

Appendix 1: Environment Plan 2017-2027 progress report 2019/2020


STATUS	SYMBOL
Achieved/completed	✓
On track	●
Ongoing/continuing	●
Not on track	●
Redundant/no longer applicable	⊘

1.1 Council uses its strategic and statutory planning functions to achieve environmental sustainability in urban development.				
Objective	Action	Status	Progress comments	Service Unit
1.1.1 Pursue opportunities for environmental sustainability to be incorporated within the Planning Scheme. The Melton Planning Scheme is a statutory document which sets out policies and provisions for the use and development of land. Through its role in strategic planning, Council has the opportunity to advocate for amendments to the Planning Scheme to improve environmental outcomes, though it understands that actions will require	a. Seek to update the MSS to improve environmental sustainability outcomes.	✓	Amendment C200 was implemented into the Melton Planning Scheme on 18 April 2019, and includes a number of new clauses relating to sustainability and climate change adaptation.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*
	b. Review the clauses in the local planning policy to identify opportunities to strengthen environmental protection and enhancement.	●	A full review of the Melton Planning Scheme was undertaken in 2012 identifying a number of strategic projects required to be undertaken by Council. Projects are currently being undertaken to inform updates to local policies.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*

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1.1.2	<p>involvement and approval from the state government.</p> <p>Seek to incorporate environmental sustainability improvements in requirements and guidelines in Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs).</p> <p>The development of new urban areas presents opportunities to address environmental issues through applying principles of sustainability, including ESD and WSUD, as well as increased access to local employment and community</p>	<p>c. Advocate for strengthening of ecologically sustainable design (ESD) principles in the Planning Scheme where appropriate.</p> <p>d. Review Environmental Significance Overlays (ESOs).</p> <p>e. Ensure the provisions, policies and tools of the scheme consider climate change risks.</p> <p>a. Advocate for co-location of services and facilities within PSPs as appropriate to reduce transport-related greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>b. Advocate for the investment and delivery</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Council has joined the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) network which advocates for Victorian Government policy changes that focus on improving the sustainability assessment process for developments. Council also supports advocacy by the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) for strengthened sustainability planning. Council continues to advocate where possible as opportunities arise, for example through its submission to the Parliament of Victoria's 2019 <i>Inquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Victorian Communities</i>.</p> <p>Melton's Environmental Significance Overlays (ESOs) are continuously reviewed and updated to support environmental sustainability.</p> <p>The draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the How Well Are We Adapting tool will provide further guidance on consideration climate change risk through the Planning Scheme.</p> <p>As standard practice Council advocates for the co-location of services through the Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) development process.</p> <p>Advocacy for integrated and sustainable transport is ongoing through the implementation of the Moving Melton Integrated Transport Strategy. Public</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>Engagement and Advocacy*, City Design, Strategy</p>
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1.1.3	<p>services through co-location of amenities and improved transport options.</p> <p>Consider environmental performance in the planning permit approvals process to achieve more sustainable building outcomes.</p> <p>Sustainable design can be most effective and have the least cost when it is considered at the earliest stages of a development. In its role as statutory planner, Council has the opportunity to assess and advise on sustainable development matters during the planning permit application process. By establishing the consistent inclusion of key environmental performance considerations into permit decision processes Council can support improved building outcomes for the long-term benefit of the wider community.</p>	<p>of sustainable transport options.</p> <p>a. Investigate the use of preferred environmental assessment tools to be used during planning applications (i.e. Green Star, BESS).</p> <p>b. Consider adopting the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) program as a voluntary process with the view of formalizing into a Statutory Planning requirement in the form of a Local Policy Clause (see c).</p> <p>c. Develop a Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce an ESD Local Planning Policy (in conjunction with other councils where appropriate) to enable planning applications to</p>		<p>transport is also one of Council's Advocacy Priorities as of 2019.</p> <p>Assessment tools are being investigated through the development of the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Guidelines. Preferred tools will be identified on completion of the Guidelines.</p> <p>SDAPP is being considered as part of the development of the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Guidelines. Council has joined Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) which provides access to Council-branded SDAPP Fact Sheets if required.</p> <p>Council is participating in a project lead by Wodonga City Council to investigate integrating ESD into subdivisions, which would apply to a significantly higher proportion of development in the City of Melton than current standard ESD policies. Council has also engaged a consultant to provide recommendations on an ESD policy. Council is</p>	<p>and Environment, Engineering Services</p> <p>Planning Services*, City Design, Strategy and Environment</p> <p>Planning Services*, City Design, Strategy and Environment</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Planning Services</p>
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1.1.4	Build staff and industry understanding of ecologically sustainable design (ESD). In order to effectively deliver sustainable built environments, those involved in the planning process need to have a strong understanding of ESD principles.	be assessed against a range of ESD objectives.	expecting further information on the development of a state policy.	
a.	Develop the ESD skills and knowledge of Council staff to effectively assess applications for sustainability through training.	●	Council officers have attended training sessions including on the use of the Building Environment Sustainability Scorecard assessment tool as well as other relevant workshops as appropriate. Officers will undergo further relevant training as determined by the ESD Guidelines currently under development.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Planning Services, Capital Projects
b.	Seek to incorporate ESD skills and knowledge in PDs for new planning staff.	●	The ESD Guidelines currently under development will determine the level of skill and knowledge required of planning staff.	Planning Services*
c.	Develop an online toolkit of resources to assist developers to achieve environmentally sustainable best practice, including information on preferred tools.	●	Appropriate resources will be provided to developers as determined through the ESD Guidelines currently under development.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Planning Services, Engagement and Advocacy
1.2 Council infrastructure is designed, built, maintained and operated using ecologically sustainable design (ESD) and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) best practice principles.				

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Objective	Action	Status	Progress comments	Responsibility
1.2.1 Design and build future Council infrastructure along ESD principles. Council is responsible for designing and building new infrastructure to service the City's growing population. There is an opportunity for Council to reduce the ecological impact of buildings by employing design that follows the principles of ecologically sensitive design (ESD).	a. Complete and implement ESD/Sustainable Infrastructure Policy, checklist and guidelines for Council infrastructure.	●	The delivery of this project has moved from Capital Projects to City Design, Strategy and Environment. A consultant has been engaged to produce a set of draft ESD Guidelines which are currently under internal review.	Capital Projects*
	b. Embed Climate Resilient Infrastructure checklists into relevant processes for designing and maintaining infrastructure.	●	The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Checklist will be included in the ESD Guidelines currently under development.	Engineering Services*, Capital Projects*, Operations*
1.2.2 Design and build future Council infrastructure along WSUD principles. As Melton continues to expand, there will be increasing pressure to manage the interactions between the urban built form and the urban water cycle. Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) aims to integrate stormwater, groundwater, wastewater and potable water to minimise environmental degradation and improve public amenity.	a. Develop Council specific WSUD Guidelines to enhance those prepared by Melbourne Water.	●	WSUD Guidelines have not yet been reviewed.	Engineering Services*
	b. Include best practice water sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles and tools within relevant capital works and asset renewal projects.	●	Improved WSUD outcomes for Council infrastructure will be pursued through the ESD Guidelines currently under development.	Capital Projects*, Engineering Services*, others as appropriate
1.2.3 Improve energy and water efficiency of existing Council infrastructure.	a. Develop a program to audit Council facilities for	●	There are a number of sustainability audits completed in 2012 with outstanding upgrades that	City Design, Strategy and Environment*




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	Buildings are high consumers of energy and water. For Council's existing infrastructure, there are a range of upgrades and retrofits that will reduce energy and water consumption and lower associated bills.	energy and water efficiency opportunities. b. Develop a program of works to implement recommendations from completed energy and water audits. c. Incorporate ESD criteria as outlined in the ESD/Sustainable Infrastructure Policy (see 1.2.1a.) into asset condition and auditing processes, including seeking to embed into the Asset Management Plan.	 	<p>should be prioritised prior to the completion of further audits.</p> <p>There are a number of sustainability audits completed in 2012 with outstanding upgrades that should be prioritised prior to the completion of further audits. These audits require review to determine what actions are still relevant.</p> <p>The draft ESD Guidelines includes recommendations for improving sustainability into infrastructure renewal projects.</p>	<p>Operations*, City Design, Strategy and Environment</p> <p>Property Services*, Asset Management*, City Design, Strategy and Environment</p>
1.3 Ecological values of adjoining land are maintained and protected during development stages.					
Objective	Action	Status	Progress comment	Responsibility	
1.3.1	Ensure the environment is protected during the construction phase of development. As a growth council, major construction works will continue to be an important part of delivering services for the community. During construction such	a. Develop information sheets or training materials to ensure Construction Supervisors are able to identify species to be protected out in the field.		Officers across Engineering Services, Capital Projects and Planning Services undertook Green Card training to provide an overview of site environmental protection requirements.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*




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	<p>projects pose a significant risk to the environment. Council, developers and contractors should seek to minimise these impacts where possible.</p>	<p>b. Review "Guidelines for temporary environmental protection measures for subdivision construction sites" that contractors follow.</p> <p>c. Review and formalise internal processes (i.e. documents, processes, communication, training) to ensure sufficient guidance is provided to the land development industry to meet Council expectations.</p> <p>d. Prepare guidelines and procedures for Council internal projects around environmental legislative obligations, the planning approval process, mitigation measures and where exemptions may apply.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>●</p>	<p>The construction environmental management plan guidelines have been updated and set out the requirements for subdivision construction sites.</p> <p>Council Officers have developed a detailed portal for Estate Subdivisions to assist developers in understanding their requirements at each stage of the planning process.</p> <p>Council Officers have been updating processes, standardising procedures and upskilling staff on environmental legislative obligations.</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Engineering Services</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>
<p>1.4 Council encourages sustainable urban development through communication, advocacy and partnerships.</p>					
<p>Objective</p>		<p>Action</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>Progress comments</p>	<p>Responsibility</p>

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1.4.1	Demonstrate practices that encourage sustainable urban development. Council can support and strengthen sustainable built environments by providing leadership through demonstration of good design, using Council's assets as demonstration projects.	a. Encourage sustainable design within the community by demonstrating best practice ecologically sustainable design (ESD) in all Council building and infrastructure projects. b. Demonstrate leadership by sharing and promoting sustainable urban development outcomes with the community, other local government professionals, non-government organisations, State Government and developers, through website, social media and other means.		Council's ESD Guidelines are currently under development.	Capital Projects*, Engineering Services
1.4.2	Develop partnerships and advocate where possible to improve urban sustainability outcomes. Many of the drivers that determine the outcomes for our environment are outside Council's control, however Melton City Council plays a key role in connecting all forms of government, business, education and community.	a. Participate in cross-municipality initiatives that contribute to the development of improved sustainable urban development where appropriate. b. Influence developers to incorporate best practice	 	Council shares and promotes sustainability projects when appropriate through social media posts, website updates and local government networks. More formally Council also promotes projects through award submissions and submitting to conferences. Council has joined the Council Alliance for Built Environment (CASBE) through the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), a forum for local government to discuss ESD. Officers also attend the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) meetings and LGPro Special Interest Groups that relate to sustainability. Council works collaboratively with the development industry where possible. The Integrated Water	City Design, Strategy and Environment, Engineering Services Capital Projects, City Design, Strategy and Environment, Planning Services, Engineering Services Planning Services*, City




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	<p>Council should seek where possible to participate in partnerships that will facilitate the exchange of information and best practice in ecologically sustainable development (ESD) and advocate to key agencies where appropriate.</p>	<p>sustainability into development by working in partnership with the development industry and conducting advocacy programs.</p>		<p>Management Plans required as a condition of planning permits are an example of a mechanism that has been developed to improve collaboration. The development of passive street tree irrigation designs is an example of effective collaboration.</p>	<p>Design, Strategy and Environment, Engineering Services</p>
	<p>c. Identify opportunities to advocate for the enhancement of sustainability requirements as legislated with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) to improve sustainability outcomes in developments.</p>	<p>Council advocates for the enhancement of sustainability in the BCA through participation in the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) advocacy, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocacy, and as opportunities arise for example in its submission to the Parliament of Victoria's 2019 <i>Inquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Victorian Communities</i>.</p>		<p>Engagement and Advocacy*, Capital Projects</p>	<p>Engagement and Advocacy*, Capital Projects</p>
<p>2.1 Council protects and enhances ecosystems, improves habitat connectivity and increases ecosystem resilience.</p>					
<p>Objective</p>	<p>Action</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>Progress comments</p>	<p>Responsibility</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Operations</p>
<p>2.1.1 Establish a whole of organisation approach for biodiversity management. Melton's unique biodiversity needs to be maintained, enhanced and protected for its ecological values and the enjoyment and appreciation of the community.</p>	<p>a. Develop a Biodiversity Strategy.</p>		<p>Work has not yet commenced on a Biodiversity Strategy. This is medium term action.</p>		




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2.1.2	<p>Improve mapping and understanding of flora and fauna in the municipality.</p> <p>Improved understanding of the location and quality of flora and fauna in Melton will help inform effective management strategies and facilitate monitoring of our impacts.</p>	<p>a. Advocate for updated mapping of flora and fauna assets by DELWP.</p> <p>b. Seek to partner with universities and community groups as appropriate to collate biodiversity data, identify gaps in existing understanding of biodiversity assets, and build a database of local assets.</p>		<p>Council advocates where possible for improved mapping of flora and fauna assets.</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Operations</p>
		<p>c. Seek to collect data where gaps have been identified, in partnership with community groups as appropriate.</p>		<p>Action not commenced.</p>	<p>Operations*, City Design, Strategy and Environment</p>
		<p>d. Assess and map all areas of significant roadside vegetation and weeds with the view of developing a Roadside Management Plan to maintain local biodiversity and habitat values.</p>		<p>Action not commenced. This is medium term action.</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>




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2.1.3	<p>Increase connectivity between remnant and other native vegetation.</p> <p>In fragmented landscapes such as cities, providing connections between larger areas of habitat is important to maintain biodiversity. These wildlife corridors, which can range from street trees, roadside vegetation or larger patches of vegetation, enables the movement of animals, colonisation of plants and the continuation of viable populations of flora and fauna. Ensuring there are green spaces throughout the City additionally enhances liveability by reducing urban heat island effect and providing aesthetic and health benefits to residents.</p>	<p>e. Seek to collect data on biodiversity assets on private land through the EEP program.</p>		<p>The development of a Biodiversity Strategy will identify how data will be collected on biodiversity assets.</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>
2.1.3	<p>Increase connectivity between remnant and other native vegetation.</p> <p>In fragmented landscapes such as cities, providing connections between larger areas of habitat is important to maintain biodiversity. These wildlife corridors, which can range from street trees, roadside vegetation or larger patches of vegetation, enables the movement of animals, colonisation of plants and the continuation of viable populations of flora and fauna. Ensuring there are green spaces throughout the City additionally enhances liveability by reducing urban heat island effect and providing aesthetic and health benefits to residents.</p>	<p>a. Develop criteria for land with high biodiversity values that Council would seek to acquire, manage or protect in new growth areas (non-BCS areas).</p>		<p>To be considered in the development of the Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p>Operations*, City Design, Strategy and Environment</p>
2.1.3	<p>Increase connectivity between remnant and other native vegetation.</p> <p>In fragmented landscapes such as cities, providing connections between larger areas of habitat is important to maintain biodiversity. These wildlife corridors, which can range from street trees, roadside vegetation or larger patches of vegetation, enables the movement of animals, colonisation of plants and the continuation of viable populations of flora and fauna. Ensuring there are green spaces throughout the City additionally enhances liveability by reducing urban heat island effect and providing aesthetic and health benefits to residents.</p>	<p>b. Develop a process to protect land with high biodiversity values (as identified in the Biodiversity Strategy), for example by acquisition to add to Council's existing reserve network, or through updating planning zones, overlays and covenants.</p>		<p>To be completed subsequent to Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p>Operations*, City Design, Strategy and Environment</p>
2.1.3	<p>Increase connectivity between remnant and other native vegetation.</p> <p>In fragmented landscapes such as cities, providing connections between larger areas of habitat is important to maintain biodiversity. These wildlife corridors, which can range from street trees, roadside vegetation or larger patches of vegetation, enables the movement of animals, colonisation of plants and the continuation of viable populations of flora and fauna. Ensuring there are green spaces throughout the City additionally enhances liveability by reducing urban heat island effect and providing aesthetic and health benefits to residents.</p>	<p>c. Work with private landowners, especially properties adjoining Council's conservation reserves, for increased connectivity and improved biodiversity</p>		<p>Officers provide land management advice to private landowners through the Environmental Enhancement Program (EEP).</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>




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2.1.4	<p>Develop, maintain and strengthen relationships and partnerships with key government departments and other organisations to facilitate improved landscape scale land and water management outcomes.</p> <p>Landscape scale approaches to land and water management recognise that larger, connected areas may increase ecosystem resilience. In order to plan on a landscape scale, Council needs to seek to work with neighbours and other land and water managers for a coordinated approach to conservation and restoration.</p>	<p>outcomes (see 2.4 for related actions).</p> <p>d. Complete a Street Tree Strategy, to be included in the Public Realm guidelines.</p> <p>a. Continue to participate in regional advocacy groups, to advocate for State agencies to invest in our city, with a view to improve coordination of resources and activities to realise common land and water management goals.</p> <p>b. Develop, strengthen and maintain long-term working relationships with relevant stakeholders for effective land and water management, including DELWP, Melbourne Water, City West Water, Southern Rural Water, Western Water, and Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p>	<p>Draft Street Tree Strategy has been completed.</p> <p>The Department for Land, Water and Environment (DELWP) convened the Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forums in 2018 which has had involvement from Executive, Management and Officer levels of Council. The IWM Forums are enabling coordination of resources and projects.</p> <p>The Department for Land, Water and Environment (DELWP) convened the Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forums in 2018 which have strengthened working relationships between land and water managers in the Werribee Catchment.</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>Operations*, City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>
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		<p>c. Develop, strengthen and maintain long-term proactive partnerships with neighbouring councils to collaboratively manage adjoining land with a view to achieving landscape scale goals.</p>		<p>The IWM Forums (see above) have enabled improved collaboration across councils in the Werribee Catchment.</p>	<p>Operations*, City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>
<p>2.2 Long-term biodiversity outcomes and ecological resilience are achieved on Council owned and managed conservation reserves.</p>					
Objective	Action	Status	Progress comments	Responsibility	
<p>2.2.1 Continue to manage Council's conservation reserves in accordance with best practice conservation and land management practices. Council manages over 100 conservation reserves. These areas allow for community interaction with nature, provide corridors that connect larger natural areas and support Melton's unique biodiversity, and need to be protected and enhanced.</p>	<p>a. Apply best practice and adaptive management approaches to conservation reserves which aim to maximise local biodiversity outcomes and ecological resilience.</p>		<p>Officers continue to apply best practice and adaptive management approaches to conservation reserves.</p>	<p>Operations*</p>	
	<p>b. Develop a minimum of two Reserve Management and Monitoring Plans for Council owned or managed reserves per year.</p>		<p>Council has prepared one Reserve Management and Monitoring Plan.</p>	<p>Operations*, City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>	





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		<p>c. Establish internal guidelines to ensure allocation of budgets to execute on ground works across the conservation reserve system are based on Reserve Management and Monitoring Plans (as above).</p>		<p>Internal guidelines to be prepared as Reserve Management and Monitoring Plans are developed.</p>	<p>Operations*</p>
<p>2.3 The ecological health of waterways, wetlands and catchments is recognized, valued and protected.</p>					
Objective	Action	Status	Progress comments	Responsibility	
<p>2.3.1 Improve management and monitoring of waterway health. Melton's waterways are some of our community's most valued natural areas, providing habitat for a diversity of flora and fauna and frequently visited areas for recreation and wildlife appreciation.</p>	<p>a. Review waterway maintenance agreements to clarify jurisdiction and responsibilities with third parties.</p> <p>b. Consolidate data currently collected through catchment management and water authorities and establish ongoing monitoring along priority waterways to collect data required to measure performance.</p>		<p>Action not yet commenced.</p>	<p>Operations*</p>	
			<p>Melbourne Water have developed the Healthy Waterways Strategy through which they will be collecting data to measure progress against targets.</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>	




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2.3.2	<p>Improve the quality of stormwater entering waterways. As Melton develops, increased impervious surfaces will lead to larger flows of stormwater into waterways. Stormwater needs to be treated to prevent degradation of waterways.</p>	<p>a. Undertake outfall assessment studies for creeks not currently evaluated.</p> <p>b. Continue capital works program to upgrade drainage outfalls to improve river health, incorporating assessment results (2.3.2a).</p> <p>c. Seek to introduce planning controls in targeted areas to require new developments to maximise quality of runoff.</p>		<p>Melbourne Water have developed the Healthy Waterways Strategy through which they will be collecting data to measure progress against targets.</p>	Engineering Services*
2.3.3	<p>Increase community appreciation of waterways for improved stewardship. Increased appreciation of Melton's waterways will allow the community to develop a stronger sense of stewardship towards them.</p>	<p>a. Seek to explore options for shared trails along waterways to increase community access through sale, negotiation with landowners or conditions of subdivision.</p> <p>b. Continue to support local water conservation and waterway initiatives, community groups and activities.</p>		<p>Ongoing upgrades are being delivered through the annual budget and in conjunction Melbourne Water including the Arnolds Creek Project completed in 19/20 a key project that has supported this action.</p> <p>Various projects being delivered through the Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forums are investigating planning mechanisms to improve water management outcomes.</p> <p>The Planning Policy Framework update addresses this action.</p> <p>Council provides support to local community groups through providing grants via the World Environment Day grants program, and through supporting events including Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day.</p>	<p>Engineering Services*, City Design, Strategy and Environment</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>Operations*, Planning Services, Engineering Services</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Operations</p>





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2.4 The ecological health of rural land is maintained and improved.					
Objective	Action	Status	Progress comments	Responsibility	
2.4.1 Continue to support local landowners as primary agents in managing rural land. Melton's rural land needs to be maintained and managed to reduce the impacts of weeds, feral animals and soil erosion on environmental values. Improved environmental outcomes will be achieved through supporting rural landowners in protecting and enhancing their land.	a. Continue to deliver the Environmental Enhancement Program (EEP), including: -Rate Rebate Scheme -Free land management advice to rural landholders		The EEP program is delivered on an annual basis.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*	
	b. Develop an EEP monitoring and reporting program to ensure it is meeting the needs of participating landholders and achieving its land management needs.		A review of the EEP was completed in 2018 making a number of recommendations to ensure it is meeting the needs of participating landholders as well as Council's objectives of the program.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*	
	c. Develop and implement EEP improvements as required to ensure continued effectiveness of the program.		The implementation of the recommendations from the EEP review are currently in progress.	City Design, Strategy and Environment**	
2.4.2 Increase community capacity, knowledge and understanding of sustainable land management practices.	a. Work with landowners to commence development of rural landholder profile groups, to better		Council received funding for online environment education program, this has been slightly delayed due to Covid-19 .	City Design, Strategy and Environment*	





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	Improved understanding of Melton's rural landowners' needs will allow Council to provide the most relevant and effective information to assist private landowners in managing their land.	<p>understand needs, level of awareness, motivations and capacity to address land management issues, to inform land management programs that are responsive to community needs.</p> <p>b. Incorporate landholder profile information into communications program as it becomes available, to provide regular and topical land management information to rural landholders.</p> <p>c. Support the creation of an online Information Portal to provide relevant information and web links regarding land management to rural landholders.</p> <p>d. Develop, deliver and support local field days, forums and events, with a focus on locally relevant land</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p>	<p>Action not yet commenced.</p> <p>Council is investigating the use of an existing online portal to support land management through a grant received from the Department of Land, Water and Environment (DELWP).</p> <p>Council received funding from the Department of Land, Water and Environment (DELWP) in the 2019/2020 financial year to deliver a series of land management workshops and events. These workshops are currently under development.</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>
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		management and rural land issues.			
2.5 Staff and community understand and appreciate Melton's unique biodiversity and ecosystems.					
Objective	Action	Status	Progress comments	Responsibility	
2.5.1 Increase staff knowledge and appreciation of Melton's unique biodiversity and ecosystems. Increased understanding of Melton's biodiversity and ecosystems will help build a sense of pride and stewardship towards the environment.	a. Develop and deliver educational and behaviour change programs related to biodiversity to staff.		Action not yet commenced.	Green Team*	
	b. Organise field days for staff to visit areas of local importance, including guided visits with the Councillors.		Action not yet commenced.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*	
	c. Seek to include educational materials on Melton's biodiversity into the induction process for new staff and Councillors.		Action not yet commenced.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*	
	d. Develop and implement a survey tool to assess environmental knowledge, attitudes		Action not yet commenced.	Green Team*	





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2.5.2	<p>Increase local knowledge and appreciation of Melton's unique biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> <p>Increased knowledge and appreciation of Melton's natural areas will lead to a more engaged community that seeks to protect and enhance the municipality's ecosystems.</p>	<p>a. Review the Environmental Education program to ensure alignment with this Plan.</p> <p>b. Investigate the potential for the creation of an Environmental Destination to showcase Melton's unique natural assets.</p>		<p>An Environmental Education Framework is currently in development.</p>	City Design, Strategy and Environment*
2.5.3	<p>Continue to support local environment groups, including Friends of and Landcare groups.</p> <p>Local environment groups have a significant positive impact on City of Melton's natural environment. Supporting these groups in their efforts to protect and enhance natural areas greatly complements Council's conservation work.</p>	<p>a. Continue to offer environmental grants for community groups wishing to develop and implement environmental projects, and facilitate access to external grants through promotion and provision of support.</p> <p>b. Review Council's grants program for opportunities to incorporate environmental and sustainability criteria into the application process.</p> <p>c. Provide additional support to groups</p>		<p>Council delivers the World Environment Day grants annually. In the 2020/2021 financial year the pool of grant funding increased and the program has been updated as appropriate.</p>	City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Community Planning
				<p>Council's Community Grants program was reviewed in 2017 and updated to include environmental criteria.</p>	Community Planning*
				<p>Council has delivered the pilot Nature Stewards program in collaboration with Outdoors Victoria and</p>	City Design, Strategy and




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		through promotion of activities, provision of materials or equipment and opportunities to come together for knowledge sharing.		will run the program again in 2021/2022. Council has also hosted environmental get-togethers for environment groups to enable knowledge sharing and networking.	Environment*, Engagement and Advocacy
		d. Advertise and promote volunteer opportunities on City of Melton social media and website with the view of increasing participation within environment groups.		This will be considered in the development of the Environmental Education Framework.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Engagement and Advocacy
3.1 Best practice water reduction and water reuse principles are included in all Council's corporate and operational functions.					
Objective	Action	Status	Progress comments	Responsibility	
3.1.1 Reduce potable water use and increase water use from alternative water sources in Council operations. Melton is located in an area of low rainfall, with pressures expected to be exacerbated by climate change and increased demands from the growing population. Council has an opportunity to strategically manage its water resources to reduce use of potable water and maximise fit-for-purpose water use.	a. Develop an Integrated Water Management Plan.		The Integrated Water Management Plan 2018-2028 was adopted by Council in May 2018.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Operations, Engineering, Recreation and Youth	
	b. Review agreements on leased properties to require lessees to meet water conservation objectives.		Action not yet commenced.	Recreation and Youth*, City Design, Strategy and Environment	



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3.1.2	Reduce water use in irrigation of open space. Irrigation is by far Council's biggest user of water, comprising 82% of usage. Reducing water use in irrigation is therefore Council's largest water saving opportunity.	c. Ensure all new service contracts include the requirement for monthly management reporting to Council on water usage, including water reduction clauses where possible.		Contracts are being updated as they are renewed.	Operations*
		a. Manage community expectations around the irrigation of public parks by developing a Council position and a targeted communications plan.		Council actively manages irrigation levels on an ongoing basis as community expectations change.	Operations*
		b. Continue to implement best practice water saving upgrades for parks and open spaces, including changing to warm season grasses and using aeration techniques.		Council implements water saving upgrades for parks and open spaces as budget allows. Further detail can be found in Council's Integrated Water Management Plan.	Operations*
		c. Audit irrigation systems with the view of implementing a program of upgrades works and investigating the potential to implement a		Council is in the process of migrating to a centralised irrigation system.	Operations*, City Design, Strategy and Environment

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3.1.3	<p>Increase the understanding and application of water conservation practices of Council staff.</p> <p>Council can reduce water use through changing water use behaviours in Council buildings. Educating Council staff on the best processes and practices for managing water consumption can ensure that buildings are achieving their maximum efficiency.</p>	<p>centrally controlled irrigation system.</p> <p>a. Develop and implement water conservation initiatives for Council staff.</p>		<p>Action not yet commenced.</p>	Green Team*
3.2 Council views waste as a resource and adheres to the waste hierarchy.					
3.2.1	<p>Implement strategic approaches to waste management across the organization.</p> <p>All functions of Council produce waste. A strategic approach will enable improved resource management across the organisation.</p>	<p>a. Develop a revised Waste Management Strategy, ensuring alignment with relevant State policies (eg Metro Resource Recovery Implementation Plan).</p> <p>b. Develop a Plastic-Wise Events policy to establish Council's position on single-use plastic and minimise its consumption</p>	 	<p>The development of the strategy has been put on hold as resources are prioritised to the delivery of the Food Organics and Green Organics (FOGO) project.</p> <p>Preliminary discussions with relevant staff have been undertaken. A policy is not currently feasible due to lack of appropriate recycling infrastructure at Council facilities.</p>	<p>Operations*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Operations</p>

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3.2.2	Reduce waste going to landfill from Council owned, managed and leased buildings. Council has the most control of waste from its own buildings. Waste going to landfill can be minimised through providing appropriate waste facilities and informing and encouraging building users to utilise them correctly.	on council owned and managed land.		<p>To be considered in the development of the Waste Management Strategy.</p> <p>The Integrated Water Management Plan includes targets for litter reduction.</p> <p>A contractor was engaged to undertake waste audits in the 2018/2019 financial year.</p> <p>Minimum standards are in place for bin facilities.</p>	<p>Operations*</p> <p>Relevant departments with support from Operations and City Design, Strategy and Environment</p> <p>Operations*, City Design, Strategy and Environment</p> <p>Operations</p>
	<p>c. Incorporate the Litter Prevention Strategy into the new Waste Management Strategy.</p> <p>d. Include litter monitoring and prevention as appropriate in other council strategies, including a to-be-developed Integrated Water Management Plan.</p>	<p>a. Develop and implement a waste and recycling audit, management and monitoring program for Council owned, managed and leased buildings.</p> <p>b. Establish a minimum standard for waste facilities based on building types. Continue roll-out of recycling bins and services at Council facilities to ensure</p>			






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		buildings meet minimum standard.			
		c. Ensure waste facilities minimum standards as above are included in capital works projects.	●	Waste management standards are being considered in the ESD Guidelines currently under development.	Capital Projects*
		d. Develop a recycling policy for leased buildings to be included in lease agreements/license agreements.	●	Action not yet commenced.	Recreation and Youth*, City Design, Strategy and Environment
		e. Develop and implement behaviour change initiatives for staff waste minimisation.	●	Action not yet commenced.	Green Team*
3.2.3	Advocate for improved product stewardship. Council has limited influence on how products are produced and how they can be recycled. By advocating for more responsibility along the supply chain Council can help reduce product packaging and increase resource recovery opportunities.	a. Support and participate in appropriate initiatives that advocate for reduced product packaging and resource recovery opportunities.	●	To be considered in the development of the Waste Management Strategy.	Engagement and Advocacy*, Operations, City Design, Strategy and Environment

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3.3 Best practice sustainable procurement and lifecycle approaches are considered in Council purchases.						
Objective	Action	Status	Progress comments	Responsibility		
3.3.1 Improve staff understanding and capacity to consider sustainability in their procurement functions. Ensuring best practice sustainable procurement is a responsibility of all staff with procurement functions. Council needs to ensure staff are informed and have access to the tools that will enable them to make best practice sustainable procurement decisions.	a. Ensure relevant staff undertake the Sustainable Procurement online training module, available on the Intranet.		Action not yet commenced. Will be considered as part of the intranet upgrade.	People and Culture*, City Design, Strategy and Environment		
	b. Review Healthy Food and Drink Guide to include sustainable catering options and recommendations.		Officers have reviewed the Healthy Food and Drink Guide to include recommendations for sustainable options.	Community Planning*, City Design, Strategy and Environment		
	c. Develop and provide sustainable procurement workshops specific to different areas of operations (eg. Buildings, stationary, etc), and encourage relevant staff to attend workshops.		Action not yet commenced. This is a medium term action.		Legal and Governance*, City Design, Strategy & Environment	
	d. Develop a guide to assist staff in finding green suppliers.		Action not yet commenced.		City Design, Strategy and Environment*	
3.3.2 Facilitate sustainable procurement through internal processes.	a. Investigate potential of becoming a member of Eco-Buy to assist in improving internal		Officers attended Eco-Buy meeting and received follow-up information on membership.	Legal and Governance*, City Design,		




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	Sustainable procurement can be facilitated through establishing standard processes within Council.	processes relating to sustainable procurement.			Strategy and Environment
	b. Establish an integrated method of recording and reporting on sustainable spending.	b. Establish an integrated method of recording and reporting on sustainable spending.		Action not yet commenced.	Legal and Governance *, City Design, Strategy and Environment
	c. Embed sustainable procurement policies and practices in all relevant policies and strategies.	c. Embed sustainable procurement policies and practices in all relevant policies and strategies.		Action not yet commenced. This is a medium term action.	All staff with procurement functions
	d. Develop sustainable purchasing standard questions and criteria to include in tender documents.	d. Develop sustainable purchasing standard questions and criteria to include in tender documents.		Action not yet commenced. This is a medium term action.	City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Legal and Governance
3.4 Best practice climate change knowledge and action is incorporated into Council planning and decision-making for effective mitigation and adaptation.					
Objective		Action	Status	Progress comments	Responsibility
3.4.1	Establish a whole of organisation approach for effective and efficient climate change action. All of Council's services and operations will be affected in some way by climate change. It is important that Council has an	a. Develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan. b. Include climate change considerations in project criteria within Project	 	A draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan has been completed. Action not yet commenced.	City Design, Strategy and Environment* Capital Projects*, City Design, Strategy and Environment

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	organisation wide approach to responding to the impacts of climate change.	Management Framework.			Environment
3.4.2	<p>Build staff understanding of climate change impacts and opportunities.</p> <p>Climate change will have different impacts across the organisation's operations, from affecting public infrastructure, impacting health services for vulnerable members of the community and making it harder to maintain parks and gardens. Effective responses will require that staff across the organisation understand how it will impact their work and how to respond appropriately.</p>	<p>c. Continue to work with WAGA on regional climate action projects, as well as other local, state and federal government organisations.</p> <p>a. Continue to work with relevant Council staff to implement WAGA's How Well Are We Adapting project.</p> <p>b. Ensure Council is kept up to date on current climate change science, research and technologies to ensure innovative and timely responses.</p> <p>c. Develop staff climate change training for Council-wide understanding of how the impacts of climate change will affect Council operations and service delivery, and how to plan</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Council actively participates in WAGA's projects, including as a Project Control Council for the How Well Are We Adapting tool.</p> <p>Council is a Project Control Council for the second phase of the tool's development. Council has also incorporated the tool into the draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan as its monitoring and evaluation framework.</p> <p>Council Officers stay up-to-date on best practice approaches to climate change through liaising with local government sustainability staff and through attending relevant training opportunities as they arise.</p> <p>Council has hosted a number of workshops to increase understanding of how climate change will impact operations, including a workshop for Managers and the Executive Team on climate risk, issue-specific workshops for the climate change adaptation plan, an all staff professional development screening of the 2040 documentary,</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>




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3.4.3	<p>Increase use of renewable energy for Council.</p> <p>Decreasing technology costs and emerging business models will provide opportunities for scaling up renewable energy on Council's assets. Council has already installed solar PV on a number of buildings, and there are significant opportunities to increase the amount of renewable energy produced.</p>	<p>and respond to these risks.</p> <p>a. Pursue renewable energy project recommendations as outlined in renewable opportunities pre-feasibility study.</p> <p>b. Investigate regional renewable energy opportunities in collaboration with neighbouring councils.</p> <p>c. Ensure renewable energy technologies, including battery storage, are continually monitored for financial and technological viability.</p>		<p>and an all staff event on the health impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Action not yet commenced.</p> <p>This is a short/medium term action and will be considered in the coming years.</p> <p>Council has committed 100% of its energy to be sourced from renewables via a Power Purchase Agreement with several Victoria local governments.</p> <p>Council Officers monitor renewable energy options on an ongoing basis, and the ESD Guidelines will provide further guidance on ensuring infrastructure is 'renewable-ready'.</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*, Capital Projects, Engineering Services</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>
3.4.4	<p>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from current and future public lighting.</p> <p>Council has already commenced the street light retrofit process by replacing all standard lights. Completing this retrofit across the municipality will result in a significant reduction on Council's greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>a. Develop a program of works to improve the efficiency of sports lighting.</p> <p>b. Develop a program of works to changeover</p>	 	<p>A business case was prepared indicating a changeover was not financially viable at this stage.</p> <p>Powercor will be conducting a bulk-changeover of public lighting starting in 2020 due to the banning of</p>	<p>Engineering Services*, Operations, City Design, Strategy and Environment, Recreation and Youth</p> <p>Engineering Services*, City</p>

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		decorative public street lighting to energy efficient technologies.		the import, export or manufacture of mercury vapour lighting.	Design, Strategy and Environment
		c. Develop a Business Case to complete the bulk changeover of public streetlighting.	✓	A business case was completed in 2018 outlining Council's options, however due to the banning of mercury vapour lights Powercor will be conducting a bulk-changeover of public lighting (see above).	Engineering Services*, City Design, Strategy and Environment*
3.4.5	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council's fleet. Petrol passenger vehicles are the largest source of emissions from Council's fleet, followed by diesel passenger vehicles. Combined, Council's passenger vehicles account for approximately 85% of total emissions from Council's fleet. This presents an enormous opportunity for Council to explore reducing emissions from fleet through the introduction of hybrid vehicles or electric vehicles, which are rapidly maturing technologies.	a. Review incentives for staff to select greener vehicles in next review of Motor Vehicle Policy. b. Review current preferred vehicle list with the view of improving efficiency of fleet. c. Ensure hybrid and electric vehicle technologies are continually monitored for financial and technological viability.	✓	An incentive for 6 star and hybrid vehicles was included in the Motor Vehicle Policy. The preferred vehicle list was reviewed and 4 star vehicles removed from the list. Council is monitoring electric vehicle technologies on an ongoing basis.	Legal and Governance*, City Design, Strategy and Environment Legal and Governance*, City Design, Strategy and Environment City Design, Strategy and Environment*
3.4.6	Encourage staff behaviour change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	a. Encourage staff to use public or alternative transport, for example through participation in	●	Myki cards have been introduced in some business units. The other elements of this action are continuing.	Green Team*

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<p>3.4.7</p>	<p>Council encourages its staff through a number of programs to adopt greater levels of sustainable living into work life and hope that it also has an influence on their private life. This is important for creating organisational capacity to lead by example and move toward sustainability. Education is also a key to integrating sustainability effectively into the Council culture and enabling the delivery of key emissions reduction actions.</p>	<p>Carpool the West, providing Myki cards and supplying bikes for use for short trips.</p> <p>b. Develop and implement behaviour change programs to support staff in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p>		<p>Action not yet commenced.</p>	<p>Green Team*</p>
<p>3.4.7</p>	<p>Reduce broader greenhouse gas emissions from carbon sources that fall outside Council's measured emissions boundary, including through divestment. Council works with banks in two different ways: through the banking services and through Council's investments. Both provide an opportunity for Council to influence emissions reductions. With regards to banking services, Council can include in their selection criteria performance around emissions reductions and with regards to investments Council can review their investment policy to include a preference for investment in low or no emissions funds.</p>	<p>a. Review Council's investment policy to include a preference for investment in low or no emissions funds once regulatory, operational, risk and return requirements are met.</p>		<p>Officers are working with other councils to identify divert-invest strategies and opportunities for collaboration.</p>	<p>Finance*, City Design, Strategy and Environment</p>
	<p>b. Include performance around emissions reductions in Council's selection criteria for banking services when current contract expires.</p>			<p>Officers are working with other councils to identify divert-invest strategies and opportunities for collaboration.</p>	<p>Finance*, City Design, Strategy and Environment</p>

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<p>3.4.8</p>	<p>Improve greenhouse gas emissions data management processes to enable the collection, organisation, monitoring and reporting of emissions.</p> <p>Although not currently required, it is likely that in the future Council will have a legislated responsibility to report on its emissions. Having a comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory will prepare Council for this future requirement, while allowing us to monitor progress on our carbon reduction targets, identify priority areas for action and measure our contribution to state and federal efforts to keep temperature rise to below 2°C.</p>	<p>a. Evaluate current data capture and reporting system (Planet Footprint), to determine if it is suiting our monitoring and reporting needs. Develop and evaluate alternative systems if required.</p> <p>b. Ensure data capture and reporting system (Planet Footprint or other) is actively maintained and improved with a view to developing a robust greenhouse gas emissions inventory.</p> <p>c. Monitor and report on greenhouse gas emissions associated in alignment with NGRS reporting standards.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Officers reviewed Planet Footprint and determined the system was not meeting Council's needs. Data has been migrated to the Carbonmetrix system for ongoing monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>The Carbonmetrix system is actively maintained and improved.</p> <p>Council has prepared a greenhouse gas emissions profile for the 2019/2020 financial year and is continuing to improve its alignment with the NGRS reporting standards.</p>	<p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p> <p>City Design, Strategy and Environment*</p>
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