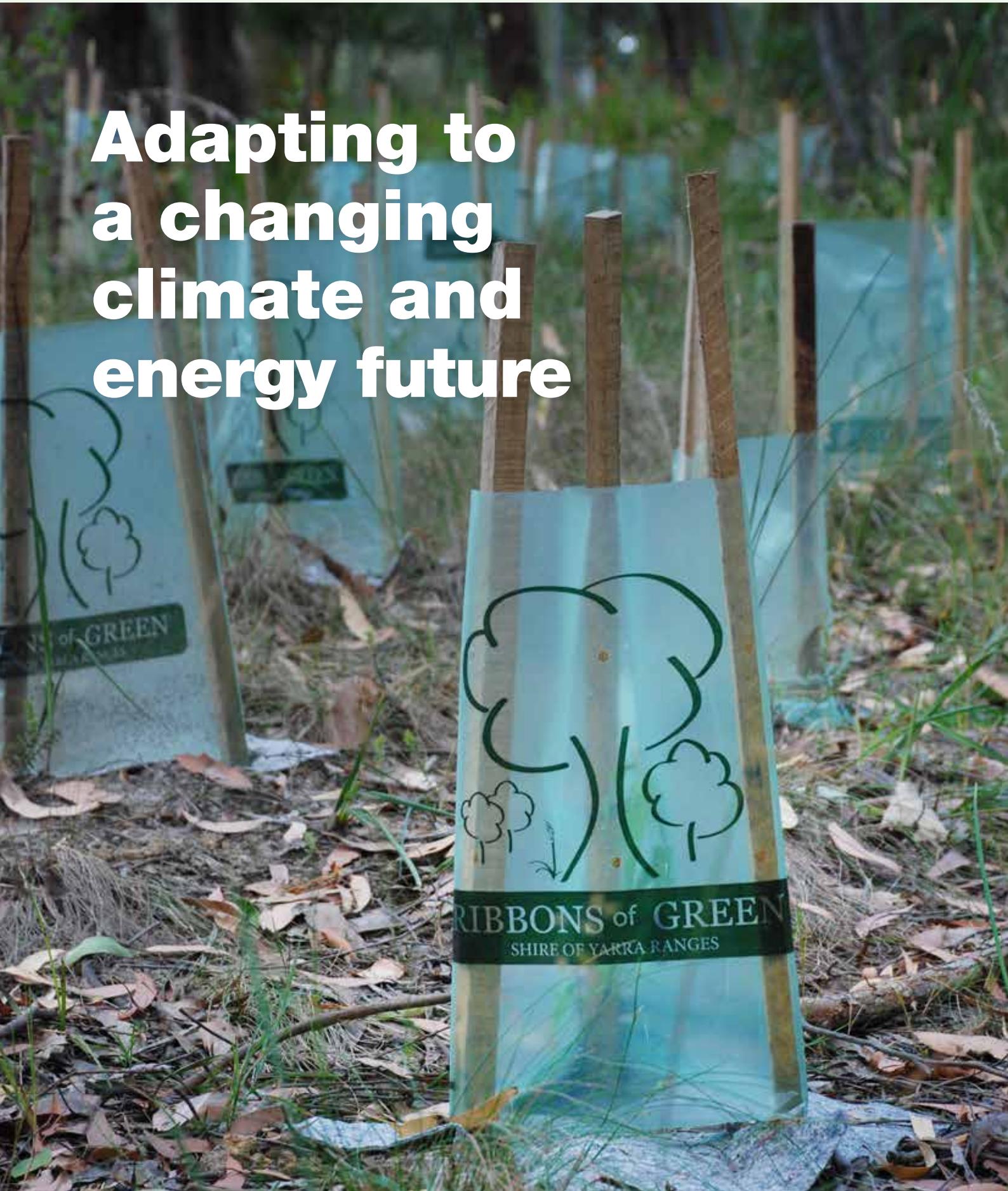




Yarra
Ranges
Council

Adapting to a changing climate and energy future



RIBBONS of GREEN
SHIRE OF YARRA RANGES

Our policy position:

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges scientific advice concerning climate change and the need to mitigate and adapt to its impacts.

Council also acknowledges a need to build organisation and community resilience to shortages and/or declines in affordable oil supply.

Council will act on mitigating and adapting to a changing climate and energy future across all aspects of Council's operations by:

- Reducing corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 30% on 2000 levels by 2020.
- Implementing strategies that reduce our carbon footprint and cost in accordance with Council's Resource Management Principles: Avoid, Reduce, Replace and Offset.
- Reducing exposure to peak oil and climate risk by investing in actions that will reduce or minimise their impact on Council's operations.



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Adapting to a changing

Mayor and CEO Message

Climate change and peak oil will challenge the way Council delivers services to the community.



Yarra Ranges has experienced significant variability in weather over the last decade. This has had visible social, environmental and economic impacts on our region.

Access to affordable energy such as electricity and fuel is increasingly becoming a problem for Council, as well as Yarra Ranges households and businesses.

Linked to this is our reliance on fossil

fuels and as a large energy consumer, Council emits its fair share of carbon and recognises responsibility to reduce our organisation's carbon footprint and lead by example to our community.

This plan will help us prepare for this change.

It outlines top priorities for our organisation developed from a robust evidence base and extensive consultation within Council.

Why does Council have this plan?

Council has developed this plan to ensure our organisation is able to continue to provide high quality services to our community in the face of climate and peak oil risk in a measured and responsible way.

By climate change risk we mean the change in state of climate identified by mean change or variability in its properties that persist for a long period; and accept scientific advice that human induced emissions of greenhouse gases are accelerating this change.

By peak oil risk we mean a point in time when the maximum rate of global petroleum extraction is reached, after which the rate of production enters terminal decline and cost of extraction becomes far more expensive relative to other energy sources.

climate and energy future

What is the purpose of our plan?

The purpose is to provide Council with a corporate response that:

- Links to Council's strategic objectives and sustainable excellence principles.
- Prioritises a set of strategic directions for our organisation.
- Promotes actions that can be adopted to implement prioritised directions.
- Identifies risks that relate to impacts from carbon pollution, climate change and peak oil.
- Fits into existing strategies, policies and action plans.
- Is easy to communicate.

How will our plan work?

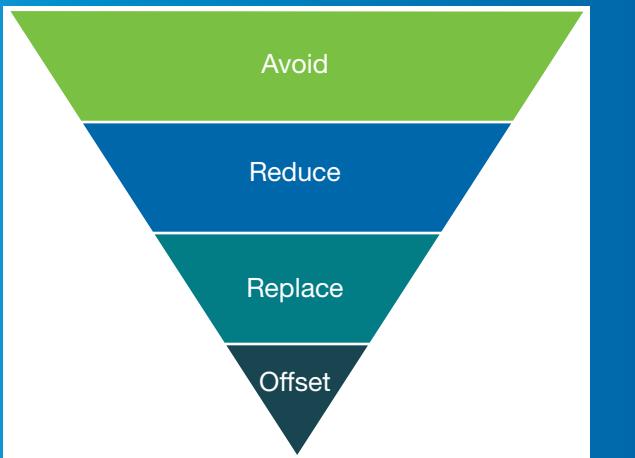
The plan provides high level direction to Council on how the organisation will respond to a changing climate and energy future by addressing the associated risks and opportunities. It is accompanied by background research, risk assessments and a guide to action planning. Our actions will be driven through Council and department business planning and decisions for action will

be guided by Council's Sustainable Excellence and Resource Management Principles.

Departments in Council will need to:

- Plan actions annually in accordance to Council's corporate planning framework.
- Report on progress through Council's corporate performance reporting system.

Resource Management Principles



Sustainable Excellence Principles

- Leadership
- Community and customers
- Systems thinking
- People
- Continuous improvement
- Information and knowledge
- Corporate and social responsibility
- Sustainability

What goals are we striving for?

This plan aims to address the strategic objectives outlined in Council's Plan.

Council's Strategic Objectives



Managing carbon pollution



To redesign service provision so it is efficient, connected and easily accessible.

To provide Council owned carbon efficient infrastructure.



Adapting to climate change



To educate and build community resilience in responding to climate change.

To build and maintain community infrastructure that is resilient to withstand extreme climate events.



Promoting an energy transition



To support strong local areas that offer good social connection.

To provide infrastructure that enables community to fully utilise local centres.

What objectives are we trying to achieve?



Managing carbon pollution

Pursue a target for reducing corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 30% on 2000 levels by 2020.



Adapting to climate change

Build resilience to climate change by investing in action that will minimise financial, social and environmental impact on Council's infrastructure and services.



Promoting an energy transition

Reduce Council's exposure to peak oil risk and transition towards strategies that reduce the reliance on oil.



Protected and Enhanced Natural Environment

To reduce Council's carbon production and improve carbon capture.

To demonstrate and educate land management approaches that maximise the environment's ability to adapt to changing climate.

To protect the environment by using resources sustainably.



Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism

To encourage businesses to be prosperous in a low carbon economy.

To support a local economy to successfully adapt in a changing climate.

To support a local economy transition away from reliance on oil and other fossil fuels.



High Performing Organisation

To minimise energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions through leadership and innovation.

To build organisational agility through people, processes and systems to adapt to climate change.

To create a resilient organisation by reducing reliance on oil and other fossil fuels.

Our driving principles

Sustainable Excellence Principles

Council Plan

Our plan for action



Resource Management Principles

Department Business Plans



What strategies will we focus on?

- Better define Council's role in meeting community needs in a changing climate and energy future.
- Prioritise assets and services with the view to increasing energy efficiency and adaptability to a changing climate and energy future.
- Strengthen financial sustainability by embedding oil and carbon accounting into Council's decision making.
- Ensure Council is well positioned to respond to change in climate and energy policy and regulation.
- Build local resilience in a changing climate and energy future by educating and supporting Council and community.
- Review current service delivery models to ascertain how services can be provided in a resource constrained future.
- Mitigate risk of service disruption to Council's operations caused by short term shocks to extreme events (weather, oil prices, resource shortages).



What actions will we implement?

The following actions were identified within Council as the priority focus due to their capacity to reduce or mitigate the risks identified. Sitting behind this is a guide to how these actions can be implemented.

Carbon Management



Climate Change Adaptation



Peak oil



<3 YEARS ACTION

Improve monitoring and reporting of corporate energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.



Conduct 'whole of organisation' review on current oil and other fossil fuel needs required to deliver Council's services.



Improve communication of knowledge across the organisation in science, policy and regulatory change related to energy and climate.



Profile the risks of Yarra Ranges to determine service needs in a changing climate and energy future.



Empower staff to lead by example by introducing work practices, behaviours and projects that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.



Engage with our communities to identify future service options in response to climate change and peak oil challenges and define what Council's role is in delivering them.



3-5 YEARS ACTION

Assess existing Council owned assets and services to identify carbon reduction opportunities.		
Continue to implement carbon reduction initiatives across prioritised assets and services.		
Improve the method and delivery of asset management by prioritising assets that require adaptation to climate change.		
Improve community access to services by strengthening integration of sustainable transport into the provision of civil infrastructure.		
Embed low carbon purchasing through strategic procurement and provide tools and training to help achieve this.		
Explore options that allocate revenue to secure funding for anticipated changes in policy and regulation.		 
Consider climate change and peak oil impacts in emergency management planning.		 
Develop risk management strategies that will reduce or mitigate the impact of short term emergency events (extreme weather, resource shortages, oil price spikes) on each of Council's services.		 
Identify demonstration projects to illustrate what can be achieved by community and business in regard to acting on climate change and peak oil.		 
Strengthen organisation and community capacity to respond to climate change and peak oil challenges.		 

5-10 YEARS ACTION

Establish a long term holistic plan that supports asset management adaptation to climate change.		
Transition to higher fuel and energy efficiencies and use of renewable fuels and materials in Council operations – where possible.		
Consider the lens of Yarra Ranges being impacted by climate change and peak oil when conducting service planning reviews.		 
Identify alternative modes for service provision that reduce use of fossil fuels in Council's services.		

What risks are we trying to manage?



Our plan is informed by two risk assessments:

- Long term projections for our climate out to years 2050 and 2070 in a high greenhouse gas emissions scenario.
- Short term disruptions in oil supply/prices and long term decline in availability of cheap and accessible oil.

The assessment identified over 100 risks to Council and community.

The following risk areas were identified within Council as the priority focus:

- Increase in cost of energy and volatility in oil prices.
- Reliance on purchasing energy and materials made from finite, greenhouse gas emitting resources such as brown coal or petroleum based fuel.
- A policy and regulatory environment that is constantly changing in the area of energy and climate.
- Changes in community and customer needs and associated growth in demand for services (emergency management, social support, public health, transport, asset management etc.)
- More frequent and intense extreme weather events that impact on infrastructure, people and the natural environment (fires, storms, droughts, floods, heatwaves).
- Disruptions or restrictions in delivery of Council services due to impact of extreme events (extreme weather, oil/petroleum price spikes/shocks etc.).



How will we enable our plan's implementation?

LEADERSHIP: Leading by example through action that fosters creativity and innovation.	MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING: Combining our skills and knowledge to achieve efficient and effective resource use.	SYSTEMS, PROCESS AND TECHNOLOGY: Achieving better outcomes for our customers and community by improving corporate systems and processes.	CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION: Embracing change as the needs of our community and customers evolve by evaluating the way we work.	PARTNERSHIPS: Working together with government, business and community to achieve more.
 Leadership	Management and planning	Systems, process & technology	Culture & communication	Partnerships

How will we monitor our performance?

The success of this plan will be evaluated against the following indicators:

- Demonstrate reduction in corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 30% on 2000 levels by 2020.
- Demonstrate inclusion of planning for climate change and peak oil risk in all Council's departments starting from 2013.
- Demonstrate increased use of renewable fuels in Council's energy mix.
- Demonstrate action that builds resilience to climate change impacts in Council's operations, services and infrastructure.

