were asked four questions, with results shown below. Two questions aligned with questions asked at the Maroondah Festival and consultation pop-up events:

1. How concerned are you about climate change?
2. What would you like more information on?

MYWA were also asked two questions to capture comments from about attitudes of Maroondah youth about climate change:

3. What does climate change mean for young people in Maroondah?
4. What would you like to know more about climate change in Maroondah?

Answers to questions 3 and 4 were captured in groups of 3-4 on butchers' paper and have been combined below.

Results

9 MYWA members participated in the surveys, which showed five out of nine were "moderately concerned" about climate change, three were "very concerned" and one person was "slightly concerned".

To the question "what would you like more information on?" the top answers were "prepare for extreme weather or power outages" and "gardening and growing food".

Key themes raised for the question "What does climate change mean for young people in Maroondah?" included:

- Concern and uncertainty regarding future impacts of climate change and the responsibility to "fix everything" falling on the shoulders of young people
- Impacts of climate change on friends and family
- The exacerbation of cost of living and inflation from climate-related disasters
- Impacts to plants and animals
- Things will be more difficult

Key themes raised for the question “What more would you like to know about climate change in Maroondah?” included:

- Science and available data about climate change
- What climate change means for Maroondah and the local area
- How climate change will impact young people
- How young people can advocate and plan for change
- The role of Council in planning for climate change and advocating for more to be done

More details on MYWA feedback can be found in Appendix 3.

4.2 Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC)

In December, Council officers met with Wurundjeri Aunties to discuss key themes of the Draft Climate Change Plan and opportunities for alignment with the Whole of Country Plan 2025-2035. The Whole of Country Plan, which was produced by the WWCHAC, identifies several actions that can support a collaborative response to climate change. Care for Country and a connection to nature were common themes that provide a strong foundation to climate action. Comments included:

- Ensuring development across the municipality is sustainable
- Encourage connection to Country, particularly in children, to foster a lifelong appreciation of our natural environment
- Education resources for residents about:
 - Simple steps they can take to improve the sustainability of their home and property
 - Plants that are drought tolerant and attract birds and pollinators
 - The difference between the aesthetics of indigenous or native vegetation and a manicured garden and the role of long grasses/tussocks in supporting local biodiversity
- Prioritise traditional land management techniques and species selection in Council managed open spaces
- Plant more trees

4.2 Direct Written Responses

Council received one formal written response to the Draft Climate Change Plan via email. Three primary issues were raised;

1. Community greenhouse gas emissions and solar PV in the planning scheme
2. The role of Council in advocacy for plastic waste management in supply chains
3. Stormwater management

Further details of this feedback and Council’s response have been included in Appendix 3.

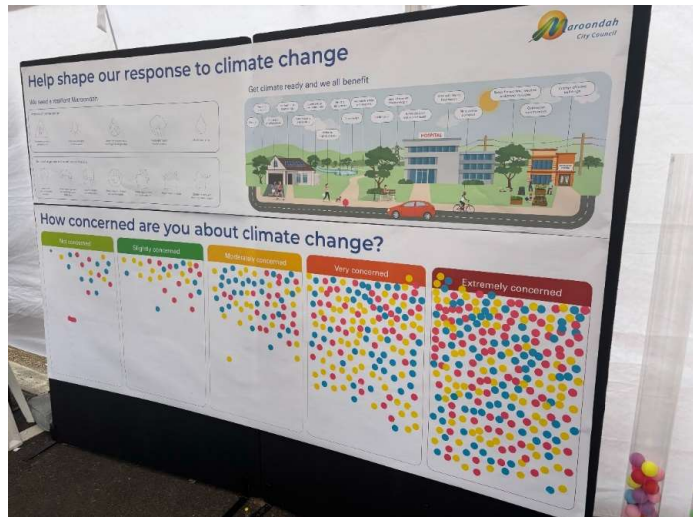
5 What we were told - Café Consult at Maroondah Festival

Council Officers participated in the Maroondah Festival Café Consult tent on Sunday, 9 November 2025. Café Consult, located at one of the Civic Drive entrances to the festival, provided community members with an opportunity to engage with up to five Council consultations, including the Draft Climate Change Plan. People who responded to at least three consultations were eligible for a free hot or cold drink.

Two questions regarding the Draft Climate Change Plan were asked, and postcards and posters with QR codes directed the community to complete the full survey on the Your Say page.

Results are detailed below:

Question 1: How concerned are you about climate change?	
Not concerned	19
Slightly concerned	30
Moderately concerned	72
Very concerned	155
Extremely concerned	256



Overall, out of 532 responses, 77% of survey participants were either very or extremely concerned about climate change, 13.5% were moderately concerned, and 9% were either not concerned or slightly concerned. These results highlight that climate change is considered a significant concern across the Maroondah community. Conversations from the day highlighted that a lot of people consider “climate action” to mean emissions reduction as opposed to climate adaptation. This presents an opportunity to provide more clarity and simple-language community education.



The second question was “what would you like more information on?” This question sought to understand where there may be demand for improved climate change or sustainability related education resources for community members. Each person was given 3 balls and could choose which of the 6 options they would like to see Council provide further resources on by dropping the ball into voting tubes.

Question 2: What would you like more information on?	
Prepare for extreme weather or power outages	292
Gardening and growing food	322
Advice for solar and energy efficient appliances	232
Reduce my energy bills	387
Navigating worries about climate change	112
Transport other than my car	255

The most popular topics from the Café Consult consultation were “Reduce my energy bills” and “Gardening and growing food”. These results were reinforced by comments from participants about the cost of living and the benefits of getting outside and into the garden.



6 What we were told - Library Pop Ups

Council officers conducted consultation pop ups at the Croydon and Realm Libraries during the consultation period. Each pop up coincided with the toddler storytime to capture a more popular time to visit the library. Pop ups asked the same two questions as Café Consult and directed community members to the Your Say survey to provide further feedback.



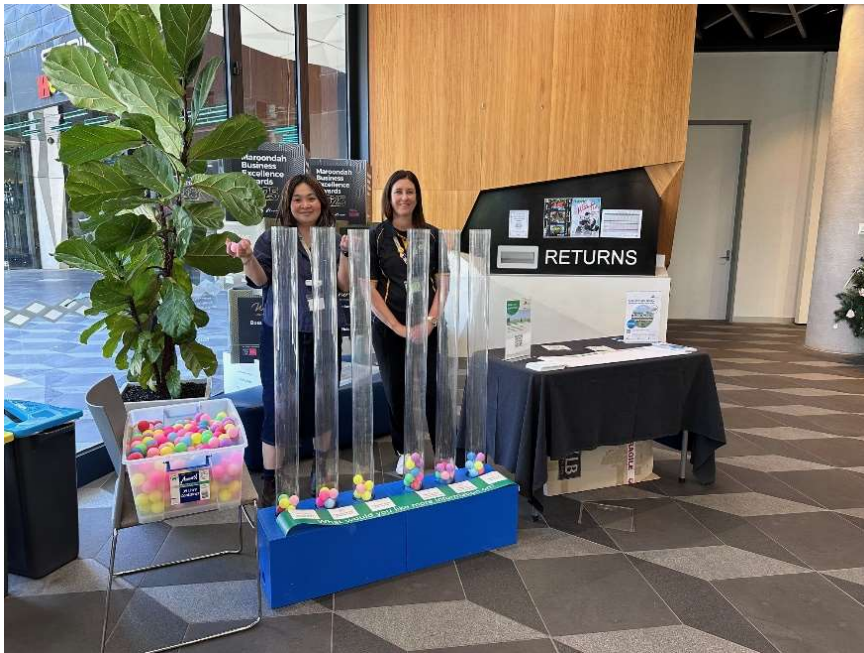
Feedback from the Croydon Library and Realm pop-ups found that 84% of survey participants were very or extremely concerned about climate change.

Question 1: How concerned are you about climate change?	Croydon Library	Realm	Total
Not concerned	0	0	0
Slightly concerned	0	1	1
Moderately concerned	3	1	4
Very concerned	11	3	14
Extremely concerned	5	7	12
Total	19	12	31

Popular topics for Council to provide more information on at the pop-ups include “Advice for solar and energy efficient appliances” and “Reduce my energy bills”.

Question 2: What would you like more information on?	Croydon Library	Realm	Total
Prepare for extreme weather or power outages	10	5	15
Gardening and growing food	11	5	16
Advice for solar and energy efficient appliances	12	12	24
Reduce my energy bills	15	6	21
Navigating worries about climate change	7	5	12
Transport other than my car	8	6	14
Total	63	39	102

Council officers also attended four Storytime events at Realm Library to hand out postcards, encourage community members to visit the Your Say page, and answer any questions about the Climate Change Plan.



7 Recommendations

Following feedback received during the consultation period, several changes to the draft Plan are recommended:

Develop an executive summary

1. Develop a simple executive summary that incorporates climate risks to Council and community and the role of the Climate Change Plan in preparing Maroondah for the expected impacts of climate change.

Embedding Care for Country

2. Consultation with Wurundjeri highlighted the importance of understanding the impacts of climate change on Country. This has also been recognised in the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurung Whole of Country Plan. It is recommended that the role of caring for Country in leading climate action be embedded in both *Section 1 - Why is climate change important?* and *Outcome Area 3 - A Climate Ready Community*

Communication of technical concepts

3. Ensure key terms such as “green infrastructure” are clearly defined throughout the Plan to improve reader understanding, reduce jargon and improve accessibility of the Plan for those without technical knowledge.
4. Update the climate change risk infographic on page 4 *Section 2 - What does the evidence say?* to include all risk themes captured in Maroondah’s Climate Change Risk Assessment (2024), including food security.
5. Update infographics to improve engagement and improve the visual communication of complex concepts presented in the plan.
6. Provide more information on the emissions reduction hierarchy presented in *Outcome Area 1 - Reducing Council’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions* to ensure technical concepts are easily communicated and understood by readers.

Active transport and reducing community emissions

7. Specify the role of active transport in *Outcome Area 3 - A Climate Ready Community - 1. Reducing community emissions*

Community focused climate actions

8. Focus community education resources from key direction *3.4 Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change* on the following topics:
 - a. What is climate change and how will it affect Maroondah?
 - b. Simple ways to reduce home energy consumption and costs
 - i. Advice for solar and energy efficient appliances
 - c. Gardening
 - i. Indigenous species selection
 - ii. Drought tolerant gardening
 - iii. Growing food at home
 - iv. Using vegetation to create a climate resilient home
9. Prioritise online education resources
10. Identify opportunities for collaboration with existing community organisations to reach a broader audience

8 Appendices

Appendix 1: Comments from the Your Say Page Survey

Comment	Council Response
<p>Proactivity is essential. Impressed by Council's past and future planning. Green, leafy communities are healthier- both physically and psychologically. And if not protected now, cannot be replaced - opportunities lost. So again, thank you for your present actions to support future health across all aspects.</p>	<p>These comments of support have been noted.</p>
<p>I am impressed with the data in the draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031 that is evidence of the great effort Council is making to reduce emissions and protect our beautiful environment.</p>	
<p>This is great and I am eager to do my part in improving climate change.</p>	
<p>AusNet commends Maroondah City Council for producing this climate change plan and appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft. No one agency can do all that is needed on risk mitigation and adaptation and there are many areas where Maroondah City Council and AusNet are aligned in our efforts to support the communities we serve.</p> <p>In particular we are pleased to see the plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for emergencies • Reduce scope 2 emissions by investing in renewable energy sources and storage for Council assets • Identify opportunities to improve community resilience to climate change/ Emergency preparedness <p>We are pleased to have a constructive working relationship with Maroondah City Council and we are looking forward to continuing to collaborate to support communities going forward.</p>	

<p>From an organisation viewpoint of AusNet assisting customers in literacy of resiliency in energy and preparing for emergencies including power outages is extremely important and sits in line with the messaging that AusNet are attempting to get to customers also. Maroondah's goals across the Climate Change Plan are aligned with AusNet.</p>	<p>See previous comment.</p>
<p>I think it is excellent to see the local council taking real measures to help mitigate climate change and prepare the community to deal with the challenges. It's such a global issue, and most focus on mitigation is at a federal level, but local action makes a huge difference.</p>	
<p>Excellent!</p>	
<p>I support any action the Council takes that will reduce emissions and ensure a healthier environment for my children and grandchildren to live in.</p>	
<p>I like that the document covers both Council activities/emissions and the important role that residents play in tackling climate change with the decisions they make in their homes (ie improving household thermal efficiency and electrifying appliances).</p> <p>Saying that "reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and the associated greenhouse gas emissions still plays an important role in limiting the severity of future climate change" is a clear statement about the continued need to take action rather than simply continue as we are and focus on preparing our neighbourhoods for the climate change impacts to come.</p>	
<p>This Plan is a realistic but achievable take on how to manage ourselves moving forward in a Climate Crisis</p>	
<p>As highlighted in the Key Direction 3.4 actions, it's essential Council promotes programs such as Solar Savers and educates the community (why this is an issue, what can be done, what resources are available to assist residents, etc).</p> <p>I have three specific suggestions for implementing the 3.4 action items.</p> <p>Suggestion 1 - Investigate using Australian Energy Assessments to deliver home efficiency assessments for Maroondah residents. Their business</p>	<p>Council will consider appropriate opportunities and methods to support residents to undertake the Residential Efficiency Scorecard Assessments.</p>



<p>model is based on carrying out the Residential Efficiency Scorecard assessments for the cost of the government rebate. Hence, the resident gets the official report for "free". Using this approach avoids Council trying to set up a subsidy and the associated administration. Free assessments already exist.</p>	<p>See previous comment.</p>
<p>Suggestion 2 - Create an easy to find page on the Maroondah website similar to the Whitehorse Council website "Reduce Your Home's Energy Use". That website contains everything a resident needs to plan their transition to an efficiency, all-electric dwelling. Links from this one page takes visitors to websites such as Victorian Energy Compare (to ensure they have the cheapest available energy plan), Solar Savers (detailed information about draught proofing suppliers, insulation, hot water heat pumps, solar panels, etc) and rebate information. It's a one-stop shop that residents can return to over and over as they make changes according to their budget/timing. Any workshops encouraging residents to take action can simply refer them to this one informative resource.</p>	<p>Council is currently in the process of updating the content on "Sustainability" pages of Council's website. These suggestions will be incorporated where possible and will support draft action 3.4 <i>Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change.</i></p>
<p>Suggestion 3 - I encourage the Council to collaborate with local environmental groups with the development and delivery of community education (eg workshops and webinars). I'm a member of ECAM (Eastern Climate Action Melbourne) which is a group of local residents who are keen to share their experience/knowledge of household efficiency & electrification. Neighbours talking to neighbours is an excellent way to normalise the necessary changes and demonstrate what's possible. If they can do it, so can I. Talking to a neighbour avoids the concern about a workshop being a sales pitch from a company which might put off some potential attendees. Collaboration also leverages Council resources. One or two Council employees working with a team of enthusiastic, knowledgeable volunteers can accomplish a great deal without adding a significant load to busy employees.</p>	<p>Council recognises the important role of community groups in building a climate resilient Maroondah. Our community will see greater benefits by lots of people taking small, simple steps rather than a few people doing everything "perfectly". Actions under key direction 3.4 have been adjusted to reflect this opportunity.</p>
<p>Community education is a priority. Many households still don't know how to recycle properly, let alone reduce their environmental impact.</p>	<p>Education is a key priority for providing households with the right information on waste and recycling. Our education program was recently expanded, with over 89 events held in 2025 and nearly 3,740 residents attending. This has grown from 1,400 residents participating in 2023.</p>



<p>Would like to see more Council educational opportunities for people to learn how to reduce their meat intake. Reducing meat intake, particularly red meat, significantly impacts climate change in Australia by lowering greenhouse gas emissions from livestock, especially methane from cattle and sheep. Shifting to plant-based proteins and other less carbon-intensive meats like chicken or fish can decrease an individual's food-related carbon footprint and help address environmental issues like land clearing and water use associated with livestock.</p>	<p>Outcome Area 3 recognises the importance of supporting our community to make sustainable choices, recognising the environmental, financial and social benefits of many of these actions. There are currently no plans to provide specific education resources on red meat consumption, however Council does already offer some low food-waste events throughout the year.</p>
<p>Where you list impact of climate change, you fail to mention failure of crops and rapid decline in food sources. This is one of the major impacts. The list of foods expected to not be available or available in significantly reduced supply within 50 years is horrific, yet nobody talks about this.</p>	<p>Council's climate change risk assessment recognises food security as a risk. An updated infographic of climate change risks will be included in the final Plan. The scope of the risk assessment was limited to Council's operational control, so this excludes the specifics of crop failure and instead focuses on the supply chain and cost constraints. Council will continue to work with community groups who support access for food for vulnerable community members.</p>
<p>It would be of great benefit to everyone, if each house block was increased just enough to allow for a shade tree to be planted in each.</p>	<p>House block sizes are controlled through the Maroondah Planning Scheme and in some residential zones no minimum lot size is specified. There are efficiencies to be gained from smaller lots through building design and energy efficiency measures.</p> <p>The Climate Change Plan is separate from the Planning Scheme and does not seek to make changes to the Planning Scheme.</p>



<p>Regarding Key directions for Building a Resilient Maroondah I think Council have a role to play in policy making to ensure that dwelling sizes (and council builds) are limited so that we can retain as much of our tree canopy and vegetation on private and public land as possible whilst population increases. Please include that "green infrastructure" includes energy efficiency and reducing energy wastage through smart design - eg insulation and use of natural light.</p>	<p>Dwelling sizes are controlled by a range of factors in the Maroondah Planning Scheme, including impacts on and loss of vegetation but also setbacks, building heights, proximity to activity centres, solar access and carparking. The Climate Change Plan cannot make changes to many of these requirements as they are set out by the State Government.</p> <p>Council builds also require a number of considerations including what the building is used for, who is using it, building cost, its purpose and location. Some buildings contain the co-location of a number of services which may increase the size of the building but mean that another building does not need to be constructed elsewhere.</p> <p>Green infrastructure in this case means the use of vegetation and natural/environmental processes to achieve outcomes or ecosystem services. Actions to prioritise energy efficiency and environmentally sustainable design (ESD) sit under Outcome Area 1: Reducing Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions. We recognise that there is overlap between climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>
<p>Given the State Government's plans for high rise densification in Maroondah and the Federal Govt's unsustainable level of population growth, doing anything about climate change locally feels pointless.</p>	<p>Densification of development in existing areas prevents urban sprawl and utilises existing infrastructure. It means that farmland and areas of environmental significance can be protected from development.</p>
<p>How can Maroondah build over 40000 new homes, manage the outputs from the building works, the concrete, the new infrastructure etc, and then the outputs from the residents simply living, the production of their cars, their rubbish, their methane, and seriously pretend that anything it does will actually decrease emissions. The policy to populate is antithetical to achieving net improvement. It is simply hogwash and pointless. We should be building resilience but bracing for impacts because unless a credible population policy is developed we are pissing into the wind while looking away from the problem.</p>	<p>Building new homes within an existing area allows for the preservation of farmland and land of environmental significance that is located on the urban fringe. It also means that these homes have good access to existing public transport, services, retail and health needs and employment, reducing travelling time and emissions from transport.</p> <p>Good design of new buildings can reduce emissions by making new homes more energy efficient.</p>



<p>No mention of incentivisation for homeowners adopting retro changes to their power source upgrades. Such as battery or solar where Rates can be discounted exponentially based on evidential documents showing electricity, water or gas usage reduction tot eh average user.</p>	<p>While Council does not offer any financial incentives for installing energy efficiency or solar/battery installations for residents, the Solar Savers program is a Council-run program that supports residents to access the various funding streams available from state and federal governments. Ongoing support of programs, such as Solar Savers and the My Energy and Water Saver Kits, is included under key direction 3.4 Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change.</p>
<p>Has Council asked the children about this plan? Officers need to work on including children of all ages about this topic as they are not only impacted but are important members of the community. Where is their voice collected and used to formulate the plan?</p>	<p>Children were engaged primarily through interactions with their parents at events such as Maroondah Festival and pop ups at Realm and Croydon Library story times. Council Officers also met with the Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates to collect feedback from young people in Maroondah.</p>
<p>Glad Council is creating a Climate Change Plan. I do not think it is ambitious enough - I think we need to aim to reduce emissions earlier. The document is confusing because it says "We will use an emissions reduction hierarchy to prioritise actions" which implies that Council will "1. Improve efficiency, reduce wastage" as it's first action yet under "Key directions" the only mention of reduce is of scope 3 emissions. Following the hierarchy would mean you would consider reducing waste of scope 1 and 2 emissions. Please consider including reduction of wastage of scope 1 and 2 emissions as one of the Key directions as well. Reading the document you are reducing emissions of scope 1 and 2 emissions via generation of renewable energy only not considering reducing waste.</p>	<p>Council understands the pressing nature of emissions reduction. The draft Climate Change Plan proposes an emissions reduction pathway to prioritise reducing energy need/demand, generating energy on site, and electrifying Council assets.</p> <p>The emissions reduction target is based on the expected emissions reduction outcomes from a number of significant scope 1 emissions reduction projects; electrification of at least one aquatic centre by 2035, and the electrification of 50% of Council's fleet by 2030. Technology to implement these projects was not feasible until recently. Timelines consider funding availability and asset management schedules to ensure project feasibility and will be moved forwards if funding becomes available.</p>
<p>While I support everything proposed, Governments and Councils generally are not doing nearly enough to mitigate climate change. We need to follow recommendations of climate scientists who have been telling us for decades what we need to do and they have been largely ignored. Cost is always raised as a reason for not acting, however, no-one discusses the cost of constantly recovering from severe weather events.</p>	<p>Council currently purchases net zero electricity for all council buildings and street lighting, significantly reducing scope 2 emissions. The final step in the hierarchy presented in the Plan is better capturing scope 3 emissions so a pathway for further emissions reduction can be developed.</p>

<p>Target is too low. Target should be decarbonise to maximum extent in shortest time.</p>	<p>See previous comments.</p>
<p>I would like to see a stronger commitment from Council. Reducing emissions by 50% by 2035 is not enough. We are in the midst of climate change. I encourage Council to increase their reduction of emissions to at least 70%.</p>	
<p>Issue: "Council will reduce operational scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 50% of 2021/22 levels by 2035." The aim should be to reduce scope 1 to net-zero, not just 50%. As Australia's National Climate Risk Assessment clearly indicates, the need for net-zero emissions is overdue and severe.</p>	
<p>Reducing emissions by 2035 is too long. Your aim should be by 2030. Climate science tells us we don't have til 2035 to muck around.</p>	
<p>I don't believe the commitments are strong enough. The evidence supports a quicker transition for the health of the community. As a leader, the council needs to demonstrate a very strong commitment to reduction in pollution (carbon, nitrogen and PM 2.5).</p>	
<p>We must do much more in our efforts to combat climate change. It may cost some profits now, but the cost will be much greater in the future if we don't do even more than proposed.</p>	



<p>I would like to know how Council will include climate change in Council planning and everyday decisions and support the community, what are the strategies, what does this look like? Can Council lobby state and federal governments to take further action on climate change and/or show leadership in this space.</p>	<p>Outcome Area 2 demonstrates how climate change will be embedded in decision making, with actions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed climate change in relevant Council policies, plans, strategies and reports • Embed climate change in position descriptions of all relevant staff members in climate change related roles and responsibilities • Develop climate change training for Council staff and Councillors • Review climate change risks within operational risk profiles and business continuity plans <p>The Draft Climate Change Plan shows intention to continue advocacy to both state and federal governments through Key Direction 2.1 Use shared resources and technical expertise through the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) to advocate to state and federal governments for support to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, maximising efficiencies of scale.</p>
<p>The council can also play a greater role in supporting businesses and other entities in interacts with by requiring these groups to demonstrate pollution reduction. For example garbage collection could be with electric garbage trucks (established technology), council could easily transition the car fleet to electric now, more solar panels in the council area (the basket ball stadium on Canterbury road), a local renewable power supplier for pensioners and at risk community members. The council could be a whole lot more proactive and a leader in this space.</p>	<p>Council continues to seek best practice emissions reduction opportunities that are financially sound and beneficial for the Maroondah community. This includes installing solar panels as part of development or refurbishment works at Council buildings (including The Rings basketball stadium, which has a 97.6 kW solar array). The draft Plan outlines the intention to begin fleet electrification, with 50% of fleet to be electrified by 2030.</p>
<p>Please address the aluminium, brontium that is being rained down on us from chemtrail vapours that then cause rain within 24 hours. Is this not man-made climate change? Does the rain making control act (https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/rain-making-control-act-1967/016) not cause man made climate changes? Will the draft climate change plan address these weather modification programs before they fund programs that will do nothing to change the weather modification happening?</p>	<p>This is considered outside the scope of the Draft Climate Change Plan.</p>



<p>If climate change is such a concern why aren't fuel loads along the Jumping creek, Warranwood reserve area being reduced or eliminated to combat the increased bushfire risk</p>	<p>Fire management practices and strategies for bushland reserves within Maroondah have been designed in cooperation with representatives from Maroondah City Council and Fire Management Agencies like Fire Rescue Victoria and CFA. We use recommendations from fire agencies as to how to prepare bushland reserves for the fire season and ensure that fire breaks and cleared areas within identified risk locations are of an adequate distance.</p> <p>Recent management practice for Maroondah's Bushland Reserves is for the Fire Rescue Victoria or CFA official of our region to conduct a walk through with Council staff to inspect the fire management practices that have been undertaken by Council. We receive confirmation during these inspections that fire preparation works have met Fire agencies satisfaction, and any further recommended works required to bring the reserve up to the expectations. This includes assessing the access points for the reserves for fire suppression operations. Fire Agencies have supported the approach and strategies Maroondah Council have in place to ensure minimisation of fire risk. Communication received from Fire Agencies is that Maroondah City Council is meeting the expectations regarding fire preparation and fuel load reduction within its bushland reserves.</p>
<p>I'm concern d that building resilience is code for adapting to run away global heating rather than reducing the emissions we need to.</p>	<p>The Draft Climate Change Plan recognises that while it is important for Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, some degree of climate change is already locked in. For this reason, it is essential that Council prepare its assets, operations, services, and the wider Maroondah community for the impacts of climate change.</p>
<p>I'm also concerned about the unnecessary fugitive emissions and light pollution from the giant LCD billboards that seems to be increasing in numbers in Maroondah. On Warrandyte road Maroondah highway intersection theres the LCD screens on four corners. It's distracting a waste of energy and effects local wildlife and bird sleeping habits.</p>	<p>Signage is regulated under the Maroondah Planning Scheme, however, the provisions in relation to signage are set out by the State Government, and Council is unable to make local changes to these requirements.</p> <p>Unfortunately, these provisions do not allow the consideration of emissions and are focused on visual amenity. Consideration of the sensitivity of an area is required including impacts on the natural environment, waterways and open space.</p> <p>The provisions allow for the consideration of visual clutter or disorder but are very limited in the assessment of light pollution. In more sensitive areas,</p>

	<p>adjoining bushland and creeks Council would be able to consider this impact but for signs located in central Ringwood it would be difficult to argue the impacts on adjoining sensitive uses.</p>
<p>Very happy to see the council assets being more environmentally friendly but seriously something needs to be done to stop residents from using wood fires in their homes and outside for parties or to clean up rubbish? We have done our best to seal our home but the wood fire particles from surrounding wood fires, that are lit because they look pretty, still enter our home and cause us massive health events that usually require ambulance and hospital or medical visits to get resolved. We have asthma issues in our home and out walking in our neighbourhood which is just not good enough. We shouldn't have to accept it when a member from council told us that the wood fire smoke coming from an illegally installed wood fire is steam. This is how much council was working towards our health? Read any asthma Australia hand out about the PM2.5 particles which can be inhaled deep into the lungs, and toxic gases like carbon monoxide, these can cause immediate issues such as severe asthma symptoms, eye and throat irritation, and long-term exposure may lead to heart and lung diseases, or even be carcinogenic. Our neighbourhood should not have these risks. So please do something to fix it?</p>	<p>Currently, there is no law that prohibits the use of wood heaters in Victoria. Council actively promotes through its social platforms and Maroondah news, information to the community on the correct use of wood heaters to minimise smoke emissions.</p> <p>In Maroondah, residents on small residential blocks of land are not permitted to “burn off or “incinerate” any material and permits are not issued. Council will follow up any complaints of this nature.</p> <p>A permit to burn may be issued to properties greater than 10,000m² (1 hectare) and the material to be burnt must not contain any rubber, plastic, oil, paint, chemicals, food scraps, green flora or other substance likely to cause a nuisance when burnt. Other conditions also apply.</p> <p>Council will respond to complaints related to smoke emitted by indoor and outdoor wood heaters that produce smoke that may be impacting others. Council provides EPA guidance to wood heater operators on the correct use of wood heaters to reduce smoke https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/manage-smoke-wood-heaters) and can undertake compliance action under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act or the Maroondah Community Local Law, where operators are not correctly using the wood heaters under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act or the Maroondah Community Local Law.</p>
<p>We need solar on all community buildings.</p>	<p>Council currently has solar PV on 52 Council buildings and continues to roll-out additional solar PV systems where appropriate as facilities are constructed or upgraded.</p>
<p>Better management of storm water so that it can be saved for the dry periods.</p>	<p>The Water Sensitive City Strategy will begin review in 2026, with the expected impacts of climate change on local water systems and consumption patterns to be included in greater detail than what it allowed for in the Draft Climate Change Plan.</p>



<p>More recycling including soft plastics.</p>	<p>Maroondah is advocating for a stewardship program for soft plastics so that community doesn't have to foot the bill for recycling this problematic waste stream. Currently, all Woolworths in Maroondah have reinstated a trial for soft plastic recycling. We have also partnered with Central Ringwood Community Centre to run a soft plastic recycling program. Once a month at the centre community days, the centre take the soft plastics that are dropped off. These then get collected and recycled by a local processor, APR.</p>
<p>Consider explaining what blue-green infrastructure is. Consider including Public Health services along with Immunisation under Reliable and responsive Council services.</p>	<p>This comment has been noted and will be incorporated into the Climate Change Plan.</p>
<p>Good to see this policy finally. A lot needs to happen to make active transport more feasible for people not in the Ringwood or Croydon Activity Centres. More public toilets, shaded pathways and seating are essential for those of us with longer, hillier commutes.</p>	<p>The Maroondah Transport Strategy 2025-2035 provides further detail regarding Council's plans to continue to improve active transport. Council also considers ancillary infrastructure (eg. seating, drinking fountains, tree planting for shade) as part of the development and planning of active transport routes, as per Victorian guidelines to ensure comfort and safety when using these routes. The Maroondah Bicycle Network Plan (currently in development) will also include further details on improvements to cycling paths across the municipality.</p>
<p>I strongly feel that there needs to be a better network of bike paths for people to be more inclined to use cycling as a more environmentally mode of transportation for local travel. Not to mention improved public health.</p>	
<p>As an EV owner/driver, I would like Maroondah to provide at least 2 EV chargers within the "shopping" areas of the town. This "would/might" encourage more visitors to our town. I know there are chargers at the Devon St. carpark, but these are not practical for most newer EV vehicles.</p>	<p>EV chargers have been installed in Council-owned carparks in Devon St, Croydon and Bedford Road, Ringwood. For more details of EV charging availability, go to the Plug Share website.</p>
<p>We need a lot more buses and trains scheduled, especially on weekends. Free and unlimited public transport for school children and pensioners during the entire week.</p>	<p>While public transport is a State Government responsibility, Council continues to advocate for more bus and train services to meet the needs of our community. This advocacy is detailed in the Maroondah Transport Strategy.</p>
<p>Strong agree with tree preservation at the highest level. Land developers need to be supported to retain trees before building plans are approved. Council needs to be proactive when retained trees on building plans are removed are removed and fine heavily the responsible person.</p>	<p>Council has a planning enforcement team that investigate trees that have been removed without permission or illegally. They issue planning infringement notices and fines where appropriate.</p>



<p>Your plans for community resilience are good, but one of the key things that would help is to put power lines underground. I urge Council to work with Ausnet on this and treat it as a priority. I don't know if Council does this, but watering mature trees so we don't lose so many would also be helpful - habitat loss is a major issue for wildlife and we cannot afford to lose our mature trees.</p>	<p>Undergrounding powerlines and aerial bundling of overhead cables would be preferable for maintaining canopy in street trees and we advocate for this with the distribution businesses via council and professional bodies within the arboriculture industry.</p> <p>Council has a tree watering program for establishing newly planted trees in the first two years following planting. Once trees are established in the surrounding soil, they are usually able to support themselves without additional watering. A program for watering large mature trees is not viable due to practical constraints.</p>
<p>Croydon Central carpark has planted lovely trees so many times and just when they're starting to mature and get some height they get cut down - Why??? I expect this is beyond Council control, but it's madness.</p>	<p>Croydon Central is private land and council is not responsible for the management of trees within this area</p>
<p>Why can we not start these proposals NOW. Too many trees are cut down, too much concrete. Large developments like that proposed for Croydon central add to heat sink and loss of vegetation. Please can we do better?!</p>	<p>Council is already undertaking actions to reduce its emissions and support the community to reduce their emissions.</p> <p>Croydon Central is well located in relation to public transport, services, and daily needs of residents. Development in this area will provide new residents with the ability to walk, ride or catch public transport to where they need to go, rather than having to drive everywhere.</p>
<p>The draft Climate Change Plan like the Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030 fails to state exactly when and how the existing Planning Scheme will be amended to protect canopy trees and other essential green areas.</p> <p>The VGS recognises the significant loss of 'Carbon-Reducing' vegetation, but says nothing much about how this problem can be halted and reversed, as it needs to be!</p> <p>For instance, my own enquiries to the Planning department regarding the protection of a 70+ year old Himalayan Cedar tree at the Good Start early learning centre in Croydon South was met with following response.</p> <p>"We can't enforce protection of the Cedar tree, we have wait until it is dead before we could take any action. This is due to how our planning scheme is written. Other LGAs have much stronger protection for significant trees, but not here in Maroondah".</p> <p>So, you can see that this is a significant problem. I assume Council is waiting</p>	<p>The Climate Change Plan is not intended to be a planning document nor make changes to the Maroondah Planning Scheme. The Maroondah Planning Scheme has existing controls that protect vegetation, however, recent changes made by the State Government have made it more difficult for Council to protect vegetation and implement the actions in the Vegetation Strategy.</p> <p>Any changes to the Maroondah Planning Scheme must be approved by the Minister for Planning.</p>

<p>until there are virtually no trees left in Maroondah, then there will be no problem to solve? Why can other LGAs have this protection in their Planning schemes but not Maroondah? What are you waiting for?</p>	<p>See previous comments.</p>
<p>I would like to see less collection of rubbish from weekly to fortnightly.</p>	<p>Changing collection frequencies for general waste is not currently part of our priority actions for our Waste, Litter & Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030, but it will be assessed in preparation of the next 10-year Strategy.</p>
<p>Council can focus on waste reduction and efficiency insofar as it applies to reducing rates and improving services. Council talking about impacting climate change is an absolute waste of time and resources. It is not council's purview to be involved in macro issues - that's why we have tiers of government.</p>	<p>Council has a legislated responsibility to address climate change under the Local Government Act 2020 and the Climate Action Act 2017. The Draft Climate Change Plan seeks to prepare Council assets and services for the predicted impacts of climate change and ensuring environmental, social and financial sustainability of Council operations and services over the coming years. Emissions reduction makes up only one component of this, however emissions reduction projects usually have a satisfactory return-on-investment and climate-related projects undergo feasibility and business case planning prior to implementation. Council must also prepare for the upcoming energy transition to ensure it is not exposed to price spikes and increasing service operation costs.</p>
<p>along as there is no cost increase or increasing costs</p>	
<p>It's missing the fact that Australia is responsible for less than 1% of global emissions, and as Climate Activist demands for Australian reductions are met, it's the local residents and businesses that pay the price for those irrelevant demands.</p>	
<p>Waste only enough money on this to keep the ideologues in Spring St and Canberra at bay.</p>	
<p>A total waste of time and energy. Australia has virtually zero impact on climate change and Maroondah absolutely zero. Stop wasting your time and get on with running Maroondah.</p>	
<p>This is not an issue to focus on. My parents struggle with bills and apparently the council rates are getting raised. Council should focus on reducing financial stress on residents instead of climate change stuff which will be a waste of money for people and families</p>	

<p>While climate change is a serious issue, the impact of spending on climate change at the local level is negligible at best. Resources would be better directed to projects withing councils primary function and climate policy left to state and federal government</p>	<p>See previous comment.</p>
<p>The council should focus on areas which are in it's core responsibility, including storm water and garbage and local re-cycling of plastics, beautifying the area, safe , pot-hole free roads and basic community services. Lowering costs to business through rejection of climate alarmist taxes and waste are my other suggestions. People need CHEAP power not alarmism-tax implemented by council policy.</p>	
<p>A lot of the data provided by the CSIRO etc in the Senate Estimates admitted under oath the data was falsified . They further said they were requested by the Labor party to do this. Other world experts have indicated there isn't a climate crisis. I have read more widely and the climate agenda 2030 is an outcome World Economic Forum that have had their influence over all levels of Australian government.</p>	
<p>Stop waisting money , invest in better roads, trees, do not spray glyphosate, so that nature, bees and birds survive and we have better environment and healthy trees, plant orchards, trees instead please</p>	
<p>Climate change is a hoax to raise taxes and cost every day Australians more whilst lining the pockets of corrupt organisations and governments</p>	
<p>Money is better spent on housing and cost of living rather than wasting time and money on something that will make no difference to the inevitable natural climate change.</p>	
<p>Climate has and always will continue to change. I don't see any value in becoming obsessed with climate change at this point in time. What Council can achieve, and what residents can achieve would not amount to a hill of beans. Let's focus on those things where we can have a greater impact for our \$\$</p>	



<p>The questions above are not properly framed, they show a strong bias towards encouraging 'positive' pro-climate (whatever that means) answers. The information supplied in the draft report does not address the costs of the actions implied. Nor does it show any real benefit from the actions it suggests. The actions proposed will burden the local community with higher regulatory costs. the program will involve more expensive costs in the administration of such controls. Nothing Maroondah can do will influence the 'climate' in any foreseeable manner. It's not about being a 'good citizen', it's a sign of naivety and poor administration of scarce public resources. The actions proposed are counter productive, will burden the community and the resources could be spent much better elsewhere. Best thing to do, drop it and leave it to higher levels of government.</p>	<p>See previous comment.</p>
<p>You only have to travel overseas to see that in particular Asian countries are not making any considerations and changes with climate change in mind. I am sick of seeing Australia consider climate change when we are the smallest part of the problem. No doubt this plan will put up rates.</p>	
<p>Donald Trump said in the open ONZ speech- 'It is a hoax!' and I am sure he is right.</p>	
<p>Focus on running the council. Stop with the woke stuff.</p>	
<p>The council need to focus on reduction of council running costs and not fallacious climate programs. What maroondah council does will make zero impact in the face of China India and the usa not taking the same action</p>	
<p>Stop wasting time and rate money. These are federal issues. Spend our money on safety measures. Many areas are not safe.</p>	
<p>Stop feeding climate hysteria. Climate change exists - yes- but it is not an threat to our future generations. A few degrees of warming or cooling is something humans can adapt to. This is also not what anyone reasonable would expect a local council to be spending tax payer money and resources on - we expect spending on libraries, rubbish, parks and community facilities. Not climate change - which there have been many media reports and scientists claiming things time and time again which have never come true and will not. As I said, the climate changes, that is true, but it is NOT an</p>	



<p>extenstial threat to the human race and all this hysteria does is cause anxiety in young people and divert resources from more important causes.</p>	<p>See previous comment.</p>
<p>Waste of our money</p>	
<p>There is no Climate Change. This is BS created by money hungry banks and insurance companies to use this excuse to extract more from population. Since ICE AGE the very SLOW increase of temperature might affect it, but it takes 20000 years to be significant. Even that- look at the Mornington Peninsula shore- there are Planty of coral reefs and rocks which shows there was 28-30 deg C in these waters and the life was thriving. The stupidity to believe in greenhouse effects is overwhelming: there is no living plant or creature without Carbon, every plant is extracting Carbon from CO2! Removing it is killing the whole nature. To understand stupidity of this action is to make a decision to kill all the bees because few people were killed! The result you want to achieve is exactly this same. Came on- show a trace of intelligence, please!</p>	
<p>The cost to ratepayers for Council to vigorously pursue a climate change agenda will far outweigh the benefits to be gained.</p>	
<p>Too much focus on climate change which is very much overblown</p>	
<p>Whatever is done in Australia will do nothing to effect any climate change - it is a con just resulting in a loss of lifestyle. The weather has been changing for thousands of years and will continue to do so. Its just a way to tax more!</p>	
<p>Why?</p>	



Appendix 2: Feedback from the Your Say Visioner Board

The following responses were provided on the public Your Say Visioner Board on the Your Say page:

Anything that supports people to be active with others in the community, and to choose and feel safe in "Active Transport" (Walk/Ride)	Details for actions supporting active transport within Maroondah are included in the Maroondah Transport Strategy, and the Principle Pedestrian Network (draft to be released in 2026), and Maroondah Bicycle Network Plan (to be finalised in 2026 following consultation in 2025).
Keep libraries and pools etc open later on days over 35°C.	There are currently no plans to implement this, however this comment has been noted and opportunities to improve community access to cool places is considered a priority under the Climate Change Plan.
Don't clean with wipes at local public buildings Small things Expensive changes and policies Expensive bin lids	It is unclear what this comment is referring to and so it is not possible to provide a response.
Street battery storage to hold the excess power created by rooftop solar. It could be used by local homes at night. Reducing power bills.	While there are currently no plans to install a community battery at a street scale, Council installed its first battery at a Council facility in 2025. Council will continue to monitor for opportunities to support the community to improve energy resilience and reduce home energy bills.
Keep domestic cats indoors 24/7 to protect native wildlife.	This is addressed in the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029.
Use large spreading trees (eg oak) on non-power sides of the street to provide shade and oxygen	We plant larger tree species where there is adequate space above and below ground to support their growth. Generally, the larger the tree the greater the environmental services. This usually means planting larger species of trees on the non-powerline side of the street and smaller species under lines. Tree planting location and species selection are influenced by available space and constraining factors such as traffic and pedestrian access, overhead and underground services and surrounding infrastructure, as well as the tree's horticultural tolerances, growth form and mature size. Species may be selected to provide shade and amenity in the streetscape, reflect neighbourhood character, and provide food and habitat for local fauna.
As community we would like to report and be listened to about matters that concern us. But there is no longer a way to do this	There are a number of ways for the community to provide feedback to Council. This includes responding to formal consultations through the Your Say page, Council's customer service centres, maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au , text and MMS line (0468 003 100), and Council's website.

Street trees that have been made ineffective by terrible pruning can be replaced with shorter growing species with a wide spread for walkabl	Renewing our tree canopy is essential to maintaining and extending tree canopy cover. Trees which are not performing well and have a low useful life expectancy may need to be removed a replaced with a species suited to the location. Trees provide shade and cooling to our streets, making active transport more enjoyable and reducing the urban heat island effect in our neighbourhoods.
Ensure our 3 waterway habitat corridors are kept clean and protected from litter and water contamination through education and enforcement	Work to begin reviewing and updating the Water Sensitive City Strategy will commence in 2026. Our current Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action plan, the first of several Biolink Action plans set to be released in coming few years, has set out actions that increase education and look to improve and increase processes that reduce litter within the creek line.
Energy efficient buildings should have exterior vegetation to assist in preventing heat sinks in areas without trees.	Actions to improve education around the role of trees within the urban environment will be incorporated into Outcome Area 3, particularly focussing on the following key directions: 3.1 Identify opportunities to encourage a connection to nature and care for Country 3.4 Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change 3.5 Identify opportunities to improve community resilience to climate change and emergency preparedness
Allow elderly to park for more than 3 hours at shopping centers on days over 36 deg, as they may not have airconditioning not keeping cool	Council has no control over private car parking at shopping centres, so this is currently considered out of scope of the Climate Change Plan.
Get Council involved in push back against "better building smarter choices" which does not allow for mature tree retention on blocks in Maro	Council has made several submissions to the State Government and continues to advocate through its membership as part of the Eastern Region Group of Councils in relation to changes to the planning controls that impact on the retention of vegetation on private land.
get the State govt, to allow for smaller diameter pruning of street trees around low voltage power lines, South Australia has already doneit	We advocate for this with Energy Safe Victoria via council and professional bodies within the arboriculture industry.



Appendix 3: Direct Written Response

Council received one response to the consultation via email. The following comments were received on behalf of a local community group:

Comment:

Council has demonstrated efforts to install solar power (1.42MW on Council buildings) and this has been successful in reducing power bills and greenhouse gas emissions. In combination with electrifying major household appliances, solar helps to lower household energy bills, improve grid stability, reduce emissions and reduce infrastructure costs of grid upgrades.

Council has mentioned that community action is an important aspect of meeting policy expectations. [REDACTED] agrees that supporting the community is an essential aspect of any Climate Action Plan. [REDACTED] sees Council support to encourage residents to improve their home's thermal efficiency, electrify major appliances (e.g. heating) and deploy solar at scale as a key opportunity. As demonstrated in Council data, community emissions are far greater than Council corporate emissions, with electricity, gas and transport accounting for significant emissions. Therefore a strategy that mitigates electricity emissions is the highest priority.

Council has so far supported the adoption of solar in the community through the Solar Savers program. Advice on the Council website encourages residents to replace gas appliances with efficient electrical alternatives and to install solar to cut their imports from the electricity grid, leading to lower energy bills. Therefore it is logical that Council would promote home electrification and solar through all practicable pathways, including the planning system. The planning system is core Council business and represents a straight forward and large scale opportunity to implement solar. Local Government is also lagging State and Federal government in efforts to deploy solar - State government has installed solar farms, installed solar on buildings, subsidised residential solar and batteries, and the Federal government has funded years of solar through the STC rebates. Local government should be encouraging solar through the planning system to be consistent with its own policy and the two higher levels of government.

Benefits of solar required in planning permit:

1. The planning system is required to address power security and GHG emissions. Solar behind the meter is efficient and reduces peak loads on the grid. Solar feed in is more and more resolved with batteries which when fully deployed will make the grid highly resilient.
2. Each year Council processes approximately 1,000 applications that may be appropriate for solar. This equates to a minimum of 5MW of generation at no cost to Council.
3. Solar that is designed at the time of planning is cheaper to install and will get a better outcome.
4. Council has a policy to strongly encourage or mandate where practicable, solar power as a condition of the permit.
5. Passive solar design and other energy efficiency measures will often be better when solar is part of the design from the beginning.
6. Jobs are created. Jobs created this way can be sustained for a long period of time, resulting in many benefits to the local economy.
7. Each year will see additional solar behind the meter installed. This could provide 20 years of work as renewal of housing stock is brought through the system. Twenty years of solar through planning will likely equate to 150-200MW of installed generation due to an increasing average size of solar system.

We request that Council review the options for GHG abatement as part of this request for feedback, measuring the magnitude of each option where possible, and chart the results to see a comparison between solar in the planning system and other options presented to Council.

Council response:

The Maroondah Planning Scheme contains existing policy to achieve best practice in Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) from the design stage through to construction and operation. The policy seeks to facilitate development that minimises environmental impacts. It also encourages ESD that:

- Is consistent with the type and scale of the development.
- Responds to site opportunities and constraints.
- Adopts best practice through a combination of methods, processes and locally available technology that demonstrably minimise environmental impacts.

The policy uses the Built environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) which is used to assess applications for sustainable design. BESS allows for multiple options for demonstrating compliance, providing flexibility to achieve sustainable building outcomes. Solar panels are not the only option for reducing energy use and BESS allows for a range of options to be considered that consider building design, location and cost.

The State Government have also recently made a number of changes to what Councils are allowed to consider when assessing application for multi-unit developments, and in some cases the consideration of the ESD policy is not allowed. Recent changes have focused on streamlining the planning process and reducing housing costs. Council officers consider that it would be very unlikely that the State Government would support an amendment to the Maroondah Planning Scheme to require that solar panels be required on all new buildings. Council will continue to advocate for sustainable design outcomes to be supported through the Maroondah Planning Scheme.

Comment:

2. Plastic waste management

Plastics in packaging represent a significant proportion of waste and cost to the community. Plastics also represent a significant proportion of global GHG emissions particularly as scope 3 emissions for Council and its residents. Councils are a key stakeholder in the management chain of plastics, therefore Council has an obligation to improve management of plastics and packaging plastics in particular.

Council negotiates waste collection with other Councils in the region and the Contractor, therefore efforts to improve management of plastics in the waste stream should involve other Councils working together to demand best practice for the community. Councils should publicly collectively ask all stakeholders to respond to questions that show evidence of effort and progress to address plastic pollution and cost of recycling. All levels of government should be demanding best practice towards circular economy and non-toxic plastics. The presence of micro plastics in the food chain and links between degenerative brain diseases and micro plastics is sufficient cause to motivate Councils to act without delay. The following questions need to be answered:

1. Publicly ask major retailers to show what progress has been made to improve packaging to date (eg. Coles, Aldi and Woolworths).
2. Publicly ask major suppliers (manufacturers) of packaging to show what progress has been made to improve packaging.
3. Request proof of plans and intentions - show what improvements are in the pipeline.
4. Show intent for simplification of packaging to make recovery easier (complex mixes of materials are difficult to recover).
5. Show intent to reduce the diversity of plastics in packaging to make recovery easier (complex mixes of plastics are difficult to recover).
6. Additional questions that examine if Australian packaging is safe and at the standard of world's best practice.
7. Show progress towards bioplastic options that are not a source of micro plastics.

Council response:

Council has committed in its Waste, Litter & Resource Recovery Strategy to advocate for increasing product stewardship programs for problematic waste and improving product design to increase recyclability and recovery through mandatory packaging targets. Mandating that the types of materials that enter our market must be recoverable in local facilities, we see, as the first step for Australia in reducing plastic waste. This takes the guess work out of not knowing what will end up in our waste streams and means our industry can build facilities to confidently meet the demands of new packaging entering the market.

Comment:

3. Stormwater management

The Greater Melbourne region is fortunate to have 25,000km of rivers and creeks and the magnificent Port Phillip Bay. This network of waterways helps to make Greater Melbourne one of the world's most liveable regions and Maroondah Council is a part of this network. Councils and organisations managing water make great efforts to protect our infrastructure and environment, yet despite this, our rivers and creeks remain under threat from polluted and high volume stormwater runoff. Sustainable stormwater engineering is essential to protect our natural and built environment for the future. Failure to do so will result in severe loss of tree canopy in periods of drought, destruction of waterways, pollution of Port Phillip Bay, increased flooding, increased road damage and increased damage to stormwater infrastructure (MCC has \$600 million invested in infrastructure).

Councils and State Government have invested, and continue to invest, billions of dollars in roads and stormwater infrastructure. Implementing best practice in design can reduce the costs of new builds and maintenance of existing infrastructure. Best practice can also achieve better environmental outcomes that directly impact quality of life. Good engineering practice requires a continuous improvement culture. Many reports have been written on this subject showing opportunities to improve stormwater management yet the work has not been done. Integrated Water Management (IWM) policy has been created with the intent to work together, yet significant aspects of the plan have failed to meet expectations. If improvements do not occur in the near future, the outlook is for more destruction of the natural environment at increased cost to the government.

High rainfall events are predicted to be more prevalent under current levels of global warming, even if net zero emissions can be achieved in the future. This makes measures to manage stormwater and protect local waterway ecosystems of critical importance.

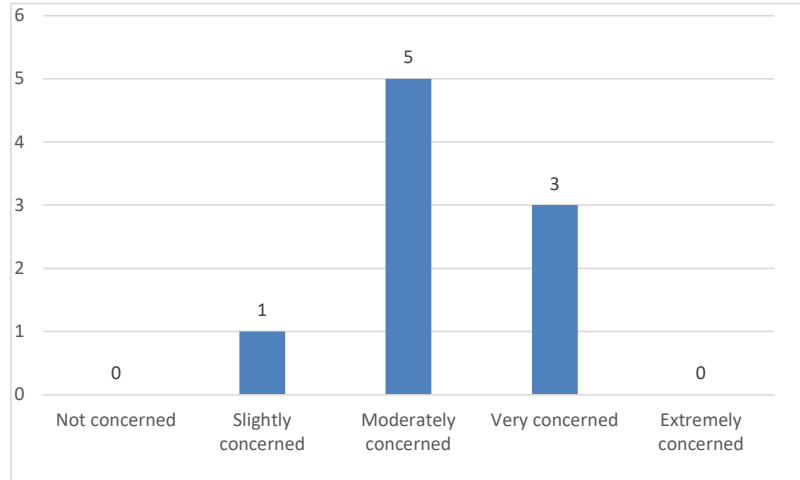
Council response:

Council is planning on reviewing the Water Sensitive City Strategy in 2026. This will consider stormwater management, alongside management of local waterways.

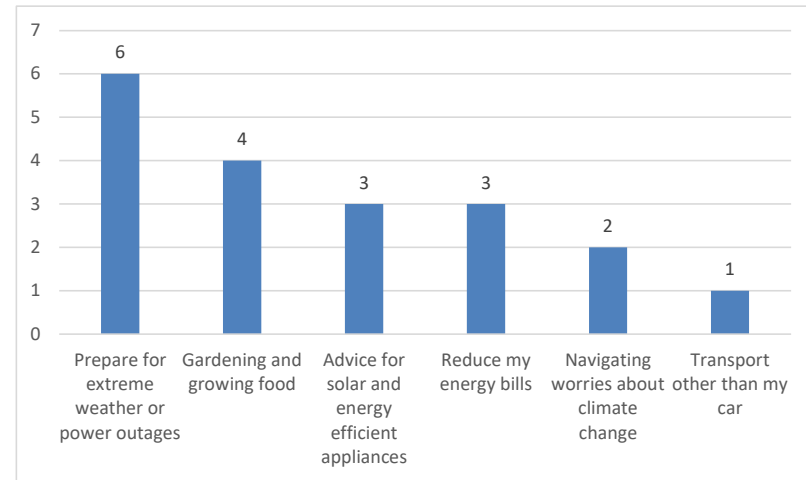


Appendix 4: Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates Consultation

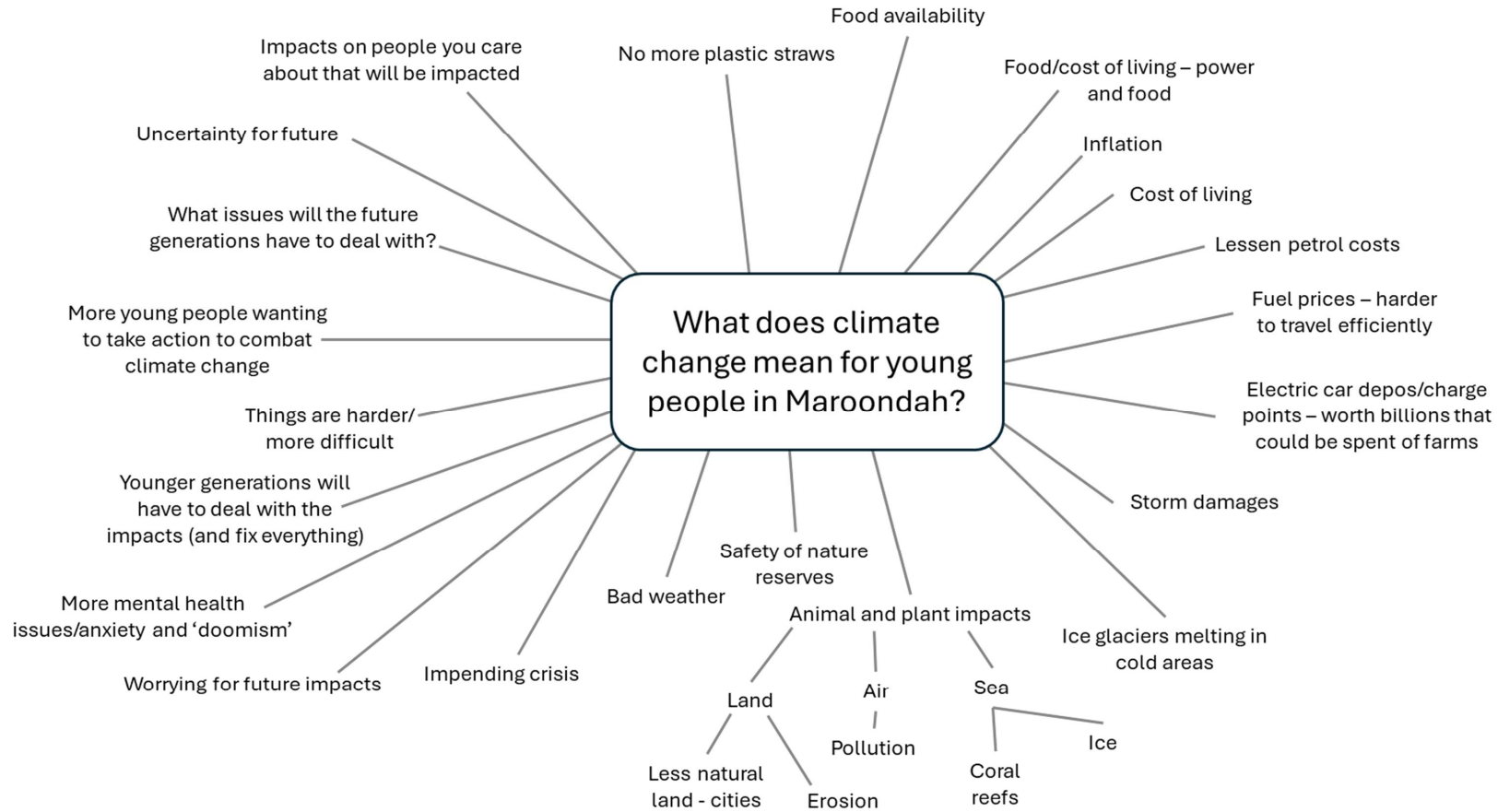
How concerned are you about climate change?



What would you like more information on?



What does climate change mean for young people in Maroondah?



What more would you like to know about climate change in Maroondah?

