



Our Climate Emergency Response
From 2020 to 2030
A snapshot of the full response

ensuring | **2020**
our |
future |



MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
Shire

I'm stoked my
local government
is taking the
climate emergency
seriously.



A Journey Together

A zero-emissions future for the Mornington Peninsula cannot be achieved by us alone.

You are part of the solution to stop climate change. We each have to be responders to this emergency.

Climate change affects each of our lives and it touches all aspects of life. So this plan inevitably covers a lot of topics.

We've been fortunate to develop the plan alongside our community, with considerable effort from staff and stakeholders.

The diverse voices, perspectives and ideas have shaped a collective vision with clear targets and actions. Many of your ideas- what you told us - are displayed as quotes in this plan.

Thank you to everyone for your participation, contribution and collaboration. We look forward to taking the steps with you towards a safe future where people and nature thrive.

The Long and Short of it

This document is a short version of a more detailed plan.

The full plan spells out the context, targets and actions. You can access the long plan in hard copy or online.

This snapshot is a great place to start, to understand the Shire's response to the climate emergency, and what it might mean for you.

Keep in touch with happenings and join the conversation by following #ensuringourfuture on social media.

In an emergency, you take urgent action to respond to a serious threat.

We have heard the sirens.

Climate change is now an emergency.

We are collectively at risk.

In August 2019, the Mornington Peninsula Shire declared a climate emergency.

We were already serious about reducing emissions to protect the future of our people and places. Since 2016, we've had a five-year plan for the Shire's operations to become carbon neutral, which we're on track to achieve by 2021.

In 2018, we adopted a *Climate Change Community Engagement Strategy* to help our community to reduce emissions, become more resilient and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

The updated information tells us that the impacts are coming at us sooner. Each day, nature's alarm bells ring more loudly. Our emission reduction targets are not enough. We have to crank up the response. The urgency requires a targeted plan and coordinated action.

To protect the world for our children and grandchildren, we must move beyond mitigation and adaptation measures.

We need to act to stop climate change; to turn back the emissions clock and regenerate our world. To create a better future story.

Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges and pays respect to the elders, families and ancestors of the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung people, who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal; and that the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung peoples' living culture continues to have a unique role in the life of this region.

This Plan was adopted by Council on 25 August 2020.

We've been inspired by positive action in many quarters and also driven to act by the slow response or inaction of others.

Since the declaration, we've talked with our community; listened to concerns, gathered ideas and nutted out how we can collaborate to build a better future.

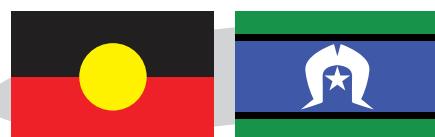
Along the way, we encountered a stark reminder that we are in this together. A pandemic brought home the fragility of systems and vulnerability of people. COVID-19 prompted us to see the impact of individual actions. It also revealed the value of local connectivity and self-sustaining community.

Let's turn that awareness into opportunity. We can each make climate-friendly choices to rebuild the economy, revitalise our community and restore nature.

This plan looks ahead 20 years to a world in which the Mornington Peninsula municipality - that's all of us collectively - has transitioned to net zero-emissions. We know there is steep terrain ahead. This first decade plan identifies Seven Summits to climb. It's also the map to guide us away from the dangerous emergency situation.

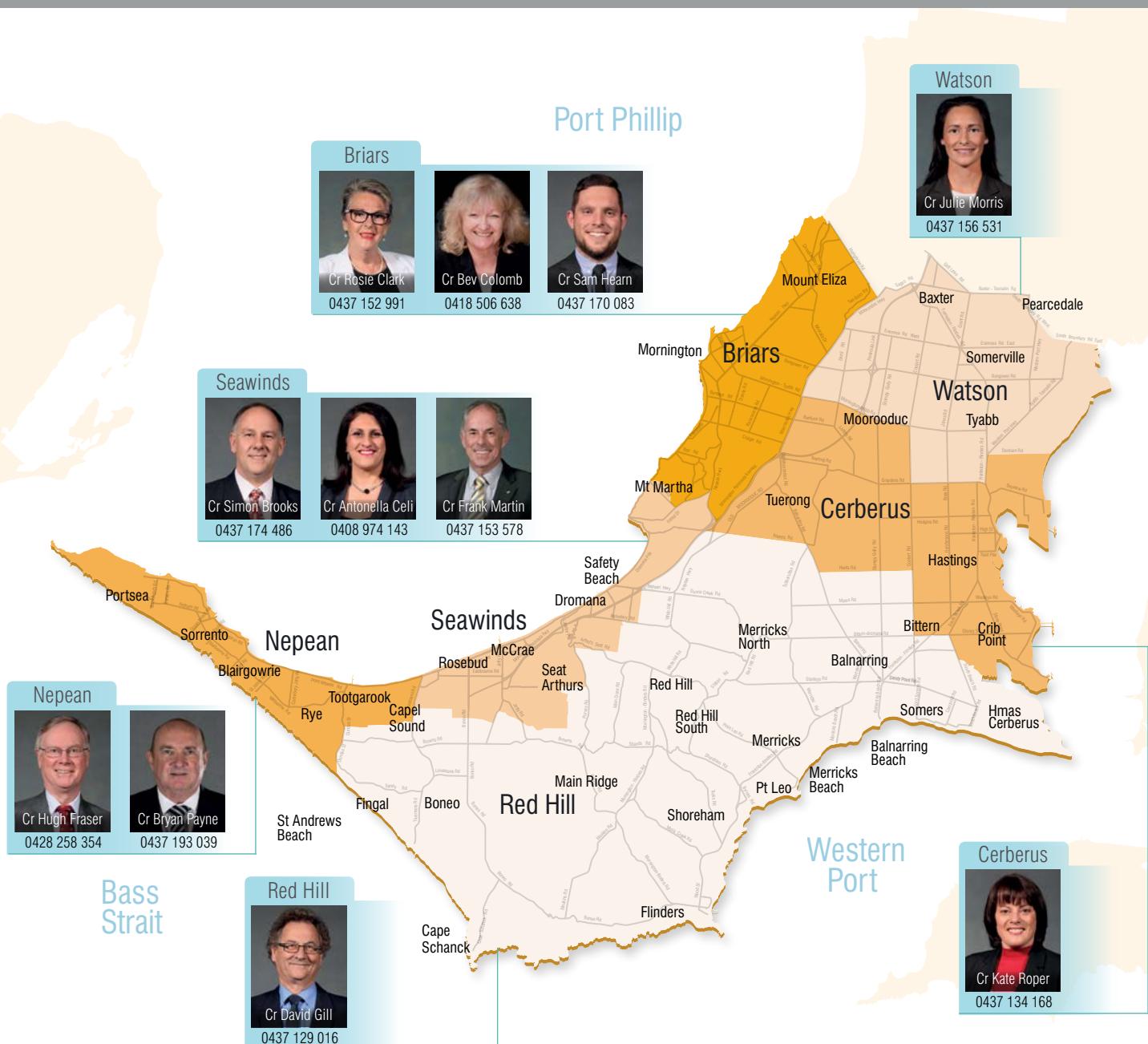
Mornington Peninsula Shire is ready to lead by example and show the way. We'll take action, enable and inspire others, and courageously call out what's missing in action. We can no longer wait to ensure our future. Join us on this journey. Because we cannot thrive without you.

**Mayor Sam Hearn and Councillors,
Mornington Peninsula Shire**



Here's what we're going to do about it.
We are going to make a safer world,
where people and nature thrive. Together. Now.

Councillor Sam Hearn, Mayor, Mornington Peninsula Shire



The Big Picture

Climate change is real.
It is caused by human activity.
It has begun.

But we have a plan for a different kind of change.

Together we will stop global warming.

By 2040
we want net
zero-emissions,
right across
the Peninsula.

One peak goal

7 summit targets

21 action steps

to restore a safe climate
pathway (with 35 supplementary
targets to keep us on track)

Leadership and
governance



Increased
climate
advocacy



Zero carbon
energy



Resilient
and adaptive
community



Sustainable
transport
and travel



Sustainable
land use and
environmental
restoration



Circular
economy
and zero waste



Baseline

2018

Use past level to
track our reductions

2030 Plan Targets

2025

Reduce community
emissions by 30%

2030

Reduce community
emissions by 65%

Long Term Targets

2035

Reduce community
emissions by 80%

2040 Peak Goal

Reach net zero-emissions
Shire-wide



What does the future look like?

We are faced with two possible futures.

The first story - a tale of inaction - sees the planet heat up so quickly that conditions become incompatible with civilisation. People are unprepared. Imagine what that would be like. It's scary. Confronting. And it's easy to feel overwhelmed.

But it does not have to be that way.

The happier future - an action packed journey together, to transform the Peninsula into a beacon of sustainability, a safe place where people and nature thrive.

We've started to imagine what that would look like.

The Mornington Peninsula of the future will:

- Run on clean, renewable energy
 - Connect via a sophisticated transport system incorporating new technologies and flexible modes of transport
 - Contribute to a zero waste circular economy where every item is valued and reused
 - Cultivate more green spaces and corridors across the peninsula, nurturing abundant indigenous vegetation and healthy wildlife
 - Be an active, educated and inclusive community whose people consider climate change in their daily activities and business decisions
 - Galvanise a thriving and diverse local economy where businesses actively contribute to climate change solutions
 - Support vulnerable populations, ensuring inclusion to solutions and equitable access to opportunities
 - Grow and distribute food locally, enabled by sustainable land management, regenerative farming practices and smart logistics
 - Facilitate resilient and adaptive actions to adjust to the unavoidable impacts of climate change
 - Showcase a sustainable, supportive and connected community that is a living exemplar of a better future.
-

Today's choices and actions determine our future. Our children's world. As part of the global movement we are confident that we can restore a safe climate pathway for future generations. The sooner we get moving, the easier it will be to put things in place and become that beacon.

We can also make the best possible transition by ensuring that our community, buildings, infrastructure and landscape are prepared for any unavoidable impacts of climate change. That's why both mitigation and adaptation are part of the plan.

Our place in 2040

1. Clean energy
2. Zero-emissions transport
3. Zero waste
4. Circular economy
5. Green space
6. Native vegetation
7. Healthy wildlife
8. Buffered coastline
9. Climate-aware people
10. Climate-aware business
11. Thriving economy
12. Equitable access
13. Smart technology
14. Local food access
15. Sustainable land management
16. Adaptive actions
17. Connected community
18. Zero-emission advocates
19. Climate action leadership







Why we need to act

“...As a community, we recognise that **climate change is real** and we are at a crisis point in terms of reducing the catastrophic effects of humanity’s effect on the planet’s ecosystems.”

The Shire recognises that the earth’s current warming trajectory threatens most life on this planet. We believe that this requires an emergency response at all levels, including local government.

Mornington Peninsula Shire joins other cities, nations and governments that acknowledge this reality and commit to actions that address it.

Most of the world’s nations, including Australia, have signed up to the 2016 Paris Agreement. This agreement aims to keep this century’s global temperature rise to less than two degrees above the levels of pre-industrial times, the ultimate goal being to limit the increase to just 1.5 degrees celsius.

According to Climate Ready (2015), the Mornington Peninsula has already experienced 1.2-1.4 degrees of warming in the north, and 1.4-1.6 degrees in the south. This is above global averages.

We now know that even if we limit global increases to 1.5 degrees, towns and cities will be faced with rapid and far-reaching shifts in land, energy, industry, buildings and transport access. This carries significant risks for human health and wellbeing, for social justice and for ecosystems across the world.

Unfortunately, the outlook is even worse because right now, the world is heading way off target.

The earth’s current emission levels, as assessed and reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), put us on a dangerous path towards three to four degrees of increase.

We need to act urgently. We need to do more to meet our Paris Agreement targets sooner. Human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2) need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels. This needs to happen across the globe by 2030, with the goal to reach ‘net zero’ around 2050.

Any remaining emissions beyond 2050 would need to be balanced by removing CO_2 from the air.

“Every extra bit of warming matters, especially since warming of 1.5 °C or higher increases the risk associated with long-lasting or irreversible changes. – **IPCC**

By declaring a climate emergency, we acknowledge the dangers of inaction and the risks of too little action. The only solution is to reverse climate change trends. This plan outlines the steps. We’ve set a series of targets to drop municipality emissions and reach net zero.

Mornington Peninsula Shire says ‘yes’ to life on this planet. We are ready to play our part and remain optimistic that we can ensure our future.

Climate science information:  ipcc.ch



Declaring a climate emergency
is now **the only way** to get things
moving, and I congratulate the
Mornington Peninsula Shire for
doing so.

The longer we delay, the more
expensive and costly it will be
for the entire population.





Who is this plan for?

You gave us a clear message that you want leadership on climate action. By declaring a climate emergency and preparing this plan, Mornington Peninsula Shire has accepted that role.

But we share the responsibility for responding to this climate emergency. The journey to net zero-emissions cannot be taken alone.

Everyone is impacted by climate change, in a myriad of ways. That makes our plan relevant for the entire Mornington Peninsula community – from individuals and households to business and visitors.

Our plan to ensure the future acknowledges that local government is at the frontline of the emergency response.

We also need action at state, national and international levels. That's why we distinguish between emissions that are within Shire control, those we can directly influence, and what requires behavioural or regulatory change beyond our jurisdiction.

Ensuring our Future guides the Shire's actions and advocacy for the next ten years. We hope that the plan - and all of the efforts that emerge from it - inspire you and others to act too.

The plan does not shy away from the enormity of the collective threat or the challenges we'll face in transition. But it's practical and optimistic because we know that emission reduction solutions are available. We're also confident that we can mitigate risks and adapt to climate change impacts. But only if we get ready now.

The plan provides us with a collective process to prepare and deliver solutions; to protect all life from the impact of climate change and to remake the Mornington Peninsula as a place where people and nature thrive.

As we do this, we need to ensure a just and fair transition to the decarbonised future. This plan aims to engage and empower everyone in our community, and to protect our most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities as we adjust to a different future together.

Your input and feedback during the development stage was crucial. More than 600 people from across our community shared concerns and priorities. You can now be involved the whole way through this plan's implementation. There will be regular engagement, education, programs and target updates.

We are in this together. This plan is for all of us to shape the future we want to live in. It's our gift of life to future generations.

If we don't drastically take action...the world that our children inherit will be a scary and unstable one.





Where does this plan matter?

The Mornington Peninsula's climate is changing.
We're observing:

- increasing temperatures
- decreased rainfall
- coastal inundation
- extreme weather events and
- biodiversity loss.

So this is already a local issue.

But we are also part of an international collective experiencing the climate emergency.

Similarly, our lives are interconnected to state, national and international targets and settings, through policy regulation such as the Victorian Government's *Climate Change Act 2017* and the Australian Government's commitment to the Paris Agreement.

This plan recognises all of these contexts and varying spheres of control. It's a plan for what the Shire can do right here, as part of its own business operations and across the municipality with you. The plan also outlines how we might influence, leverage or advocate beyond Shire borders.

Ensuring our Future covers both our built and natural environments. The plan matters in all of the places where we emit carbon.

That's our homes, offices, community centres, in the car, the kitchen, at the local winery, on the farm, in the factory, on the boat, at school or even in the backyard waste corner. Yes, this plan affects every aspect of our economy and lifestyle.

It's time to change our community emissions profile.

It is uplifting and inspiring to know that our local Mornington Peninsula Shire Council is ahead of the game.



Our Community Emissions

In 2018, community emissions were calculated as 2.07 million tonnes of CO₂-e.



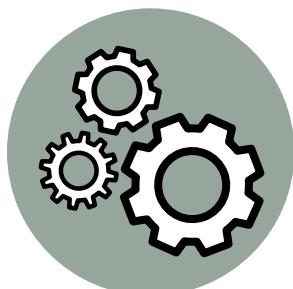
Electricity consumption
(52.5%)



Transport
(31%)



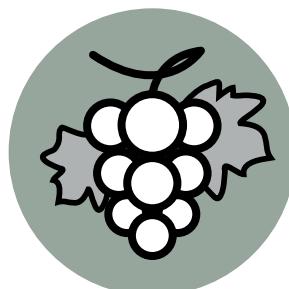
Natural gas consumption
(8.4%)



Industrial processes
(4.9%)



Waste
(2.6%)



Agriculture, forestry and
other land use **(0.5%)**

Emissions by sector for the Mornington Peninsula (2018 BASIC+ Inventory).

What is the plan?

We are on a journey. It will take us from the emergency situation of the present into a safer future. The peak goal is zero-emissions by 2040.

Through our consultation and development work we identified seven key themes; our climate objectives for the ten-year plan. These became Seven Summits, the mountains to climb on the way to the peak.

This is what we must do to arrive at the future place we've envisioned on pages 8-9.

The Shire and our stakeholders identified what the view will look like from each mountain top.

We'll know we have arrived at our destination when we meet the key target set for each summit. The plan also includes 35 supplementary targets so that we don't get lost, and can map our progress along the way.

The Seven Summits

View from the top

Key target

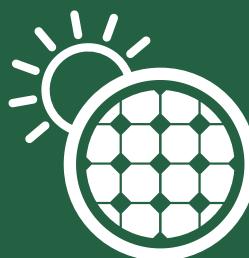
What you told us



Leadership and governance



Increased climate advocacy



Zero carbon energy

Living our values, we become a regional leader in climate change action for our community, with a strong system of governance to guide our decision making and keep us accountable to our community and our promises.

The community's voice is clearly and honestly amplified to all levels of government and industry. Strong, evidence-based advocacy positions are presented, so that climate action is accelerated.

The Peninsula will be powered by net zero-emissions energy thanks to an increase in renewable energy such as solar and wind power, phasing out gas and improving energy efficiency in our buildings.

By 2021:
Climate Emergency principles will be embedded into all Shire activities, led by the Climate Oversight Group, sharing the responsibility of climate action across the organisation and with our community.

By 2025:
Each year the Shire will work with the community towards shared advocacy goals and advocate powerfully with community and key partners to leverage leadership to all levels of government and business.

By 2030:
200MW of renewable electricity will be generated locally. That's enough to power approximately 50,000 homes on the Peninsula.

"The Mornington Peninsula can set an example of how a community can work together to achieve a sustainable but prosperous area, through encouragement from and support by the Shire."

"Inspire residents to take personal actions to reduce their environmental footprint but most of all advocate to state and federal governments..."

"Adoption of renewable energy on an individual and industrial level, commitment to reduction of emissions and no new investment in fossil fuels."



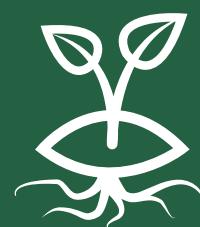
Resilient and adaptive community

Our community works together to care for the environment and each other. Our buildings, infrastructure and services will be adapted to our future climate.



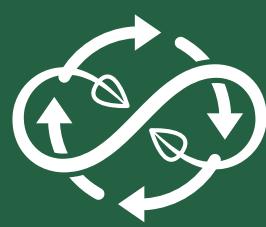
Sustainable travel and transport

We will make the switch to zero-emissions vehicles, active transport like cycling and walking, and make use of a vastly improved, zero carbon public transport system.



Sustainable land use and environmental restoration

We will protect and improve our natural landscape, waterways and bays, support and create biodiverse habitats, improve ecosystem resilience, practise regenerative farming and sequester carbon in the landscape; balanced with housing and urban needs.



Circular economy and zero waste

Waste is eliminated through the design and reuse of all products for our processes and services, with resources valued at all points of the circular economy.

By 2025:

The resilience of our community will be strengthened by maximising social connections and meaningful engagement to increase understanding of the local impacts and risks of climate change.

“Better connected communities who work together to live more sustainably.”

By 2030:

Transport emissions will be reduced by 50% from 2018 levels.

“A broad network of community transport, public transport and bike and walking tracks to reduce individual car usage and traffic.”

Between 2020 and 2030:

1 million tonnes of atmospheric carbon will be sequestered within the Peninsula region. The carbon will be removed by planting terrestrial and aquatic vegetation and improving soil conditions.

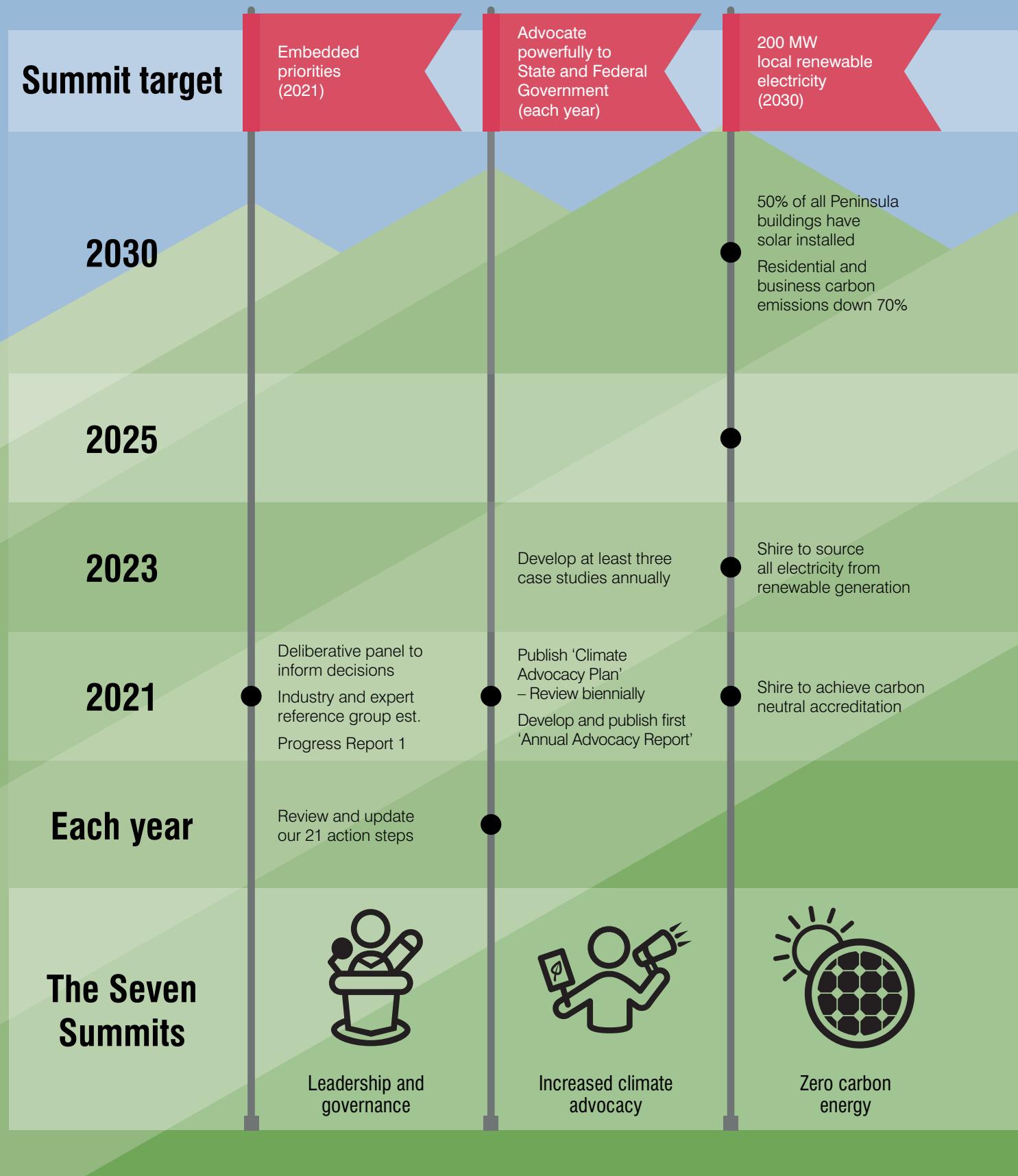
“Better farming practices; and more funding and resources into revegetating new areas and protecting our natural green areas; also a place that could pilot many blue carbon options.”

By 2030:

Zero waste will go to landfill and 100% of resources will be recovered and reused.

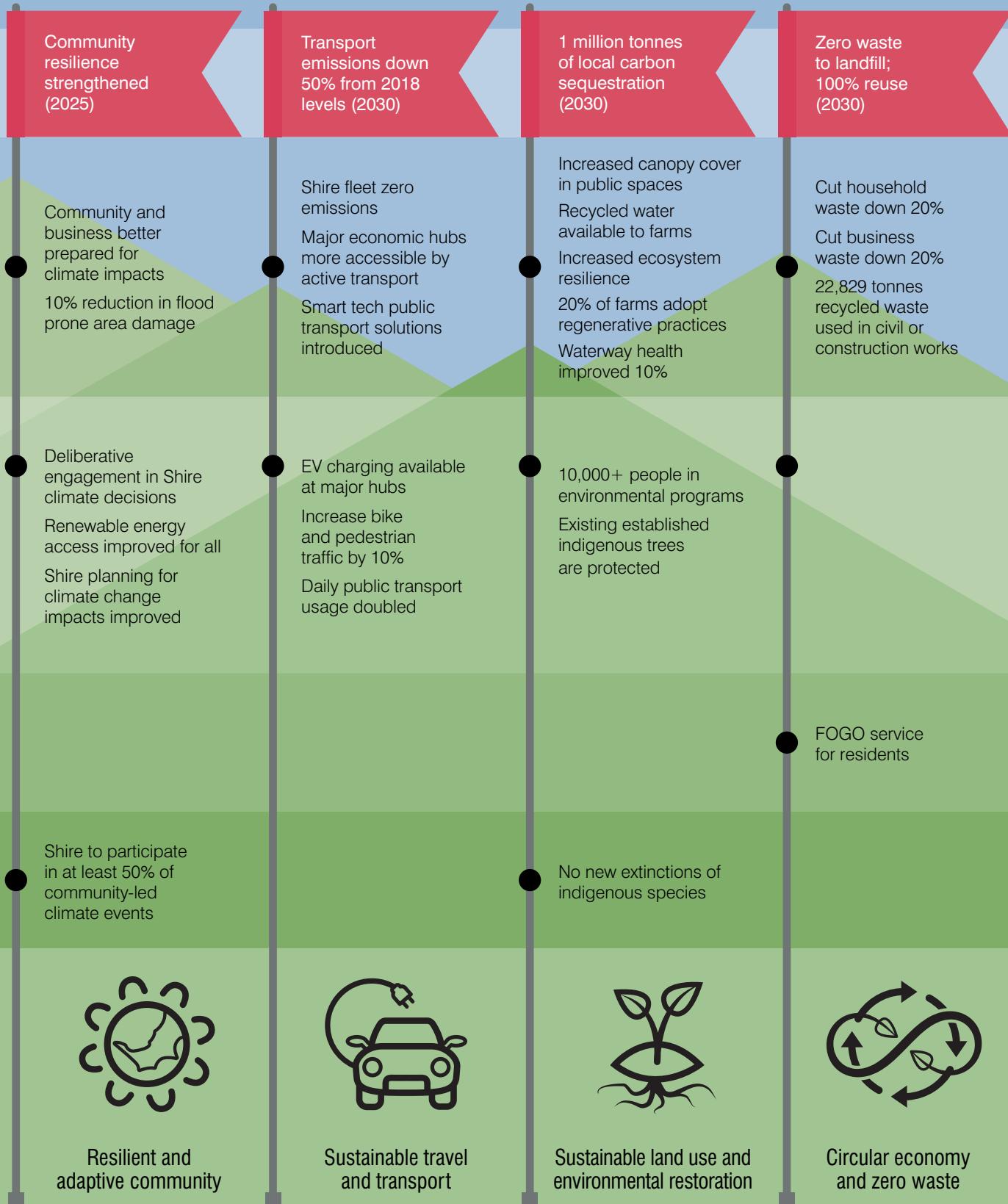
“I hope that there is a circular economy happening in the Mornington Peninsula, where local businesses doing the right things are supported by the people.”

Join us on the journey.



Peak 2040

Net zero-emissions,
right across the Peninsula.





“ I hope that we can **create a sanctuary** where we, the Mornington Peninsula, value our environment more... that we are prepared to make tough decisions for a better future. ”

How we're going to get there: 21 Steps

Our transition journey starts now but requires tangible actions over the course of ten years. These are the steps Mornington Peninsula Shire intends to take.

The 21 actions outline how the Shire will respond to the climate emergency, and how we will collaborate with you to prepare for change and lower our collective community emissions. The actions - step by step - provide the momentum for us to reach the Seven Summits and the Peak Goal.

1 Lead in the Climate Emergency	2 Advocate and Innovate for Climate Emergency Response	3 Reach Beyond Carbon Neutral	4 Create a Resilient Built Environment
5 Mobilise and Strengthen Community Action	6 Raise Community Awareness and Foster Behaviour Change	7 Grow Community Resilience to Enhanced Natural Disasters	8 Plan for Changing Health and Wellbeing Impacts
9 Transition to Sustainable Transport	10 Convert to a Zero-emissions Council Fleet	11 Generate a Thriving Peninsula-wide Natural Environment	12 Connect Communities and Nature in Precinct Planning
13 Grow Nature-Based Infrastructure	14 Optimise Use and Management of our Water	15 Enhance Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems	16 Enhance Environmentally Sustainable Design
17 Transition to a Circular Economy	18 Embed Sustainability and Circular Economy into the Shire's Procurement	19 Prioritise Sustainable Investment	20 Strengthen and Integrate Climate Data into Decision Making
21 Understand Climate Risks on Assets and Services	2020-30 ANNUAL REVIEW (21 Action Steps)		2040 ACHIEVE NET ZERO-EMISSIONS

Contact Mornington Peninsula Shire

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