

SHIRE OF
CAMPASPE



Environment Strategy

2018-22

Vision

Protection of our natural environment and delivery of programs and services to support a connected and healthy community.

Contents

Summary	2
Strategic Context - Council	3
Strategic Context - Environmental	5
Strategic Context - Challenges	8
Environmental Themes	13
Theme 1 Conservation	13
Theme 2 Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	16
Theme 3 Community Engagement and Partnerships	19
Theme 4 Council's Responsibilities	22
Evaluation	24
References Consulted	25

Acknowledgement of Country

The municipal area of Campaspe lies within the traditional lands of the Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples, council respects and acknowledges the unique Aboriginal cultural heritage within. Council acknowledges and pays their respect to the ancestors and people of the Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung.

Summary

Vision: Protection of our natural environment and delivery of programs and services to support a connected and healthy community.

The Environment Strategy 2018-22:

- Describes the environmental programs that council engages in and aligns with state government direction
- Specifies council's legal obligations with respect to environmental management
- Documents council's commitment to voluntary environmental management (activities council chooses to do)
- Maintains a summary of federal and state legislation, state, regional and local government policies, plans and strategies
- Continues to engage with stakeholders and identifies opportunities for council to partner with organisations to achieve environmental benefits together.

The details of councils responsibilities and actions are expressed across four themes, these are summarised here with their performance indicators.

1. Conservation (refer page 13 for details)

Performance indicators:

- An increase in the number of community groups/ schools that participate in the National Tree Day program. In 2017-18 seven community groups and schools participated in National Tree Day plantings.
- Roadside Weed Management Plan prepared in accordance with requirements of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and Local Government Victoria.

2. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (refer page 16 for details)

Performance indicators:

- Electricity consumption for all council owned and operated buildings and facilities is decreased by 5% of the 2015-16 total electricity consumption of 2,304,664 kWh.
- Reduction in the tonnes of CO₂ emissions for electricity and gas used in all council owned and operated buildings and facilities, to less than 2015-16 actual of 2,760tCO₂.
- An increase in the number of council buildings powered by renewable energy.

3. Community Engagement and Partnerships (refer page 19 for details)

Performance indicators:

- Deliver community engagement actions listed in WICKED (Waste in Campaspe – Know. Education. Do.) Action Plan are completed or ongoing.
- Deliver community engagement actions listed in the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan are completed or ongoing.

4. Council's Responsibilities (refer page 22 for details)

Performance indicators:

- Council does not commit any breaches of environmental legislation.
- All events held on council owned or council managed land must meet the minimum requirement of the Waste Wise Events Guide.

Strategic Context

Council

This Environment Strategy describes the environmental programs that council engages in. The strategy will guide council in setting environmental policies and determining roles, responsibilities and priorities for implementation. The implementation program will be set each year through an operational Action Plan.

Campaspe Shire Council's commitment to the environment is significant and real. Council shall lead by its own example in all processes and practices.

The Environment Strategy 2018-22 replaces the previous Environment Strategy adopted 15 May 2012.

Vision

The long-term vision for the environment, from Campaspe: Our Future is:

"Protection of our natural environment and delivery of programs and services to support a connected and healthy community."

The strategic objective from the Council Plan 2017-21 for the theme healthy environment is:

"A healthier environment for current and future generations."

Objectives of this strategy

The Environment Strategy 2018-22:

- Describes the environmental programs that council engages in and aligns with state government direction
- Specifies council's legal obligations with respect to environmental management
- Documents council's commitment to voluntary environmental management (discretionary activities)
- Maintains a summary of Federal and State legislation, State, Regional and Local Government policies, plans and strategies
- Engage with stakeholders and identifies opportunities for council to partner with organisations to achieve environmental benefits together.



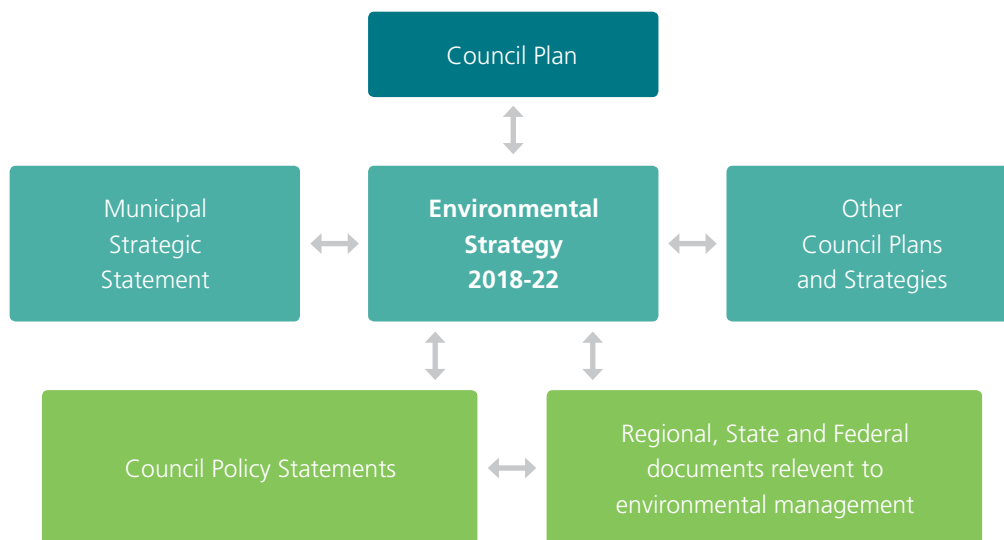


Figure 1: Relationship between Environment Strategy and other key documents.

Internal context

The Environment Strategy aligns with federal, regional and state legislation, supporting policies, strategies and plans as well as the Council Plan 2017-21. Figure 1 shows the link between the Environment Strategy and key council strategies and plans.

Funding to implement the Environment Strategy will be sought internally (council funding) and externally through grants and partnerships with state and federal governments and other community organisations. While all environmental projects developed are economically responsible, there are no guarantees of funding. Projects that have environmental outcomes that are long-term are challenging to fund.

The Environment Strategy 2018-22 provides an overview of the environment of the shire, Campaspe's natural assets and environmental challenges. The details of council's responsibilities and actions are expressed across four themes:

1. Conservation
2. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
3. Community Engagement and Partnerships
4. Council's Responsibilities

Each theme is described by; policy position, policy rationale, long-term aim, performance indicators and example actions. The policy position includes council's position on the theme along with a list of legislated responsibilities (council must do) and discretionary responses (council chooses to do). During the development of each theme, many external factors were considered. These influences are outside of council's business and have been recorded as part of Appendix 1.

The details of the themes are underpinned by federal and state legislation, regulations, policies, strategies and plans. A summary of these is provided in Appendix 2 (Federal), Appendix 3 (State) and Appendix 4 (Policies, strategies and plans).

Example actions for each theme are suggested activities to be undertaken and are not a comprehensive list of actions council will fund or complete each year. For the full list of actions and estimated timelines, refer to the annual Environment Strategy Action Plan.

Strategic Context

Environmental

Campaspe's natural assets

The Shire of Campaspe is located in north central Victoria, approximately 180km north of Melbourne. It includes the communities of Echuca, Kyabram, Rochester, Lockington, Gunbower, Rushworth, Stanhope, Tongala and Girgarre. The shire is located in the heart of one of the richest and most diverse agriculture and food processing areas in Victoria. Its climate, history, cultural heritage, natural assets and location in relation to major urban centres provide the shire with extensive opportunities.

The economy is driven by agriculture, food processing and healthcare sectors, whilst tourism plays a strong role with Echuca Moama and the Murray River recognised as among the state's key tourism destinations.

The shire encompasses a total land area of over 4,500 square kilometres. As shown in Figure 2, the Murray River forms the northern boundary of the shire, while the Goulburn River forms the eastern boundary with the western boundary defined by the Bendigo Creek and Kow Swamp.

The Campaspe River traverses the middle of the shire, broadly defining the catchments, Goulburn Broken catchment to the east and North Central catchment to the west. These waterways have significant environmental values and contribute to the economy and social wellbeing of the shire.

The shire is characterised by a flat landscape that slopes to the north. There is variation in vegetation types across the plains and river valleys, from plains grasslands to woodlands to river red gum floodplains. The vast majority of land (86%) is privately owned and managed by property owners and occupiers with 12% reserved as Crown Land (that is state parks, reserves and national parks) and just under 2% in road reserves. Of this land, only 2.2% is owned or managed by the Campaspe Shire Council.

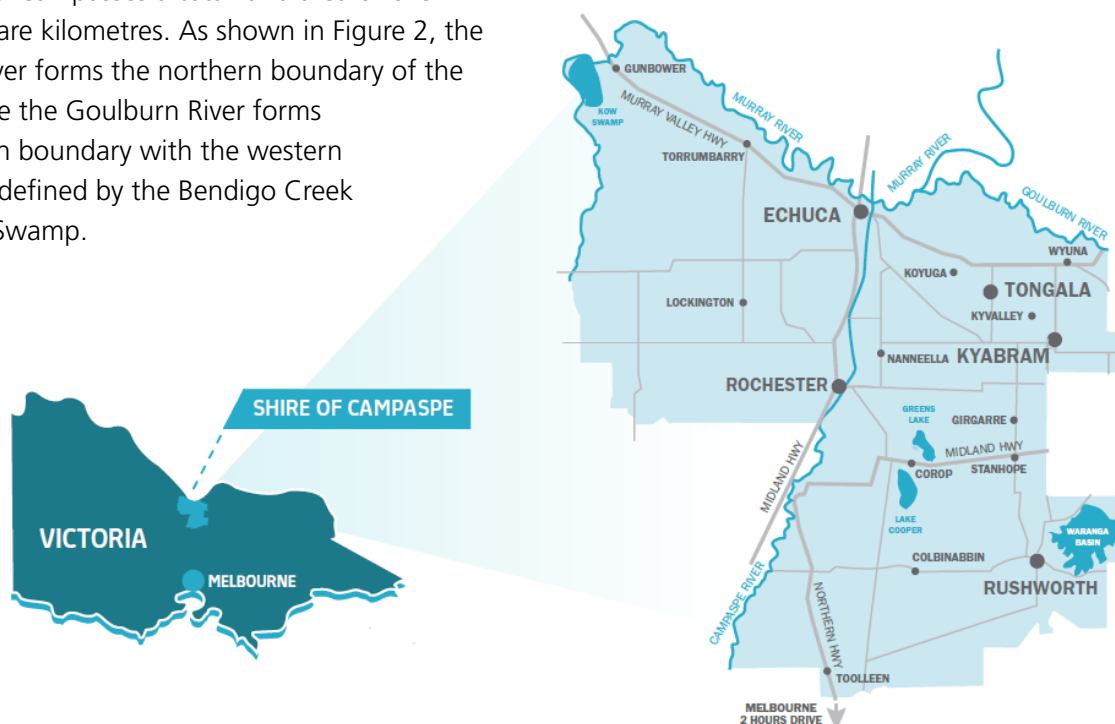


Figure 2: Area and location of the Shire of Campaspe



The case for the Northern Plains Grassland and Plains Wanderer

Over 95% of the Northern Plains Grassland has been cleared, degraded and fragmented.

Since the 1990s, state and federal governments, Trust for Nature, North Central Catchment Management Authority, local landowners and the community have been working to protect, restore and enhance the condition and extent of the grasslands. This partnership initiated to purchase grasslands so that they are conserved on Crown Land has grown the reserves to over 10,000 hectares. Over 3,000 hectares of grasslands have been reserved in the Shire of Campaspe as part of the Terrick Terrick National Park.

The Northern Plains Conservation Management Network has played an important role engaging the community and all stakeholders across the Northern Plains Grassland, encouraging improved management practices to undertaking research and funding applications.

The focus on the grassland has highlighted the plight of the Plains Wanderer which is now critically endangered after significant declines in numbers. A partnership with Zoos Victoria, Parks Victoria, Northern Plains Conservation Management Network, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Trust for Nature has established a captive breeding program to increase numbers in the wild.

While the land across the shire has been significantly modified as a result of agriculture and irrigation development, there is approximately 10% of the natural environment remaining. The significance and importance of these natural areas has been recognised by the state and federal government through the development of state and national parks as well as programs targeting threatened species.

Through the Victorian Environment Assessment Council (and predecessor Environment Conservation Council), the state government has conducted three investigations that have resulted in the establishment of National Parks and provided recommendations for management of Crown Land that are part of the shire.

1. *The Box-Ironbark Forests & Woodlands Investigation 2001* which saw the establishment of the Whroo Nature Conservation Reserve and land tenure changes to the Box-Ironbark forest on Crown Land around the Rushworth area.
2. *River Red Gum Forests Investigation 2008* which saw the establishment of Gunbower National Park, Lower Goulburn National Park and Murray River Park as well as the expansion of Terrick Terrick National Park to include the Patho West Grassland; Terrick East Grassland; Tomara Gilgai Grassland; Roslynmead North Grassland; Roslynmead South Grassland; Roslynmead East Grassland; Meadows Grassland; Torrumbarry Grassland; Kotta Grassland; Pinegrove Grassland; Wanurp Grassland; and Canegrass Grassland. Echuca Historic and Cultural Features Reserve was also recommended under this investigation.
3. *Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation 2011* which evaluated the condition of remaining parcels of Crown Land that were not part of any previous investigation as well as recommendations for land management and recognition of the importance that road reserves play in connecting remnant vegetation and habitats.

The reservation of these national parks is to protect and enhance the native flora and fauna that exists in our region, from the rivers and wetlands with River Red Gum forests to the Northern Plains Grassland and woodlands. These diverse habitats are home to many rare and threatened species.

Thirty-two threatened species of flora and 28 threatened fauna can be found within the municipality, including species protected under state and federal legislation.

Significant species include:

- Spiny Riceflower – This plant only exists in central west of Victoria and is critically endangered under federal legislation
- Turnip Copperburr – endangered
- Red Swainson Pea – nationally vulnerable and in Victoria is endangered
- Murray Cod – nationally vulnerable
- Squirrel Glider – endangered

Caring for the Campaspe

The North Central Catchment Management Authority led project supports private landholders through incentives and advice to promote protection of the river frontages from adjoining land use. The project has delivered riparian fencing, off-stream watering, weed control and revegetation activities and community engagement through events like Campaspe Carp Catch and planting days.



Strategic Context

Challenges

Our natural environment faces a range of challenges that need to be addressed by council and the community. The key challenges are described below.

Climate change

The Campaspe Shire is part of the Loddon Mallee region which has already become warmer and drier, a climate trend likely to continue into the future.

In the last decade, the challenges of climate extremes have been recorded in the shire (and region) through drought (including times of reduced availability of irrigation water), floods, fires and storms. The prediction of increases in extreme events, with temperatures to continue to increase and rainfall to decrease presents a number of challenges to council and the community.

The predicted changes to the Loddon Mallee have been summarised in Figure 3. From the CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology published climate change projections for Australia, the annual mean temperature is expected to increase from the average 15-16°C (historical average from 1961 to 1990) to 16-17°C in 2030 and 18-19°C by 2050. It is predicted to be approximately 100mm per year drier in terms of annual rainfall.

It is important that we take action now to adapt to the challenges of climate changes as well as reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Figure 4 summarises some of the changes attributed to climate change as measured by scientists.

Council has made significant changes in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with the implementation of the Watts Working Better Street Lighting Project, introduction of garden organics service across the shire and increasing recycling which in turn reduces waste to landfill. The installation of solar power at the Echuca Library is another example of how council has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions. However, there is more work to be done to further reduce emissions and encourage the community to be involved, this is discussed further in the theme 2: Climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Loddon Mallee has been getting warmer and drier. In the future the region can expect:



temperatures to continue to increase year round



more frequent and more intense downpours



less rainfall in autumn, winter and spring



fewer frosts



more hot days and warm spells



harsher fire weather and longer fire seasons

Source: Climate-ready Victoria - Loddon Mallee, November 2015, State Government Victoria

Figure 3: Predicted climate related changes to the Loddon Mallee



Source: www.climatecouncil.org.au

Figure 4: The changes that are already occurring due to climate change



In 2016-17 Campaspe Shire Council weed management on roadsides included treatment of:

- 348 Blackberry sites across 148km of roadside
- 3,607 African Boxthorns across 690km of roadside
- 2,524 Briar Roses across 690km of roadside
- 21km of Caltrop-infested roadside
- 304 Artichoke Thistles plants across 83.4km of roadside
- 67km of spot treatment for Paterson's Curse
- 53.8km of spot treatment for Prickly Pear.

Pest plant and animals

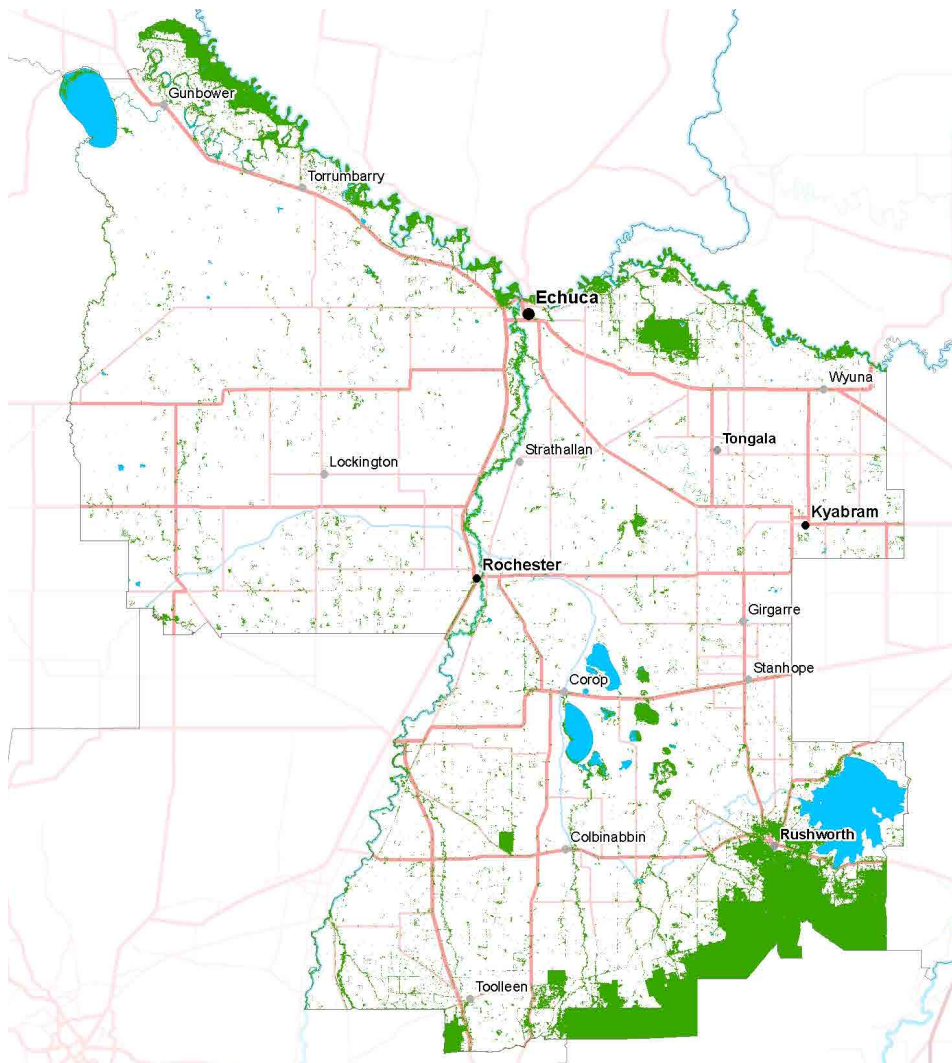
Pest plants and animals are a threat to biodiversity and agriculture in the shire. It is estimated that the annual cost of invasive plants to Australian agriculture is \$4 billion through yield losses and product contamination (Department of Environment and Energy, 2018). Invasive plants are the second highest cause of biodiversity decline (Department of Environment and Energy, 2018).

Under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act)* landowners are responsible for the management of pest plants and animals on their property. All landowners have a responsibility to eradicate regionally prohibited weeds, prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds, and prevent the spread of established pest animals.

Council is responsible for the management of pest plants and animals on the land that it owns or manages. The responsibility for the management of weeds on roadsides is the land manager. Council has developed a Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan for 2017-19.

This plan is being implemented with funds provided by Local Government Victoria. By reducing noxious weeds across the shire, the threat to biodiversity and native vegetation quality, agricultural production, landscape values, waterway habitats and amenity is being reduced.





Source: Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.

Figure 5: Map of native vegetation cover for Shire

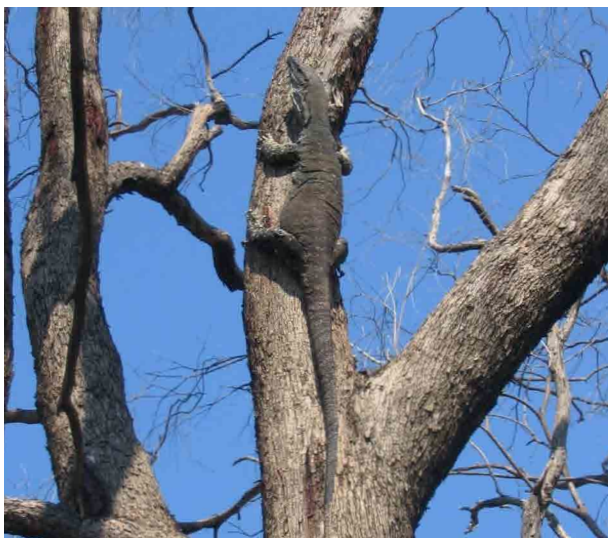
Ongoing loss of habitat

Ongoing loss of habitat, through removal of native vegetation and increasing habitat fragmentation is recognised as the biggest threat to biodiversity. Loss of habitat occurs through; the loss of native vegetation (especially old hollow-bearing trees), poor natural regeneration, changes to natural wetland regimes, removal of woody debris and bushfire/inappropriate fire regimes.

Native vegetation extent is mapped by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and defined as vegetation extent (layer labelled NV2005). Figure 5 indicates

the vegetation extent across the Campaspe Shire, covering both the Goulburn Broken Catchment and North Central Catchment as of 2005. The extent information is currently being updated by DELWP.

The loss of habitat not only reduces the native flora present but reduces the fauna it can support. Ongoing loss of habitat and fragmentation is the biggest contributor to threatened species. In the last 10 years the threatened species status of several species has declined, with Plains Wanderer now recognised as critically endangered and the once common Tree Goanna now recognised as endangered in Victoria.



The once common Goanna is now endangered in Victoria with numbers dramatically reduced due to declining habitat.

While large-scale clearing of native vegetation no longer occurs in the shire, continued incremental losses have adverse consequences for biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystems. Incremental losses occur as a result of developments, such as road construction and maintenance, farm development, housing and industry development. Fires, floods and droughts also have an impact on native vegetation either through direct removal or decline of the native vegetation.

This impact is significant across agricultural landscapes where there is little remaining native vegetation.

Cleaning up of roadsides and remnant areas also leads to incremental loss of native vegetation. The loss of isolated paddock trees due to burning of crop paddocks also leads to incremental loss of biodiversity in the shire.

Managing water quantity and quality

Council has responsibilities for urban stormwater, for statutory planning processes for developments, waste water as well as council's own water use (potable and raw). The management of stormwater is important to the community to avoid risks posed to water quality by minimising the impacts of flow, sediments, nutrients, pathogens, toxicants, litter and other pollutants in surface water.

Water quantity and quality is a challenge for many stakeholders in the shire. Water security for the agricultural sector remains a key issue through access to water quantity and the price involved.

Integrated Water Management is the term used to describe the collaborative approach to planning that brings together all elements of the water cycle including sewerage management, water supply, stormwater management and water treatment. It considers environmental, economic and social benefits.

Theme 1 Conservation



Key terms

Biodiversity – biodiversity encompasses all components of the living world; the number and variety of plants, animals and other living things across land, rivers, coast and ocean. It includes the diversity of their genetic information, the habitats and ecosystems within which they live, and their connections with other life forms and the natural world.

Native vegetation – plants indigenous to the area including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses.

Noxious weeds – certain plants that are declared under the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994. Landholders have an obligation to treat noxious weeds according to their classified category.

Integrated Water Management – all organisations working together that influence all elements of the water cycle, including waterways and bays, wastewater management, alternative and potable water supply, stormwater management and water treatment.

Policy position

Council acknowledges:

- The significant environments and landscapes across the shire, from the Box-Ironbark Forests of the south, to the woodlands, waterways and grasslands of the floodplain, to the Murray River to the north.
- The importance of effective management of public land, including road reserves, bushland reserves, parks and recreation spaces.
- The importance of planning to protect native vegetation in areas subject to land use change, including future industrial, residential areas and road reserves.
- The importance of integrated water management in council's roles as a land manager, responsible authority and infrastructure manager.
- The importance of pest animal and weed control, on the land council manages as well as supporting the community to address this issue.

Council must:

- Implement council's legislative and policy responsibilities to protect the health of ecological systems.
- Ensure that council's actions and land management practices incorporate appropriate biodiversity conservation measures and lead by example.
- Support the implementation of the Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan (as part of the Regional Catchment Strategy).
- Support the implementation of the Goulburn Broken Biodiversity Strategy and North Central equivalent.
- Support the implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Strategy 2018-2022 and North Central Regional Floodplain Strategy 2018-2028.
- Prepare and publish a roadside weed and pest animal management plan in accordance with the CaLP Act 1994.
- Meet the requirements of the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria).

Council chooses to:

- Deliver the Rural Tree Scheme by assisting rural landholders to increase the native plants in the landscape.
- Undertake an advocacy role to support the community to manage Fruit Fly.
- Advocate for the community on new and emerging environmental issues, for example the National Carp Control Plan and possible release of carp herpes virus.
- Support Clean Up Australia Day to raise awareness and reduce littering in our community.

- Support community groups to undertake environmental projects with financial support from the Community Grants program.
- Collaborate with partners to implement actions.

Policy rationale

Council recognises:

- The need for a healthier environment for current and future generations.
- The importance of healthy catchment and waterways.
- The presence of threatened species, at least 32 flora species and 28 fauna species, that are protected under state and federal legislation (as listed on pages 6-7).
- The need to partner with lead agencies to address emergencies, floods, fires, and storms as directed by the Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan: Campaspe 2017.
- The application of legislation including:
 - *Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994*.
 - *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
- The application of strategies and guides:
 - Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037.
 - Campaspe Roadside Conservation Strategy.
 - Landscape Plan Guide for Developments in Campaspe Shire Council, City of Greater Shepparton and Moira Shire Council.
- The importance of landscape planning for biodiversity across the shire and region, led by Catchment Management Authorities and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Long-term aims

- To protect, manage and restore native vegetation habitats, including grasslands and wetland vegetation.
- To increase the extent and quality of native vegetation and biodiversity across the shire.
- Support the availability of water for the environment, agriculture and industry.

Performance indicators

- An increase in the number of community groups/schools that participate in the National Tree Day program. In 2017-18 seven community groups and schools participated in National Tree Day plantings.
- Roadside Weed Management Plan prepared in accordance with requirements of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and Local Government Victoria.

Example actions

- Continue to contribute to the operating and maintenance costs of salinity control works to GBCMA on behalf of the Murray Darling Basin Commission.
- Implementation of Campaspe Shire Council Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan.
- Continue to deliver on legislated roles in planning and land use management and continue to lead by example as a land manager, controlling noxious weeds and implementing best practice for land management.
- Provide ongoing training for council staff on awareness and best management practice for native vegetation and weed management.
- Incorporate the new stormwater management plan into the Integrated Water Management Plan.
- The Integrated Water Management Plan will include a review of Council's water use, including potable water supply, raw water and water reuse.
- Prepare and implement the Urban Forest Strategy.

Theme 2

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation



Key terms

Adaptation – is action taken to prepare for actual or expected changes in the climate, in order to minimise harm, act on opportunities or cope with the consequences (*Climate Change Act 2017*).

Climate change – means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods (*Climate Change Act 2017*).

Mitigation – measures taken to reduce adverse effects on the environment and/or manage associated risks. In the context of climate change it generally refers to human inventions that reduce the sources of greenhouse gases (Climate Change Risks to Local Government DELWP).

Policy position

Council acknowledges:

- The impacts of climate change influence the resilience and success of the community, business, industry and the environment.
- Extreme events have already impacted our communities and services and these are predicted to become more frequent.
- A survey by Sustainability Victoria for the Loddon Campaspe region shows that 89% of the community accepts climate change is occurring. The following table shows the concern that the community has in relation to future impacts of emergencies:

Future events	% of community concerned
Severe bushfire	90
Water shortage and drought	85
Crop failure or decline in agriculture	81
Severe storms and floods	70

- The community wants action taken to reduce the impacts of climate change. The Loddon Campaspe region recorded the highest level of support (96%) for solar panel information and installation in the state.

Council must:

- Responsibly manage its energy and water consumption with the aim of increasing efficiency which reduces costs and impacts on the environment.

Council chooses to:

- Lead by example in responding and adapting to climate change.
- Support community, business and industry to respond to the impacts of a changing climate.
- Adopt, support and promote sustainable and affordable energy options.
- Continue to partner with other agencies, government departments, businesses and the community to share knowledge and explore funding opportunities to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Policy rationale

- Victorian Government targets:
 - Net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050
 - 25% of electricity from renewables by 2020 and 40% by 2025
- The *Climate Change Act 2017*, provides council the option of pledges, to make a statement in respect of greenhouse gas emissions reductions. A council pledge includes a description of the actions to be undertaken by Council over the next five years to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and an estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions.
- Australian Government signed the Paris Agreement at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which aims to limit an increase in global temperatures to “well below” 2°C (aspirational goal of 1.5°C).

- For the Loddon Mallee region, DELWP is developing a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. This will highlight partnerships and opportunities for local and state government to work together.

Long-term aims

- Support community, business and industry to respond to the impacts of a changing climate.
- Work towards net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- Adapt to the effects of climate change.

Performance indicators

- Electricity consumption for all council owned and operated buildings and facilities is decreased by 5% of the 2015-16 total electricity consumption of 2,304,664 kWh.
- Reduction in the tonnes of CO₂ emissions for electricity and gas used in all council owned and operated buildings and facilities, to less than 2015-16 actual of 2,760tCO₂.
- An increase in the number of council buildings powered by renewable energy.

Example actions

- Develop greenhouse gas emissions reporting tailored to local government, utilising the Local Government Energy Saver Program emission calculating tool and Planet Footprint data.
- Develop and implement a Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan:
 - Focus on delivery of energy efficiency within the organisation, reducing use, cost and negative impacts on the environment.
 - Achieve a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions beyond the minimum set in the Council Plan.

- Lead climate change adaptation in the community.
- Support community based energy efficiency and/or renewable energy projects.
- Continue as a member of the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance.
- Investigate the use of tools such as Environmental Upgrade Finance, delivered by Economic Development to encourage businesses and the community to undertake energy and/or water efficiency projects and/or renewable energy projects.
- Review that climate change risks to local government are being addressed through planning, project management and asset management.
- Investigate a council led solar bulk buy program to assist households to invest in solar with confidence (knowledge) and affordably.
- Assess the opportunity for council to sign on to the TAKE2 Pledge Program. TAKE2 is a state government initiative to help Victoria reach net zero gas emissions by 2050.
- Develop the Active Transport Strategy.
- Apply the recommendations of the Electric Vehicle Feasibility Study and Business Case, Business Case Report April 2018.
- Develop a sustainable building policy for council buildings that meets best practice environmental sustainable design through passive design and fitout.

Theme 3

Community Engagement and Partnerships



Policy position

Council acknowledges the importance of:

- Partnering with other agencies, government departments, businesses, industry bodies and the community to deliver projects and solutions to challenges faced.
- Promoting resource minimisation and recovery through innovative environmental practice.
- Supporting community groups, the link between a healthy environment and the health of the general population.
- Engaging with the traditional owners of the land of Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples.

Council must:

- Partner with other agencies and government departments to deliver their plans as outlined in the policy rationale (for example Domestic Wastewater Management Plan)

Council chooses to:

- Manage waste and resource recovery services that deliver better waste and environmental outcomes to the community.
- Support Landcare in the shire through the Campaspe Shire Landcare Steering Committee.
- Support the Municipal Catchment Coordinator role in collaboration with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Moira Shire and Greater Shepparton City Council.

Policy rationale

Council recognises:

- The best partnerships occur when Council engages with a wide range of stakeholders, looking for common ground and joint outcomes using combined resources.
- Partnerships are important for environmental benefits to occur across the landscape and catchment.
- The importance of community engagement through the Community Engagement Policy (council policy 59).
- The value of Landcare through the Assistance to Landcare Groups Policy (council policy 23).
- The significance of engagement through Building the Case for Waste, Resource Recovery and Waste Strategy 2018-23 and Waste and Environmental Behaviour Change Program, WICKED – Waste in Campaspe – Know. Educate. Do.
- Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037.
- Victorian Landcare Program, guided by the 2012 Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan – Supporting Landcare and 2015 Review.
- Arbovirus and Mosquito Management Plan 2017-20
- Domestic Wastewater Management Plan 2015-18
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Biodiversity Strategy (2016-21)
- SIR (Shepparton Irrigation Region) Land and Water Management Plan (2016-2020)

Long-term aims

- The whole community is connecting with nature.
- The community is engaged in the decisions that affect them and the environment.
- Protection of our natural environment and delivery of programs and services to support a connected and healthy community.
- Landscape – sustainable communities supported by clean air, water, land and biodiversity.
- To protect and improve water quality and river health.

Performance indicators

- Deliver community engagement actions listed in WICKED Action Plan.
- Deliver community engagement actions listed in the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan.

Example actions

- Development of a new Domestic Wastewater Management Plan for 2019-22.
- Develop a new waste and environment behaviour change program for 2019 and beyond.
- Complete the actions listed in the action plan for Building the Case for Waste, Resource Recovery and Waste Strategy.
- Continue to support Campaspe Landcare Steering Committee.
- Participation in state-wide Victorian Arbovirus Disease Control Program, managing waterways and environments to minimise mosquitoes.
- Continued partnerships with agencies, departments and community groups including (but not limited to) Northern Plains Conservation Management Network, Caring for the Campaspe Reference Group, Local Government Agricultural Floodplains Reference Group, Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group, Integrated Water Management Forums and Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance.
- Participation in the Grey Box Grassy Woodland Regional Land Partnerships, led by Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.



Theme 4

Council's Responsibilities



Policy position

Council acknowledges:

- The shire it has inherited from previous generations has outstanding environmental, social and economic attributes. Council is committed to passing on the shire to the next generation in as good (or better) condition.
- The importance of council as a leader in environmental decision-making and activities.
- The value of purchasing products from recycled materials to reduce the need for raw materials.
- Amenity refers to pleasantness and in the environment has a wider application which includes a physical component (which could include character and appearance of building and works), quality infrastructure and absence of noise, unsightliness or offensive odours.

Council must:

- Comply with legislative requirements relevant to environmental sustainability.
- Implement and enforce legislation that is delegated to council by state government agencies, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Sustainability Victoria and Department of Health and Human Services.
- Integrate environmental sustainability across all areas of council, in decision making and project management.
- Implement Council's Waste Wise Events Guide.

Council chooses to:

- Support The Green Team to improve sustainability within council.
- Commit to environmentally sustainable procurement.

Policy rationale

Council recognises:

- The application of the triple bottom line, accounting to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits.
- The importance of good governance.

Long-term aims

- Promote resource minimisation and recovery through innovative environmental practice.
- The protection and enhancement of the amenity and environment of the municipality.

Performance indicators

- Council does not commit any breaches of environmental legislation.
- All events held on council owned or council managed land must meet the minimum requirement of the Waste Wise Events Guide.

Example actions

- Continued support for The Green Team to increase understanding, awareness and action regarding environmental sustainability in the workplace.
- Apply the Landscape Plan Guide for Development in Campaspe Shire Council, City of Greater Shepparton and Moira Shire Council for Council Projects and encourage its use in the wider community.
- Application of fit for purpose green purchasing.
- Continued application of Local Law No 8 to protect and maintain the amenity of the shire.

Evaluation

This strategy will be evaluated by the:

1. Delivery of actions in the annual action plan.
2. Measurement of performance indicators.



References Consulted

Department of Environment and Energy (2018) Impact on weeds and Biodiversity Conservation accessed from <https://www.environment.gov.au>

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2017) Climate Change Risks to Local Government.

https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0023/73049/Climate-Change-Risks-to-Local-Government_FINAL.pdf

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2016) Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-20

https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/60729/Victorias-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Plan-2017-2020.pdf

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2015) Climate-ready Victoria: Loddon Mallee.

https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0023/60746/Loddon-Mallee.pdf

Parliament of Victoria (2017) Climate Change Act 2017

Shire of Campaspe (2016) Advocacy Priorities 2016-18

<https://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/assets/Strategies/Advocacy-Priorities.pdf>

Shire of Campaspe (2017) Council Plan 2017-21

<https://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/assets/Strategies/Council-Plan-2013-2017.pdf>

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Environmental Services, Moira Shire Council, for sharing the structure of their Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017-21.

Thank you to Landcarers John Childs, Neville Hunter and Veronica Groat for providing great photographs of Plains Wanderers, Yellow Rosella & Sacred Kingfisher and Squirrel Gliders, respectively.

Campaspe Shire Council

Corner Hare & Heygarth Streets, Echuca
PO Box 35 Echuca VIC 3564

Telephone: 1300 666 535 • (03) 5481 2200

Facsimile: (03) 5481 2290

Email: shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au

www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

