The background image shows a concrete bridge with multiple arches spanning a river. The bridge has a decorative railing. In the foreground, there are large trees with green and yellow leaves, partially obscuring the view of the bridge. The water of the river is visible between the trees.

# Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-2023

[STONNINGTON.VIC.GOV.AU](http://STONNINGTON.VIC.GOV.AU)



It's my pleasure to present to you the City of Stonnington **Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018–2023**.

Council has made a strong commitment to creating a sustainable and resilient city now and for future generations. Our Council Plan includes environment as one of its four pillars and to date, we've made significant progress towards achieving our goals.

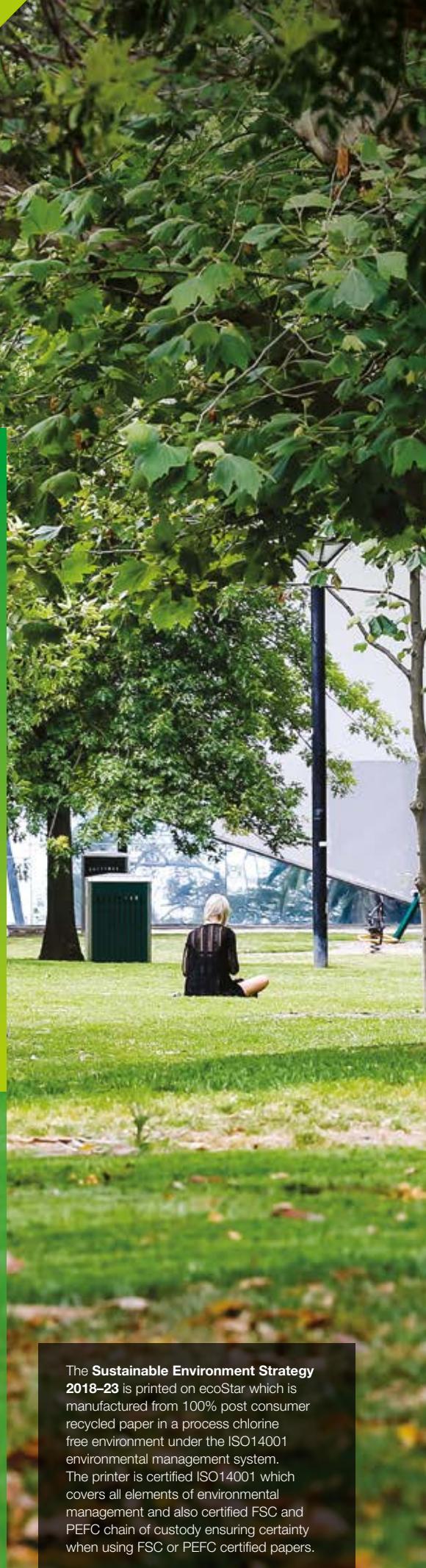
We'll continue to build on this success through our new strategy and we'll also continue to engage and support our community through leadership, engagement and collaboration.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to review our five strategic priority areas through which we will deliver positive environmental change, addressing sustainability challenges and preparing for a more sustainable future.

Cr Steve Stefanopoulos  
Mayor

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# Executive summary

Together with the community, the City of Stonnington is working towards creating a healthy and sustainable city for future generations.

This strategy outlines a path towards a sustainable future for the municipality. The strategy outlines how Council will deliver against objectives set for its own operations, it also outlines how it will lead, engage and collaborate with others along the way. To achieve the objectives in this document, Council continues to call on strong collaboration from all levels of government, the private sector and the community.



The outcomes of this strategy will be achieved through five strategic priority areas:

- 01** Climate change and energy
- 02** Resources and waste management
- 03** Integrated water management
- 04** Urban environment
- 05** Education, engagement and collaboration

The action plan supporting this strategy will help Council deliver on these strategic priority areas. Council will undertake a formal review of the action plan in 2020 to incorporate any changes to Council priorities, new technologies, systems and processes and stakeholder feedback.

Council will continue to embed environmental sustainability in its buildings, infrastructure, public open space and fleet, exploring efficiency and smarter practices through technology, innovation and engagement. Council will continue to transparently and regularly report on its environmental performance and, together with the community, work to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, protect local waterways, use water efficiently, protect and enhance the urban environment and keep the city green and cool. The strong actions Council has committed to in this strategy will bring significant social, cultural and economic benefits to the city and the community.

# Introduction

## Purpose

The purpose of the **Sustainable Environment Strategy** is to communicate Council's sustainability vision, commitments, goals and strategic actions towards achieving its vision of a sustainable city. The strategy will guide Council's direction and decision-making over the next five years and support community action.

As outlined in the **Council Plan 2017–2021**, Council is committed to creating a sustainable and resilient City, with enhanced natural and urban environments for the community. Environment is one of the four pillars of the Council Plan, which includes strategies to manage and use resources efficiently, enhance biodiversity and lead community sustainability. The **Sustainable Environment Strategy** supports the delivery of these broad strategies and addresses the issues of key importance within the community.

The key objectives of the strategy are to:

- » demonstrate Council's commitment to sustainability
- » improve Council's own environmental performance and practices
- » guide Council decision-making and activities
- » integrate sustainability into the planning and delivery of Council infrastructure, services, facilities and planning functions
- » mitigate and adapt to climate change
- » protect and enhance the local natural environment and biodiversity, and
- » support and inspire the community to adopt sustainable practices and work together towards a more sustainable future.

## Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the City of Stonnington sits on the traditional land of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and offer our respects to their elders, past and present. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land and value the lessons of indigenous experience.





## Development

Consultation with the community and key stakeholders helped develop this strategy including community surveys, drop in sessions, workshops with community groups, focus groups, written submissions, social media, advertisements in local newspapers and a student conference. These activities helped Council collect views and information from a cross section of the community and align its focus with community expectations.

Consultation with Council staff also identified opportunities to further integrate sustainability across the delivery of services, facilities, planning functions and infrastructure.

## Community attitudes and behaviours

Council conducted a community survey in mid April 2017 to gain an understanding of the environmental behaviours and attitudes of Stonnington residents. Almost two-thirds of respondents are concerned about the current state of the environment and 9-in-10 respondents believe that it is important for Council to both operate in a sustainable manner and to support the community to live sustainably. Only half of those surveyed feel they are well informed about environmental issues.

The Stonnington community's top environmental priorities are:

- » waste
- » water
- » energy
- » urban forest, and
- » biodiversity.

Almost all respondents agreed or strongly agreed that there is something they can do about the environment as an individual while only half of those surveyed rate their level of commitment to environmental sustainability at home as very high or high.

These results provide a strong mandate for Council to lead action on sustainability. They also demonstrate the need to continue to engage and educate the community so they can gain the required knowledge and skills to respond to environmental issues as they emerge.

## Implementation

The implementation of this strategy requires a Council-wide response. To date, Council has had considerable success integrating sustainability into its operations. New buildings and developments include Environmentally Sustainable Development features at the scoping stage and efficient water capture and treatment is considered in urban renewal projects. Recycled paper is used throughout Council, food waste from Council offices is turned into compost and public place recycling bins help improve resource recovery. Significant investment has gone into enhancing biodiversity throughout the city, particularly increasing native vegetation along the Yarra River.

Council will build on this success and continue to integrate sustainability into its operations and decision-making.

At the community level, Council has provided support to residents, schools, businesses, sporting clubs and community groups to adopt more sustainable practices through a range of programs and events.

Council will continue to leverage these partnerships, through collaboration, communication and education, to support the adoption of sustainable practices. Council will continue to show leadership and innovation on addressing sustainability challenges and preparing for a more sustainable future.

## Strategic framework

Council has developed a range of plans and strategies that contribute to the delivery of sustainable environment objectives as outlined in the **Council Plan** including the **Public Health and Wellbeing Plan**, the **Urban Forest Strategy** and **Strategies for Creating Open Space**.

At the state level, the Victorian Government's legislation and policy framework supports Council and the community to respond to key environmental challenges. Significant state legislation, policies and initiatives include the **Climate Change Framework**, **Climate Change Act 2017**, **Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020**, **Planning and Environment Act 1987**, **Energy Efficiency Target Scheme**, Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group and **Plan Melbourne**.

Federal programs and legislation to address environmental change and action include the national greenhouse gas reduction target, the Renewable Energy Target Scheme, the **Product Stewardship Act** and the **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999**.

## Urban profile

The City of Stonnington is characterised by its numerous tree-lined streets, parks and gardens.

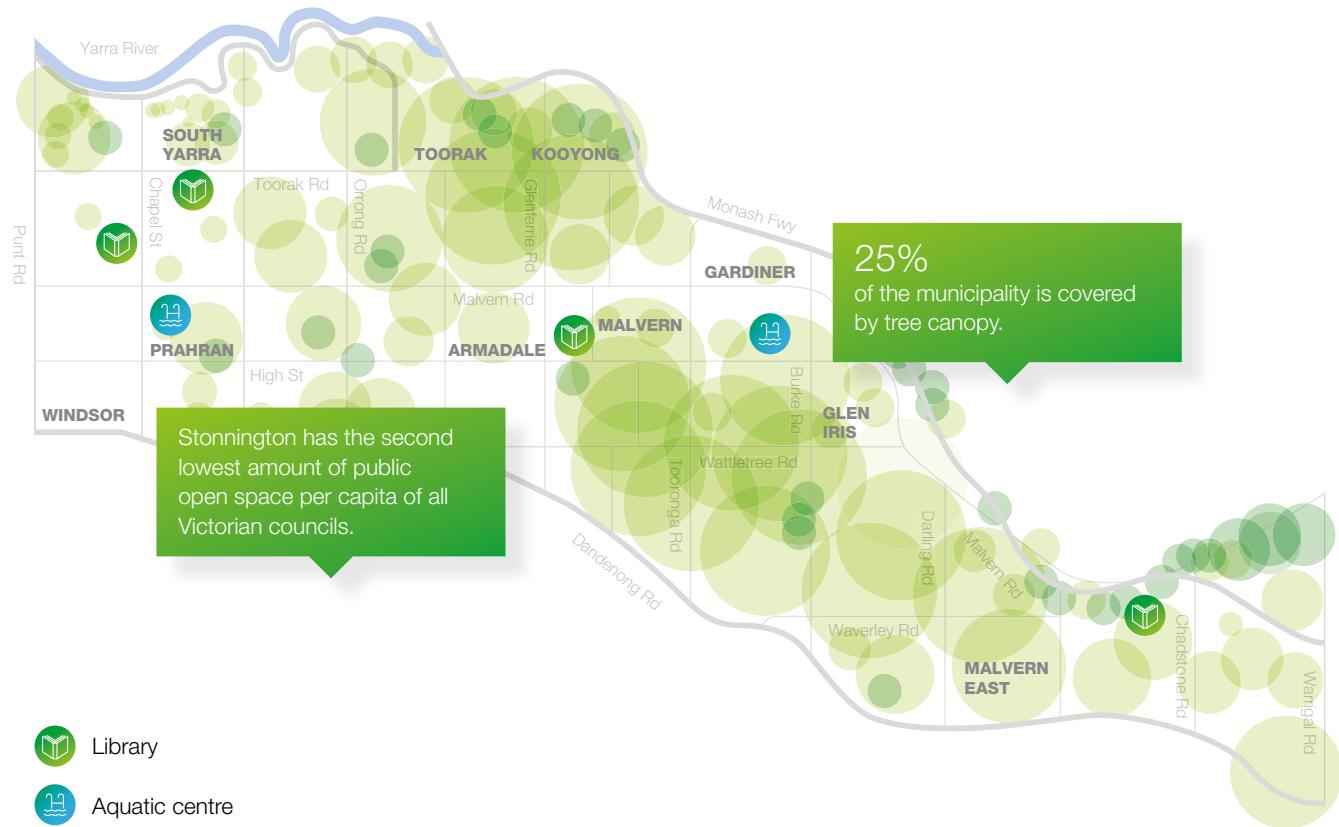
The City covers an area of 25.62 square kilometres in Melbourne's inner south-eastern suburbs, less than five kilometres from the centre of Melbourne and alongside the Yarra River on the traditional land of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people.

The City covers the suburbs of Armadale, Glen Iris (part), Kooyong, Malvern, Malvern East, Prahran, South Yarra (part), Toorak and Windsor and is predominantly residential. The city has some of Melbourne's major shopping precincts in Chapel Street, Glenferrie Road, High Street, Malvern Road and Toorak Road, as well as the Chadstone Shopping Centre.

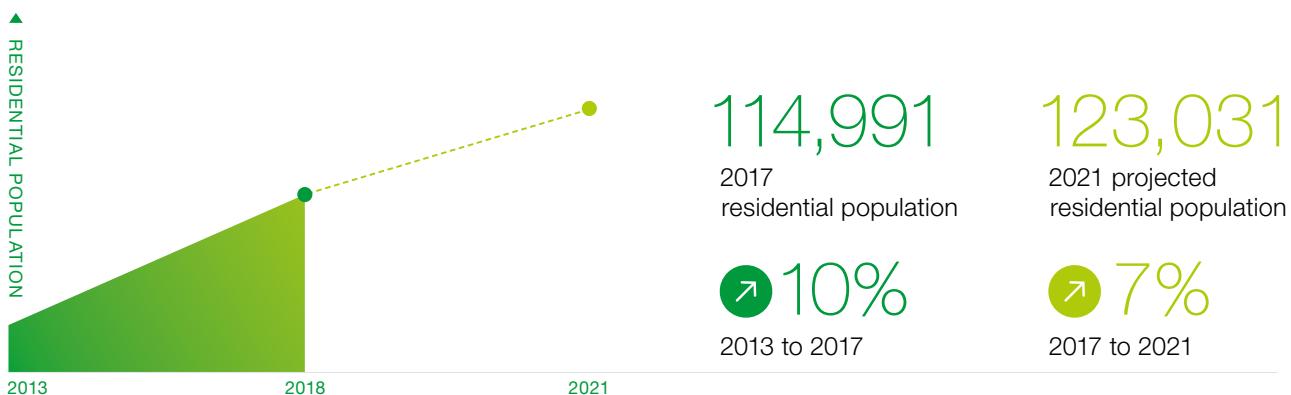
The City of Stonnington is a highly urbanised environment however, there are many significant natural features such as the Yarra River, Gardiners Creek, Scotchmans Creek and the parks and reserves that are corridors of natural environments and places of high amenity. Approximately 25 per cent of the municipality is covered by tree canopy, which means that Stonnington has one of the highest canopy covers of a Melbourne local government area. However, Stonnington also has the second lowest amount of public open space per capita of all Victorian councils.

In addition to the parks and reserves, the City of Stonnington manages two aquatic centres, four libraries, and a number of community and recreation centres.

By 2036, the Stonnington population is forecast to increase by 46,480 persons. However, population growth will differ significantly across the municipality. Growth is anticipated to mostly occur in South Yarra, Malvern East and Prahran, and to a lesser extent Glen Iris, Armadale, Toorak, Malvern, Windsor and Kooyong.



## Population



» Suburbs with **highest projected** population increases

**15.4%**  
South Yarra

**6.9%**  
Malvern East

## Density



**73.5%**  
of dwellings are  
**medium and high density**

## Households



# Challenges, trends and technology

## Strategic challenges

▼  
There are a range of environmental issues and challenges common to communities around the world. Meeting these challenges requires a response from governments at all levels, along with businesses, communities and individuals.

### Climate change

The International Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report stated the following<sup>1</sup>:

"Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems."

The report also states that the last three decades have been successively warmer than any other decade since 1850.

The Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO 2016 State of the Climate report outlines the following impacts of climate change in Australia<sup>2</sup>:

- » Australia's climate has warmed by around 1°C since 1910
- » the duration, frequency and intensity of extreme heat events have increased
- » there has been an increase in extreme fire weather, and a longer fire season, and
- » May–July rainfall has reduced in the southwest of Australia.

Changing climatic conditions, including increased variability and extreme weather events, are a key challenge for urban areas.

Within Melbourne, hotter and drier conditions are expected, affecting the health and viability of fauna, plant and tree species as well as the health and wellbeing of the community.

In 2015, a historic global climate agreement (the Paris Agreement) was reached at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris (COP21). Through this Agreement, the international community set out a framework to limit global warming to well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and work towards limiting warming to 1.5°C.

The Paris climate agreement and the Victorian Government Climate Change Framework both recognise the important role of local government in supporting the transition towards a more sustainable future. Addressing sustainability challenges at the local level requires a local response.

Climate change has an impact on all of the Strategic Priority Areas detailed in this strategy, therefore Council leadership is essential for the mitigation and adaptation of climate change at the local level.



<sup>1</sup> IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)). IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp.

<sup>2</sup> CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology State of the Climate Report 2016 <https://www.csiro.au/en>Showcase/state-of-the-climate>

## Population growth and urbanisation

Australia's population is currently 24.6 million and is predicted to rise to between 36.8 and 48.3 million people by 2061, and to between 42.4 and 70.1 million people by 2101.

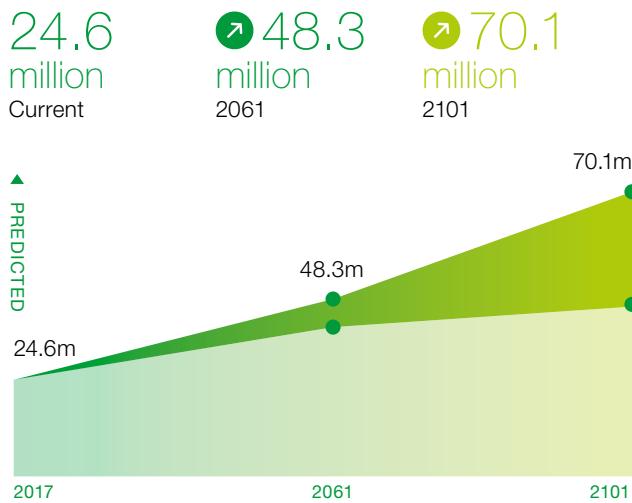
Victoria's population growth is the highest of the states, with most of this growth focused on Melbourne. Some estimates state that Melbourne is growing by 120,000 per year. As approximately 75 per cent of Victorians live in Melbourne, population increases will have a significant impact on the city.

While population growth brings a range of benefits including economic growth, diversity and providing some balance to an ageing population, there are also a number of associated challenges. As the majority of Australia's population reside in its cities, population growth will have an impact on the standard of living of those living in these areas. More people result in more demand for housing, infrastructure and services, placing pressure on urban areas and available space.

Additionally, increasing development contributes towards creating an 'urban heat island effect'. The densification of the City reduces land permeability, which increases the risk of flooding and limits tree growing conditions. This impacts on health, amenity and liveability in the inner city.

This strategy seeks to address the challenges associated with a growing population and an increasingly urbanised environment. The Strategic Priority areas focus on integrating water sensitive urban design treatments throughout the municipality and growing the urban forest to ensure a cool, healthy and liveable city.

### Australia's population



## Biodiversity

Each species plays an important role in its ecosystem and the loss of one can affect many others. Over the last 500 years, 869 species worldwide have been recorded as having become extinct as a result of human activity.<sup>3</sup> Some of the most significant biodiversity loss has occurred in Australia over the past 200 years, according to extinction listings under the **Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999**.

Victoria's natural environment has been under pressure for centuries, resulting in the degradation and loss of numerous native species and habitats. It is the most intensively settled and cleared state in Australia with over 50 per cent of native vegetation cleared since European settlement.

Population growth, urbanisation and land clearing, pollution, invasive species and the impacts of climate change all contribute to biodiversity loss. As cities continue to grow, protecting green space is vital but also presents a challenge, particularly where there is increasing pressure for space, resources and infrastructure.

Well managed ecosystems provide environmental, social and economic benefits including vital life sustaining services. They help to produce humans' most basic needs such as clean air and water as well as supporting a healthy city by reducing the impact of flooding and cooling urban areas. The long term health of urban communities is inextricably linked to the health of the environment.

This strategy seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment, acknowledging that a healthy environment supports a healthy community.



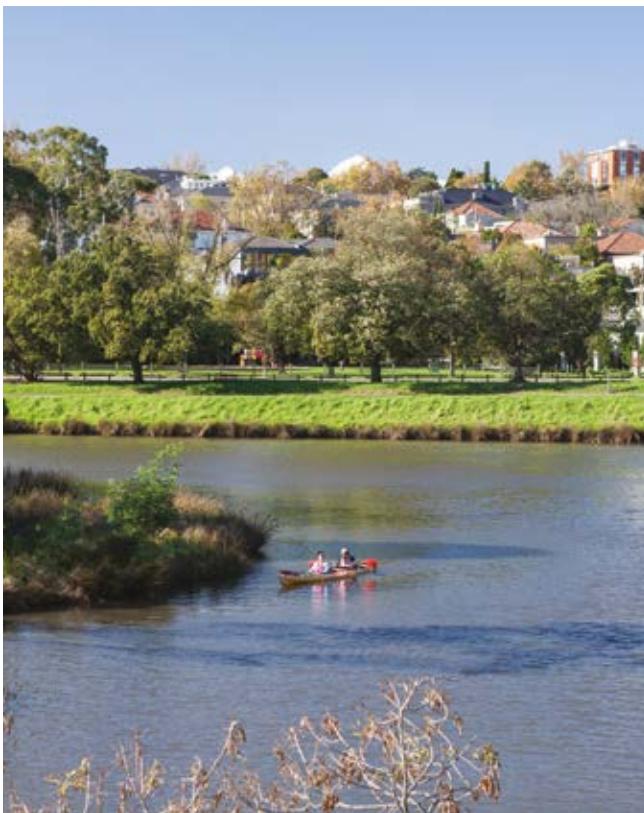
971 threatened species  
in Australia



869 species

worldwide have been recorded as extinct as a result of human activity

<sup>3</sup> International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species



## Waste management

There are a number of factors that influence Australia's waste generation and management including population growth, economic growth, access to recycling markets and national and state waste policy initiatives. Australia's population and economic growth is resulting in an increase in the disposal of goods no longer needed or wanted. Additionally, the Victorian waste industry is facing its own unique set of challenges. Policy changes in China have imposed restrictions on the importation of plastics and mixed paper and cardboard, directly impacting council kerbside recycling services. The restrictions include limits on contamination which much of Australia's recycling does not meet. While much of Australia's recyclable material is processed in Australia, significant quantities are exported to China for processing. This is creating pressure to find better solutions for waste and to recover valuable resources.

As Victoria grows, waste volumes will also increase. By 2042 it is projected waste volumes in Melbourne will grow by 63 per cent, meaning 16.5 million tonnes of waste will have to be managed each year. Older landfills are reaching capacity and closing with 13 landfills expected to close over the next 10 years. Alongside the issues faced by the recycling industry, landfill closures are placing pressure on Melbourne councils to explore alternative waste solutions. Supporting new technologies and processes will help recover resources that would otherwise be thrown away.

Each year, approximately 805,000 tonnes of food and garden waste is sent to landfill in Victoria, which is around 28 per cent of total waste to landfill in the state. These organic materials eventually rot and produce methane gas, a greenhouse gas considered to be 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Keeping organics out of landfill helps reduce these emissions as well as recover a valuable resource, turning it into a useful compost product that can improve soil, grow healthy gardens and support food production.

Federal and state governments are also driving changes within the waste industry. Together, the commonwealth, state and territory environment ministers have formally agreed to reduce the amount of waste generated in Australia, and increase recycling. In addition, the Victorian Government is working on a ban of lightweight single use plastic bags and has committed to banning e-waste from landfill in Victoria, starting 1 July 2019. A number of initiatives are also underway in Victoria to reduce food waste to landfill and support advanced waste and resource recovery technologies.

Key objectives of this strategy include reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and improving resource recovery. Council will also continue to explore options for using recycled materials to 'close the loop', for example, compost and energy can be created from organic waste, recycled glass and soft plastics can be used in road bases and recycled plastic can be turned into boardwalks, street furniture and bollards.

## Water management

Water is one of the world's most important natural resources. Essential for all living organisms and major ecosystems, it is also necessary for human health, agriculture and food supplies and economic development.

Water security in Australia is threatened by a number of factors including climate change, seasonal variability, population growth, economic development, and drought.

The predicted impacts of climate change are expected to intensify Australia's drought, heat and flood cycles. A growing population will increase the use of public green spaces, placing pressure on these areas to remain green and waterways to stay clean.

Improving the environmental condition of waterways is vital to sustain local flora and fauna, provide recreation opportunities, protect cultural values and support economic development. Increasing urbanisation and impermeable city surfaces place pressure on the management of urban water bodies.

The condition and stability of waterways depends on a complex and dynamic network of bacteria, algae, plants and animals along with sediments, rocks, surface water flow, groundwater and chemicals. Waterways, their habitats and local wildlife are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, population growth and urbanisation, including increasing demand for water and land development.

A key objective of this strategy is to improve and maintain waterway conditions so that the environmental, social, cultural and economic values that waterways provide can be preserved for both current and future generations.

## Trends and technology



A number of trends and technological progresses will play a key role in helping Council address a range of environmental challenges.

### Renewable energy

Solar power was the fastest-growing source of new energy in the world in 2016 and renewable energy accounted for two thirds of all new power added to the world's grids in 2016.

Within Australia, renewable energy provided 17.3 per cent of Australia's total electricity in 2016, with hydro power making the biggest contribution at 42.3 per cent due to significant rainfall in hydro catchments.

Renewable energy is the cheapest type of power generation in Australia, less than coal and gas power plants. The cost of large scale solar has almost halved compared to just a few years ago and the decreasing cost of small scale solar has resulted in Australia having the highest penetration per capita in the world. Over 182,000 small scale renewable energy systems were installed on Australian roofs in 2016, resulting in 15 per cent of homes generating their own energy.

Renewable energy growth in Australia is expected to continue. Bloomberg New Energy Finance predict that by 2040, approximately 45 per cent of Australia's power generating capacity will be from renewable energy facilities that produce power for on-site use in a home, office building, or other commercial facility. This, combined with large scale renewable energy facilities, will result in an energy grid that will be predominantly a renewable system, as wind, solar PV and batteries replace coal.

Continuing to explore renewable energy options for Council buildings and supporting the uptake of renewable energy for Stonnington homes, offices and other facilities are key strategic objectives of this strategy.

### Battery storage

Following the shift to renewable energy at a national level, battery storage will play an essential role in Australia's energy future.

In 2015, 500 batteries were installed across Australia. This number increased significantly in 2016 to 6,750 batteries installed with a total capacity of 52 MWh.

South Australia installed the world's largest lithium-ion battery in 2017. The Victorian Government is planning a 20MW battery in western Victoria and the ACT aims to install 36MW of storage by 2020.

Battery storage installations in Australia are predicted to reach 5.6 GW by 2036–37 as costs fall. Cost reductions are estimated at around 10 per cent per year until 2020 and 7 per cent each year by 2030.<sup>4</sup>

Battery storage will play a key role in supporting Council and the community to lower greenhouse gas emissions and manage energy into the future.

<sup>4</sup>New Energy Outlook 2017, Bloomberg New Energy Finance, November 2017  
<https://about.bnef.com/new-energy-outlook/>

### Electric vehicles

With transport contributing 18 per cent of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions in 2015, electric vehicles are a key method of reducing emissions in the transport sector. They also provide public health benefits, through reductions in air pollution.

Britain, France and India have committed to ending new petrol and diesel car sales in the next 20 years. Twenty per cent of vehicles in China will be electric or plug-in hybrids by 2025. Major car companies including Volvo, Jaguar Land Rover, Volkswagen, BMW, General Motors and Ford have committed to transitioning to electric car production between 2019 and 2025.

Sales of electric vehicles in Australia fell 23 per cent from 2015 to 2016. Australians purchased 701 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and 668 fully electric vehicles in 2016, which is 0.1 per cent of the total Australian market.

Key barriers to Australians taking up electric vehicles include price, the limited range compared to petrol cars and the lack of charging infrastructure.

Despite the current limitations in the Australian electric vehicle market, Bloomberg New Energy Finance estimates that by 2040, 45 per cent of new vehicle sales in Australia will be electric.<sup>5</sup>

Council continues to explore options to support the uptake of electric and low emission vehicles within Council's own fleet as well as the wider community.



23% ↓

fall in electric vehicle sales  
from 2015-2016

668 fully electric vehicles  
purchased by Australians in 2016

### Circular economy

The circular economy reinvents how products are created, used and maintained through recycling, re-using and re-purposing goods and resources. It offers an alternative to the current 'linear' economic system, which predominantly uses virgin materials to manufacture products and infrastructure, later discarded to landfill or recycled when they are no longer required. This current system is considered wasteful because a continuous flow of resources need to be used to provide new services and products.

The circular economy is about designing products so they last longer, repairing and upgrading them so they can be reused or resold and broken down, using their materials to remanufacture new products. Innovation is driving sustainable outcomes as companies create new products out of used materials, for example carpet made out of old fishing line and using plastics for clothing lines. Additionally, repair cafes are popping up in local neighbourhoods and car share companies are becoming increasingly popular.

According to the World Economic Forum, the circular economy could be worth \$26 billion in Australia by 2025.

Doing more with less would bring more economic growth, jobs, reduced waste to landfill, resource depletion and less environmental impact.

<sup>5</sup>Electric Vehicle Outlook 2017, Bloomberg New Energy Finance, July 2017  
<https://about.bnef.com/electric-vehicle-outlook/>

## Strategic priority areas



The outcomes of this strategy will be achieved through five strategic priority areas:

**1**

### Climate change and energy

Key focus areas:

- » energy efficiency
- » renewable energy
- » environmentally sustainable design

**2**

### Resources and waste management

Key focus areas:

- » food waste
- » resource recovery
- » waste avoidance education

**3**

### Integrated water management

Key focus areas:

- » efficient water use
- » water quality
- » managing water capture and reuse

**4**

### Urban environment

Key focus areas:

- » growing the urban forest
- » protecting and maintaining natural areas
- » increasing habitat and biodiversity

**5**

### Education, engagement and collaboration

Key focus areas:

- » monitoring and reporting
- » partnerships
- » collaborative projects

Our Strategic Action Plan can be found at the back of this document. It details specific actions that deliver on the strategic priority areas and objectives outlined in this strategy.

# Strategic priority 1: Climate change and energy

## Context

There is a strong imperative for Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for a changing climate. Climate change will have a significant impact on Council's strategic goals as well as Council operations, assets and areas of service delivery. The combination of rising energy prices, increasing demand on Council services and facilities from our growing population and continuing to deliver a certain standard of services, facilities and infrastructure within a rate-capped environment all drive action on climate change.

Council plays an important role in balancing a growing population with reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and continuing to provide a range of services to the community. In addition, there is an ongoing expectation for Council to deliver expanded services and facilities to meet increasing community needs. A key role of Council is also supporting and encouraging residents, businesses and community groups to reduce their own emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions are those resulting from Council's own operations, such as electricity and gas used in buildings and facilities, electricity for street lighting and transport fuels.

Council accounts for its most significant emissions from the three categories below:

- » Electricity
  - › Greenhouse emissions produced through the electricity used by Council buildings.
  - › Public lighting in the City of Stonnington that is managed by electricity distributors on Council's behalf.
- » Gas
  - › Greenhouse emissions produced through the natural gas used by Council buildings.
- » Fleet and equipment
  - › Greenhouse emissions created through the fuel consumed by Council's passenger vehicles, utility vehicles and specialised heavy equipment.

**Breakdown of Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions**



## Strategic priority 1: Climate change and energy (continued)



Since 2005, Council has reduced its total emissions through energy efficiency and renewable energy by 22 per cent.

The majority of this reduction has been through emissions associated with street lighting, which have seen 41 per cent reduction since 2005/06. There has also been an 18 per cent reduction in emissions from electricity use in buildings, including electricity generation from embedded solar PV systems since 2011.

Council has met its initial corporate greenhouse gas emission target to reduce emissions by 20 per cent below 2005 levels by 2015 and is on track to meet its target of 30 per cent reduction by 2020.

While the Paris Agreement officially recognises the importance and role of local government in managing the impacts of climate change, it also acknowledges their role in setting greenhouse reduction targets. Based on detailed modelling completed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a global ‘carbon budget’ has been developed in line with the Paris Agreement that outlines the maximum amount of greenhouse gas emissions that can be released into the atmosphere for catastrophic climate change to be averted. The carbon budget provides the basis for the development of a ‘science-derived’ emissions reduction target for Australia, which can be scaled down to a municipal level, calculating an appropriate share of the reduction effort.

A Science Derived Target for a council’s corporate emissions provides a framework to setting targets that is fair, robust, consistent with international carbon budgeting methodology and aligned with international best-practice target setting.

Based on the City of Stonnington’s current trajectory for emissions reductions, including projects planned over the next four years, Council will exceed a Science Derived Target for its corporate greenhouse gas emissions.



Council is committed to demonstrating a leadership role in the community and throughout the Australian local government sector, therefore has set the following targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

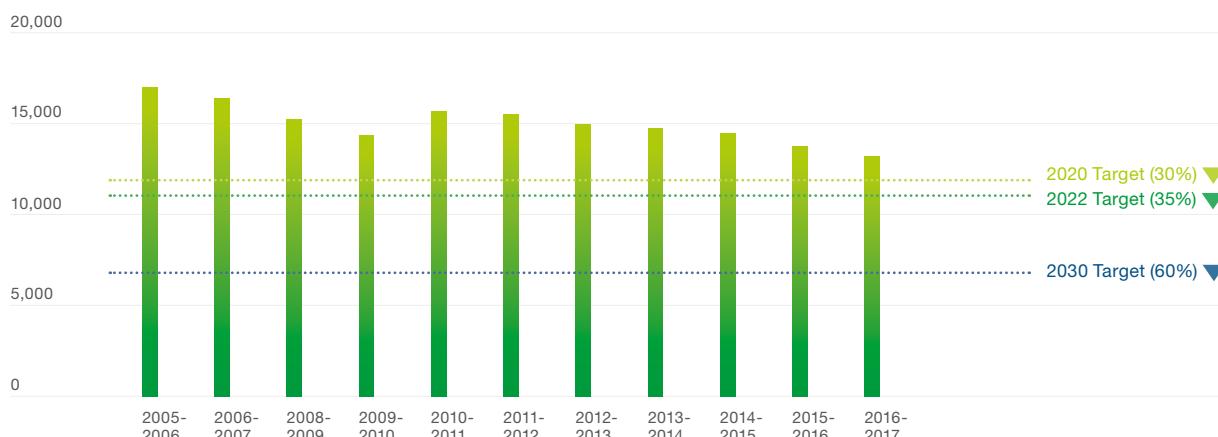
30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2020 ▼

35 per cent below 2005 levels by 2022 ▼

60 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 ▼

### Total Council greenhouse gas emissions

TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub>

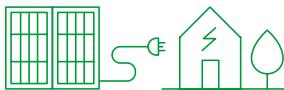


## Renewable energy

Renewable energy will play a key role in the transition to a low carbon economy. While the cost of installing renewable technology falls, market uptake is increasing. The Victorian Government's Renewable Energy Target is a commitment to ensure that 25 per cent of Victoria's electricity supply will come from renewable sources by 2020 and 40 per cent by 2025, supporting Council's own commitment to increasing use of renewable energy sources.

Approximately 6 per cent of Stonnington households have solar on their roofs, which is similar to surrounding metro local government areas but trails behind less urban areas.

Council will continue to investigate opportunities to increase its use of renewable energy and support community uptake of renewable energy technologies. With limited space available for a large scale solar facility within the municipality, exploring innovative options for renewable energy generation will be a key Council focus over the coming years.



**6%**

of Stonnington households  
**have solar on their roofs**

## Battery storage

Maximising the energy generated through solar PV systems with battery storage technology is a growing area, however, this technology is currently expensive with long payback periods.

It is expected that battery storage will play an increasingly important role in the future generation, storage and use of renewable energy. Council will continue to monitor this area and look at opportunities for energy storage on our properties and to support its uptake across the city.

## Buildings and facilities

Buildings have significant potential to deliver energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions. Council owns and manages over 100 facilities and buildings ranging in size from public toilets through to sports pavilions, community halls and large facilities such as libraries, the Harold Holt Swim Centre, Prahran Aquatic Centre, the Stonnington Depot, Malvern and Prahran Town Halls and the Stonnington City Centre. All of these facilities use energy, contributing approximately 62 per cent of Council's total greenhouse gas emissions.

As Stonnington continues to grow, it is increasingly important to design and build efficient buildings. Improving energy efficiency in new and existing buildings, including seeking ways to use less energy to achieve the same output, has both financial and environmental benefits.

## Transport

Council provides a range of services to help improve the health and sustainability of our local area including waste management, building and repairing roads and footpaths, community and family services, looking after our green spaces and delivering major building projects. These services require an extensive vehicle fleet consisting of passenger vehicles, as well as light commercial vehicles, trucks and heavy roadwork machinery. The transport fuels required to deliver these services contribute 11 per cent of Council's total greenhouse gas emissions.

Supporting greener vehicles and more sustainable transport options will play a major role in reducing Council's greenhouse gas emissions and fuel costs as well as providing healthier modes of transport.

Council is committed to promoting sustainable modes of transport for residents, workers and visitors. We will continue improving walking and cycling infrastructure, promoting public transport options and facilitating car sharing within the municipality. Council will also continue to advocate to the Victorian Government for an improved public transport network within the municipality.

## Community emissions

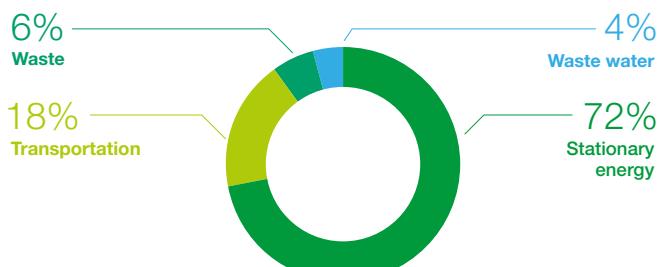
While the City of Stonnington's own corporate emissions are less than one per cent of total emissions across the entire municipality, Council plays an important leadership role within the community, stimulating local action and supporting the transition to a more sustainable future.

The City of Stonnington produces approximately 1,695 kt CO<sub>2</sub>-e each year.

- » The largest source of emissions in the municipality is from stationary energy, which accounts for 72 per cent of total emissions and is mainly electricity consumed by buildings and facilities
- » transport is responsible for 18 per cent of municipal emissions
- » emissions from waste account for 6 per cent, and
- » waste water, including sewerage, makes up 4 per cent of total emissions.

Our community emissions profile has been developed through a combination of modelled activity data using robust assumptions and highly-modelled data to provide a more general overview. While this summary provides an outline of emissions across the city, more detailed data will improve reporting on community emissions over time. Alongside creating and building the capacity, awareness and commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Council will monitor and report on community emissions to track progress and develop an ongoing evaluation framework.

### Breakdown of Stonnington community greenhouse gas emissions



## Strategic priority 1: Climate change and energy (continued)

### Our approach

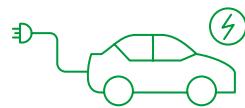


Council is committed to leading action on climate change through environmental innovation, leadership, quality delivery and accountability. Significant resources have been invested into managing Council's own corporate emissions as well as supporting change at a local level, resulting in ongoing greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Council will continue to focus its resources on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, prioritising efforts and investment into reducing actual energy use rather than purchasing green energy and offsets. This approach ensures ongoing financial and greenhouse savings.



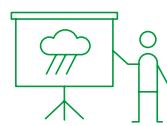
- » Solar PV systems installed across Council buildings



- » Prioritised the purchase of low and alternative fuel consumption vehicles



- » 3,070 street lights upgraded to more energy efficient LED lights over the next year



- » Council delivers environmental programs to assist the community to reduce energy use

### Corporate greenhouse gas emissions

#### Buildings and facilities

Council has committed ongoing capital investment since 2011 through its Energy Efficiency Implementation Program to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from town halls, aquatic centres, libraries, childcare centres, sporting facilities, parks and gardens, entertainment venues and other community centres.

Key initiatives delivered through the Energy Efficiency Implementation Program include:

- » installation of solar PV systems across Council buildings
- » upgraded lighting in buildings, carparks and facilities to more energy efficient lamps
- » boiler and turbidity controller upgrades at aquatic centres, and
- » Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) features incorporated into new buildings.

Council building projects aim to achieve environmentally sustainable design by assessing the energy and water efficiency, thermal comfort, and the overall environmental sustainability performance of the new building or redevelopment.

Council will continue to invest in improving the efficiency of its buildings and facilities through ongoing investment in smart design, technology and innovation.

#### Street lighting

Council's 7,997 street lights account for almost one third of Council's total electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2010 Council has invested capital funding to upgrade residential street lights to energy efficient luminaires resulting in ongoing savings.

Council support will see a bulk upgrade of 3,070 street lights to more energy efficient LED lights over the next year. These upgrades will result in significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption and operating costs each year.

Council will continue to explore ways to roll out energy efficient street lighting across the municipality.

#### Fleet

Council has prioritised the purchase of low and alternative fuel consumption vehicles to support emissions reductions. This has included setting minimum fuel efficiency standards for our garbage trucks, hybrid vehicles and the addition of an all-electric vehicle to its light fleet.

Emissions standards and innovation will continue to assist Council to reduce total fuel consumption and incorporate low emissions vehicles into both its light and heavy fleet.



## Community

### **Energy efficiency**

The City of Stonnington is committed to helping the community adopt energy efficient practices and reducing related greenhouse gas emissions. Council delivers a range of environmental programs and events that aim to assist residents, schools, apartment complexes, businesses and community groups to reduce energy use.

### **Transport**

In Stonnington, we are working towards improving transport, access and movement within the city by promoting and supporting safe, accessible and convenient local destinations, public transport options, and walking and cycling. These activities have a range of economic, social and environmental benefits.

Council will continue to support the uptake of sustainable transport options through facilities, programs, services and advocacy.

### **Environmentally Sustainable Design**

Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) aims to reduce the impact of construction and building use on the natural environment. The City of Stonnington is committed to ensuring that new buildings and development in the city are energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable. An ESD Local Planning Policy was approved into the Stonnington Planning Scheme in November 2015 and has been extended until 30 June 2019.

Council will continue to ensure that development meets high environmental standards from the design stage through to construction and operation as well as advocate for a state-wide ESD policy.

### **Victorian Government's TAKE2 program**

TAKE2 is the Victorian Government's collective climate change pledge initiative to reach net zero emissions by 2050, and keep the global temperature rise to under 2 degrees in line with the Paris Agreement.

**▼**

TAKE2 provides a strong framework for supporting community action and Council encourages all residents to join the thousands of Victorians who have already made the TAKE2 pledge to take action on climate change.

## Climate change and energy strategic objectives

▼

**Council will:**

- 1.1 maximise energy efficiency in Council buildings and facilities through design, technology, innovation and engagement
- 1.2 maximise renewable energy generation opportunities across all Council buildings and facilities
- 1.3 achieve minimum Environmentally Sustainable Design standards for Council building projects
- 1.4 support development to meet minimum Environmentally Sustainable Design standards
- 1.5 address climate risks to Council assets, operations and service delivery responsibilities, and
- 1.6 improve fleet efficiency through technology, innovation and engagement.

**Council will support the community to:**

- 1.7 improve the energy efficiency of homes, schools and businesses
- 1.8 reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- 1.9 transition to renewable energy
- 1.10 prepare for the impacts of a changing climate, and
- 1.11 transition to more sustainable modes of transport including alternative fuel, and fuel efficient vehicles, cycling and public transport.

# Strategic priority 2: Resources and waste management

## Context

▼

Waste is created in almost all areas of life, at home, in the community and in the workplace – but not everything we throw away is waste. Some of the things that are thrown away can be recovered and turned into new materials or products, reducing the use of raw materials and the energy used in the processes to make them. This supports new markets, such as recycled plastic products, and drives innovation in technology, such as waste processing facilities.

Landfills are a short term and increasingly expensive solution to waste management. Waste sent to landfill often contains a variety of recoverable materials, including organic waste, which can break down and produce greenhouse gas emissions.

Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill is about reducing the amount of waste generated in the first place, diverting as much as possible and exploring new technologies and systems for waste management.

Waste and recycling management is a key responsibility of local government, and has social, environmental and economic impacts.

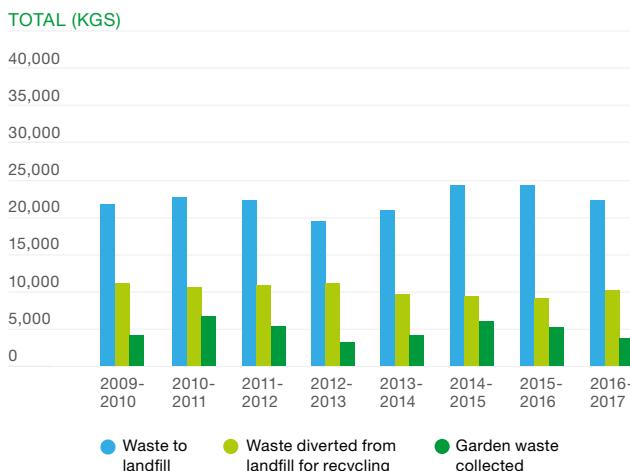
Stonnington's population is growing which, combined with an increasing proportion of medium and high-density housing and increasing consumption rates, will have a significant impact on waste generation and waste management services. Working closely with new developments will ensure buildings are designed to accommodate waste storage and facilitate appropriate and effective waste disposal.

▼

Council focuses on waste management services to minimise waste and maximise resource recovery. Shifting waste from a problem to an opportunity for resource recovery is an important element of this strategy.



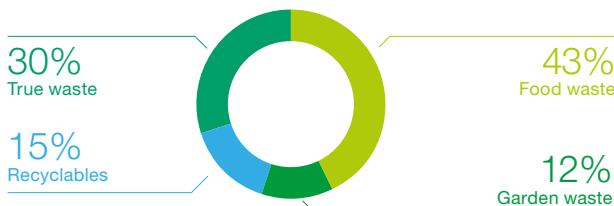
## Waste generation in Stonnington



The amount of waste sent to landfill within Stonnington has varied over the last 10 years. This can be partly attributed to increasing densification in Stonnington with commercial operators providing waste services for higher density developments, reducing demand for Council waste collection services. The last 10 years has also seen a decrease in the amount of waste diverted from landfill for recycling. This is mostly due to the amount of print media reducing and glass being replaced with lighter weight plastic for some containers.

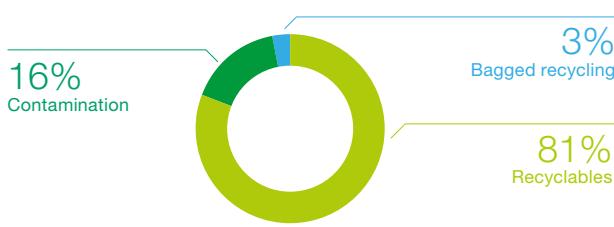
While subscribers to Council's garden waste service have increased since 2009, garden waste collection is heavily influenced by seasonal changes, for example, a hotter year will yield less garden waste.

## Composition of kerbside garbage stream (by mass)



The kerbside garbage and recycling streams within the City of Stonnington offer significant opportunities for resource recovery. Kerbside bin audits have demonstrated that only 30 per cent of the kerbside garbage stream is true waste, unable to be recovered through existing services or programs. There is significant opportunity to recover recyclables and garden waste through Council's kerbside recycling and garden waste services, the Stonnington Waste Transfer Station and Council waste management programs.

## Composition of kerbside recycling stream (by mass)



Council's kerbside recycling service has a contamination rate of 16 per cent with a further 3 per cent comprised of bagged recycling which is unable to be processed through the recycling facility. This contamination rate is considerably higher than the state average, providing a significant opportunity for improvement through waste education and engagement.

Increasing community awareness around correct waste management practices and the environmental impact of waste disposal are an important element of Council's waste education and awareness programs. The waste management hierarchy sets out priorities for efficient resource use and guides Council's waste education and engagement principles. It outlines the preferred order of waste management practices, from most to least preferred, with avoidance being the most preferred option and disposal being the least.

Avoidance	 Most preferable
Reuse	
Recycling	
Recovery of energy	
Treatment	
Containment	
Disposal	

## Resource management

There is increasing global recognition that the cumulative effect of procuring, consuming and disposing of products and services is having a negative impact on the environment. Purchasing decisions have the potential to improve the environmental, social and economic impact of purchased products and services throughout their life.

The City of Stonnington plays a key role in 'closing the loop' on recycling through purchasing recycled materials as part of Council operations and will continue to identify opportunities to purchase recycled materials to be used in Council operations, where suitable alternatives are available.

## Strategic priority 2: Resources and waste management (continued)

### Our approach

Council provides garbage, recycling and garden waste kerbside waste collection services and a range of additional services to support resource recovery including a Waste Transfer Station, biannual hard waste collection service and opportunities for residents to recycle household items through conveniently located recycling stations.

Council also provides free electronic waste recycling, including TVs and computers, at its Waste Transfer Station and is exploring ways to facilitate the Victorian Government's ban on electronic waste in landfill.

Current kerbside collections provide an essential community service through the regular removal of waste materials from households and some businesses. They also form part of the supply chain for recovered materials through the Material Recovery Facility to which these items are sent.

Food waste in the kerbside garbage stream is a lost resource and key contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Recovering this valuable resource reduces emissions and produces a useful product for improving soil, growing healthy gardens and supporting food production. Council supports residents to reduce the amount of food waste sent to landfill through targeted events, education and programs. Council is also exploring a number of solutions to support targeted groups to recycle food waste onsite as well as initiatives for the wider community.

Council recognises plastic pollution is a significant environmental issue that warrants attention and response by governments at all levels. Council excludes the use of single-use light-weight plastic bags at Council events and activities and is working with the Stonnington community to explore ways to reduce all single use plastics in Stonnington.



- » Council provides garbage, recycling and garden waste collection services



- » Free TV and computer recycling at Council's Waste Transfer Station

### Education

Council delivers a comprehensive waste education program to support the community to minimise waste production. This includes waste minimisation workshops and tours for schools, early learning centres and residents and the provision of a wide range of educational materials.

Council also tailors programs to various sectors of the community to support innovation and waste management including apartment buildings and sports clubs.

### Resource management

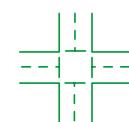
The City of Stonnington plays a key role in identifying opportunities to purchase recycled materials. Environmental specifications are embedded in infrastructure project tender documents and Council uses recycled content in asphalt pavements, such as shared paths and roads.

Other infrastructure projects have also sought to maximise the use of recycled materials. For example, as part of Council's Yarra River Biodiversity Project, a recycled plastic boardwalk was installed, containing plastic from kerbside recycling collections. Other opportunities to increase the uptake of recycled products include street furniture, bollards and playground materials and equipment.

Council consumes large quantities of goods and materials that can have varying degrees of impact on the environment. Council can positively influence the environment through selecting products and materials that are manufactured locally and are made from environmentally sustainable products/recycled goods.



- » Waste education program to support the community to minimise waste production



- » Council uses recycled content in asphalt pavements, such as shared paths and roads

## Resources and waste management strategic objectives

### Council will:

- 2.1 provide best practice waste management services
- 2.2 avoid the production of waste and increase resource recovery
- 2.3 support the reduction of single use plastics in Stonnington
- 2.4 close the loop by purchasing materials and services with minimal environmental impact; and
- 2.5 advocate for improved waste management infrastructure and programs.

### Council will support the community to:

- 2.6 reduce the level of contamination in kerbside recycling to be less than the metropolitan Melbourne average
- 2.7 avoid the production of waste and increase the diversion of materials from landfill
- 2.8 increase the diversion of food waste from landfill
- 2.9 choose materials, goods and services that have minimal environmental impact; and
- 2.10 engage with waste management programs and services, local to Stonnington.



# Strategic priority 3: Integrated water management

## Context



### Water is a finite and valuable resource essential for life and a healthy environment.

The two major waterways in Stonnington are the Yarra River and Gardiners Creek. Gardiners Creek enters the Yarra, which then flows into Port Phillip Bay. Scotchmans Creek is a secondary waterway that flows into Gardiners Creek through the Malvern Valley Golf Course. Wetlands are located in Glen Iris, Percy Treyaud Memorial Park and along Grange Road, South Yarra.

Our local waterways provide important ecological processes such as draining stormwater from urban areas, providing wildlife corridors and habitat for aquatic wildlife and helping to improve the quality of water entering Port Phillip Bay. These waterways also provide opportunities for the community to experience local wildlife, find quiet natural areas in a busy city and support sport and recreation activities. Ensuring our local waterways are healthy and functioning is a high priority for Council.

Climate change will have an increasing influence on how water in Stonnington is supplied, used and managed. CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology predict winter and spring rainfall will decrease across southern Australia, with more time spent in drought. Floods will also be an issue, as rainfall, when it does arrive, is expected to be more intense.

Maximising the value of water as it moves through the city is a key element in Council's approach to improving water use efficiency. Currently, high quality potable water is commonly used to flush toilets, cool buildings and water parks and gardens. Sourcing alternative water supplies, such as recycled water and treated stormwater and groundwater, will help to keep the city cool and green and manage the effects of climate change.

Stonnington's growing population and urban densification places pressure on existing water supplies and infrastructure. Community demand and expectation for high quality parks and green spaces has resulted in rising water use and the city's ability to capture and manage water is increasingly limited. At the same time, water prices are expected to increase substantially over the coming years.

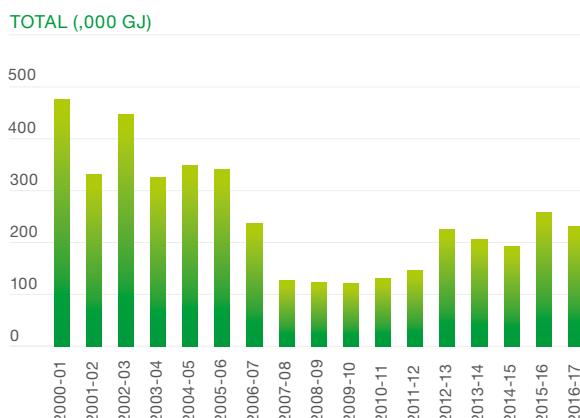
Council water use was comparatively high in the early 2000s but began to decrease following investment in water efficiency measures and increasing use of alternative supplies. With water restrictions easing in 2010, Council water use began to rise. This increase was principally in order to meet community expectations for high quality, usable open space.

Sporting complexes currently contribute 41 per cent of Council's potable water consumption and one quarter is used on open space and park infrastructure. Innovation and smart design will help Council reduce water use in our open space over the coming years.

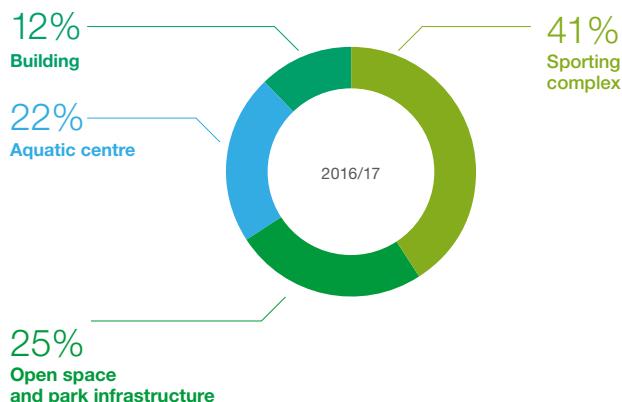


Reducing potable water consumption will be a key priority for Council over the next five years.

### Total annual potable water consumption



### Breakdown of Council potable water consumption





## Our approach

Council is responsible for protecting and managing water assets, improving the quality of waterways within the municipality and integrating Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) into city projects.

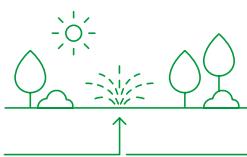
Integrated water management provides a holistic approach to managing water within the City. Council recognises that the supply, storage, use and reuse of water needs to be considered as a whole system to have the greatest effect and support a sustainable and liveable community.

Through leadership and education, the City of Stonnington encourages the community to reduce water and minimise stormwater pollution in the local area.

### Water quality

Council has made significant investment in infrastructure to intercept and treat water as it moves through the catchment. WSUD aims to create an urban environment that mimics the natural water flow, reducing the impact of development and maximising the value of water as it moves through the city. Over 100 WSUD assets including raingardens, rainwater and stormwater harvesting, green roofs and walls, tree pits and porous pavements have been added throughout the city. The integration of these elements into the municipality helps support city greening initiatives, while also improving the aquatic environment.

Council has also invested significant resources to regenerate local waterways through planting along the Yarra River, Gardiners Creek and Scotchmans Creek at the Malvern Valley Golf Course. These projects included weed removal, bank stabilisation and planting indigenous plants with an aim to increase habitat connectivity, improve water quality and provide recreational and educational opportunities for the community. Council is also planning further regeneration works along Gardiners Creek.



### Water conservation

Council has converted a large number of its sports fields to drought tolerant surfaces and introduced efficient irrigation systems for parks and sports fields to reduce potable water consumption.

Gardens and streetscapes include indigenous and drought tolerant exotic species to improve water efficiency and rainwater harvesting systems have been installed at parks and Council buildings.

Council building projects include rainwater capture and reuse in their design as well as water efficient fittings and fixtures.

## Integrated water management strategic objectives

### **Council will:**

- 3.1 maximise water efficiency in Council buildings, facilities, sporting complexes and open space through design, technology and innovation
- 3.2 install and maintain water sensitive urban design treatments throughout the city
- 3.3 achieve minimum WSUD standards for Council building projects
- 3.4 support development to meet minimum WSUD standards
- 3.5 increase the collection and use of nonpotable water, and
- 3.6 improve the health of local waterways.

### **Council will support the community to:**

- 3.7 use water more efficiently, and
- 3.8 help improve the health of local waterways.



# Strategic priority 4: Urban environment

## Context

### A healthy environment supports a healthy community.

Well known for its tree lined streets and established parks and gardens, the City of Stonnington has the second highest canopy cover of an inner Melbourne metropolitan council. A highly developed area, it also has the second lowest amount of public open space of any Victorian municipality.

Stonnington's natural landscape has changed dramatically since European settlement. While some natural areas remain, the construction of buildings, streets and footpaths has resulted in a significant loss of natural environment.

The most significant natural environmental areas within the municipality include the riparian corridors of the Yarra River, Gardiners Creek and Scotchmans Creek, the Malvern Valley Golf Course, Darling Park and the Urban Forest Reserve. These areas contribute to biodiversity in Stonnington by providing habitat for native animals and maintaining local plant diversity. Protecting and maintaining these areas is a key priority for Council.

Due to its location within the inner city, surrounded by dense and solid surfaces that trap heat, the City of Stonnington is vulnerable to the 'urban heat island effect', which impacts on the health, amenity and liveability of the city. Protecting and enhancing our natural areas is important to ensure the natural environment is healthy, resilient and able to support diversity and wildlife. These areas are also essential for helping keep our city cool and supporting community health and wellbeing.

Developing new greening opportunities in dense urban environments requires innovation. Introducing trees can be challenging as there is often competing demand for the limited available space in busy city streets and conflict with surrounding infrastructure. New and diverse habitat types, such as green roofs and walls, can complement natural areas and help grow the urban forest.

A healthy and attractive physical environment supports a high level of biodiversity and essential ecosystem services, facilitates educational opportunities and recreational activities, and adds to the colour and amenity of a community. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment can improve community cohesion and local ecological knowledge while increasing physical and mental wellbeing.

## Our approach

Council recognises the importance of biodiversity and the need to increase habitat connectivity, improve water quality and provide recreational and educational opportunities for the community.

### Biodiversity

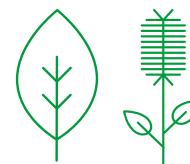
Council has focused its revegetation efforts on seven key biodiversity sites to best recreate their natural environment and provide habitat for native wildlife. These sites are:

- » Glenburn Bend Park
- » Muswell Bend Park
- » Glen Iris Wetlands
- » Darling Park
- » Malvern Valley Golf Course
- » Urban Forest Reserve
- » Yarra River Corridor

In addition to these key biodiversity sites, Council maintains and protects a network of parks, reserves, gardens and street trees that provide natural corridors, or islands, for local wildlife, creating a green web across the city and beyond its borders. These corridors provide habitat and food sources for local wildlife and urban pollinators.

Council will continue to explore opportunities to promote and encourage a variety of green and natural environments to enhance biodiversity and support healthy ecological communities.

### In 2016-17 Council planted



1,590 trees  
+ 29,000 plants

in Stonnington streets, parks, reserves and along our waterways.

## The urban forest

This strategy is closely aligned with Council's **Urban Forest Strategy**, which aims to support "a healthy, resilient, diverse and valued urban forest that will continue to be a core element of the character and liveability of the City."

Council's annual planting program develops and maintains the urban forest. This involves planting tens of thousands of trees and plants throughout Stonnington's streets, parks and reserves, including native trees and indigenous tube stock.

Over 90 per cent of land area in Stonnington is privately owned with private trees and green space comprising a significant proportion of the urban forest. Council encourages the planting and maintenance of vegetation on private land and runs workshops and events to raise awareness amongst the community on the value of biodiversity.

Council will continue to investigate ways to grow and protect the urban forest through design, innovation and collaboration and deliver the key directions outlined in the **Urban Forest Strategy**.

## Environmentally Sustainable Development

Council recognises the importance of maintaining and enhancing the health of urban ecosystems, for local biodiversity but also for community health and wellbeing.

This Strategy is complemented by the City of Stonnington's **Strategies for Creating Open Space**, which aims to create open space to enhance the health and wellbeing of the Stonnington community, recognising the benefits of a healthy urban environment on quality of life.

Stonnington's planning application process requires developers to include Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) considerations within their applications. This requirement has now been incorporated into the Stonnington Planning Scheme as a Local ESD Policy, part of which supports urban ecology initiatives including communal spaces, vegetation, food production and green walls, roofs and facades.

## Community engagement and education

Council promotes and supports the continued protection of biodiversity in Stonnington through its environmental events and programs, which aim to increase the understanding of the many benefits that biodiversity provides to both the community and the environment. As over 90 per cent of Stonnington land area is privately owned, there is a significant opportunity to engage the community in expanding habitat and supporting local biodiversity.

Council will continue to explore ways to support community connection to the natural environment, supporting biodiversity in both the public and private domain.

## Urban environment strategic objectives

### **Council will:**

- 4.1 protect, maintain and enhance areas of natural environment throughout the City
- 4.2 manage the urban forest to ensure a cool, healthy and liveable city
- 4.3 integrate green infrastructure throughout the municipality, and
- 4.4 grow the urban forest by planting 250,000 plants and trees throughout the municipality over the next five years.

### **Council will support the community to:**

- 4.5 integrate green infrastructure in developments
- 4.6 increase connection and engagement in Council's natural environment, and
- 4.7 improve habitat on private land for native wildlife.



# Strategic priority 5: Education, engagement and collaboration

## Context

While Council's education and engagement activities are integrated throughout the priority areas outlined in this Strategy, this section summarises Council's commitment to engage, communicate and build and strengthen relationships with all stakeholders involved in the implementation of this Strategy.

The integration of sustainability throughout Council requires strong commitment and action from all staff. Developing staff awareness, information and capacity to deliver environmental outcomes requires leadership, cross-departmental collaboration and ongoing support. While Council works hard to improve its own environmental performance, it acknowledges that it is important to engage others in the process.

The City of Stonnington works with a wide range of partners and stakeholders daily to maintain and enhance Stonnington's liveability now and into the future. Strengthening these relationships and developing new partnerships with other key stakeholders will help drive the delivery and implementation of Council's key sustainability objectives.

While Council plays a leadership role supporting sustainability action within the community, organisations and individuals have a significant role to play to co-create the change that is needed to transition our City to a more sustainable future. Council will engage and communicate with the community - identifying and removing barriers to change, including filling knowledge gaps, providing resources, direction and support to motivate and inspire behaviour change. Council will also advocate on behalf of the community for biodiversity protection, improved public transport, renewable energy generation, higher standards for buildings and better waste management systems.

The Stonnington community is increasingly interested in taking action to reduce its environmental impact. Council will continue to support the community in their aspirations for environmental sustainability and to tap into their skills and energy, including exploring supporting volunteering opportunities in the area such as citizen science and tree planting.

## Our approach

Council runs an annual calendar of environmental events for the community including workshops, tours, festivals and planting days to raise awareness and equip residents with the knowledge and skills to create change at home and work, as well as support community connectedness.

Council also delivers educational programs for Stonnington residents across a range of sustainability topics including home composting, energy efficiency, communal gardening and waste management.

Through the Green Schools Program, Council engages with schools and early learning centres to build their capacity to deliver environmental initiatives. The knowledge gained through these sessions can be applied in the classroom or at home, providing a link to the wider community.

Council also works with local community groups and sporting clubs to help them build their capacity and environmental knowledge and skills to create change.

Reporting is a key element of implementing Council's commitment to sustainability. Monitoring and reporting Council's progress towards its sustainability goals is an important way for Council to demonstrate its commitment, leading by example and communicating and marketing its achievements. Effective reporting raises the profile and promotes the importance of improving environmental outcomes across the city and enables opportunities for further improvements to be identified. This progress can be used to inspire the Stonnington community to also change their actions and decisions.

Council continues to develop and build partnerships with a number of key stakeholders both within Stonnington and in the wider community including state government agencies, local government networks and peak bodies. Collaborative projects support sustainability networking, capacity building, innovation, research and monitoring opportunities.



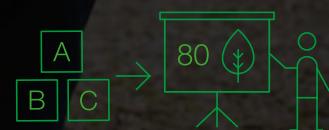
## Education, engagement and collaboration strategic objectives

### Council will:

- 5.1 integrate sustainability into Council services, functions and decision-making processes
- 5.2 monitor, evaluate and publicly report on Council's progress towards achieving its sustainability objectives and targets
- 5.3 develop and strengthen partnerships with relevant external stakeholders to advance sustainability, and
- 5.4 support staff action and behaviour change through environmental education and engagement.

### Council will support the community to:

- 5.5 reduce its environmental impact through environmental education and engagement.



» Through the **Green Schools Program**, Council engages with schools and early learning centres to build their capacity to deliver environmental initiatives



» **Monitoring and reporting** Council's progress towards its sustainability goals is an important way for Council to demonstrate its commitment

# Strategic Action Plan

This Strategic Action Plan has been developed to support the delivery of Council's key priority areas, as outlined in the **Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018–2023**.

Implementing the Action Plan will require a collaborative effort from all stakeholders including Council staff, the Stonnington community and other external partners.

The strong actions Council has committed to in this strategy will bring significant social, cultural and economic benefits to the city and its community.

While Council will continue to annually report on its progress towards the strategic priority areas outlined in this strategy, the Action Plan will be formally reviewed in 2020 to incorporate any changes to Council priorities, new technologies, systems and processes and stakeholder feedback.

## Strategic priority 1: Climate change and energy

### Council

<p><b>1.1 Maximise energy efficiency in Council buildings and facilities through design, technology, innovation and engagement.</b></p>	<p><b>1.1.1 Energy Efficiency Implementation Program</b> Continue to deliver the Energy Efficiency Implementation Program, undertaking efficiency upgrades at Council buildings and facilities to deliver permanent energy reductions. Funds will be directed to projects that deliver the greatest energy and greenhouse gas reductions and cost savings.</p>
	<p><b>1.1.2 Street lighting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to fund an annual program to upgrade residential and arterial street lighting to energy efficient technology.</li> <li>b. Engage with distribution network service providers to expand the scope of street lighting replacement options.</li> <li>c. Advocate to VicRoads to develop an arterial road lighting upgrade plan.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>1.1.3 Public lighting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Replace inefficient public space lighting in parks, gardens, other open spaces and carparks with LED luminaires and solar options.</li> <li>b. Continue to investigate opportunities to upgrade lighting at tennis courts and sports fields with LEDs.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>1.1.4 Energy efficient appliances</b> Develop and implement a process to ensure minimum energy efficiency standards for major or minor appliances installed and replaced in Council buildings. Additionally, identify opportunities for improving operational efficiencies of major and minor Council appliances.</p>
	<p><b>1.1.5 Smart technology</b> Investigate opportunities to integrate smart technology at Council buildings and facilities, including monitoring devices, timers and sensors, to improve energy efficiency and support behaviour change and engagement.</p>
	<p><b>1.1.6 Maintenance upgrades</b> Ensure that all Council building maintenance upgrades incorporate energy efficiency improvements.</p>
	<p><b>1.1.7 Leadership</b> Demonstrate leadership by actively communicating Council's sustainable built environment achievements.</p>
<p><b>1.2 Maximise renewable energy generation opportunities across all Council buildings and facilities.</b></p>	<p><b>1.2.1 Local renewable energy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to install solar PV systems on the roofs of Council owned buildings and facilities.</li> <li>b. Explore opportunities to trial and install battery storage at Council owned buildings and facilities.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>1.2.2 Large scale renewable energy</b> Investigate opportunities to increase renewable energy supply for Council at a local and regional scale.</p>
	<p><b>1.2.3 Renewable energy target</b> Investigate an achievable renewable energy target for Council.</p>
	<p><b>1.2.4 Monitoring and reporting</b> Develop a system to monitor and report on the amount of renewable energy generated and consumed on Council's solar sites.</p>

## Strategic priority 1: Climate change and energy

<p><b>1.3 Achieve minimum Environmentally Sustainable Design standards for Council building projects.</b></p>	<p><b>1.3.1 ESD minimum standard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to integrate ESD into Council building projects.</li> <li>b. Develop ESD guidelines to continue to ensure all new Council building and redevelopment projects meet minimum ESD standards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1.4 Support development to meet minimum Environmentally Sustainable Design standards.</b></p>	<p><b>1.4.1 Local ESD Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Advocate to the Victorian Government for permanent adoption of a state-wide ESD Policy into the State Planning Scheme, which ensures that the current standards within the local ESD policy are retained.</li> <li>b. Ensure that Council's local ESD policy is maintained through the transition to the new Planning Scheme Structure (Amendment VC148).</li> <li>c. Advocate to the Victorian Government to ensure that proposed stormwater management policies align with Council's local ESD policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1.4.2 Meeting ESD standards</b></p>	<p>Continue to ensure minimum ESD standards are realised in development projects.</p>
<p><b>1.4.3 ESD capacity building</b></p>	<p>Develop and implement education activities that increase the capacity of developers to better understand and incorporate ESD principles.</p>
<p><b>1.4.4 Advocacy</b></p>	<p>Continue to advocate for a state-wide approach to improving the sustainability of the built environment.</p>
<p><b>1.4.5 Monitoring and reporting</b></p>	<p>Develop a process to monitor and report on environmental outcomes of developments during the planning assessment, construction and post-construction phases.</p>
<p><b>1.5 Address climate risks to Council assets, operations and service delivery responsibilities.</b></p>	<p><b>1.5.1 Strategic planning</b></p> <p>Embed strategic planning across Council functions to plan and manage the impacts of climate change, such as storm frequency, urban heat island and peak stormwater flows, on open space, infrastructure and services.</p>
<p><b>1.5.2 Asset management</b></p>	<p>Develop a process to integrate climate change risks into asset management plans and capture trend data on asset damage and reduced lifespans from climate change impacts.</p>
<p><b>1.5.3 Risk management</b></p>	<p>Develop a process to embed climate change risks and responses in Council risk registers, strategies and plans.</p>
<p><b>1.5.4 Capacity building</b></p>	<p>Ensure Council staff have access to regular training to stay up-to-date with changing knowledge and technology in relation to adaptation and climate risks to Council assets, operations and service delivery.</p>

## Strategic priority 1: Climate change and energy

<b>1.6 Improve fleet efficiency through technology, innovation and engagement.</b>	<p><b>1.6.1 Council fleet</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to review the selection criteria for purchasing Council fleet vehicles to ensure vehicles with low emissions and improved environmental performance are prioritised.</li> <li>b. Continue to explore opportunities to improve the ongoing efficiency of fleet operations.</li> </ul> <p><b>1.6.2 Low emission vehicles</b></p> <p>Continue to explore options to progressively replace Council's fleet with low emission vehicles, including electric vehicle charging infrastructure and opportunities for collaborative vehicle procurement.</p> <p><b>1.6.3 Minimum specifications</b></p> <p>Specify low-emission vehicle standards for new Council vehicles and plant machinery, for example EURO5 or above standards to be specified for truck and heavy vehicle tenders.</p> <p><b>1.6.4 Sustainable transport</b></p> <p>Continue to promote the use of sustainable transport by Council staff to travel to and from work and meetings through incentives and support.</p>
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## Community

<b>1.7 Improve the energy efficiency of homes, schools and businesses.</b>	<p><b>1.7.1 Energy efficiency support</b></p> <p>Continue to provide information and support for residents to improve energy efficiency and increase uptake of renewable energy.</p> <p><b>1.7.2 Local businesses</b></p> <p>Investigate options for supporting local businesses to reduce energy use.</p> <p><b>1.7.3 Apartment buildings</b></p> <p>Continue to support apartment buildings to innovate and network to explore energy efficiency opportunities.</p> <p><b>1.7.4 Sports clubs</b></p> <p>Continue to deliver education to sporting clubs on improving energy efficiency in Council owned pavilions.</p>
<b>1.8 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</b>	<p><b>1.8.1 Monitoring community emissions</b></p> <p>Investigate ways to report and monitor on community greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
<b>1.9 Transition to renewable energy.</b>	<p><b>1.9.1 Renewable energy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to support and facilitate the uptake and use of renewable energy across Stonnington.</li> <li>b. Investigate ways to support community and commercial renewable energy projects and develop guidelines to help clarify the process.</li> </ul>
<b>1.10 Prepare for the impacts of a changing climate.</b>	<p><b>1.10.1 Education</b></p> <p>Continue to educate and engage the community on the impacts of climate change.</p>

## Strategic priority 1: Climate change and energy

### 1.11 Transition to more sustainable modes of transport including alternative fuel, and fuel efficient vehicles, cycling and public transport.

#### 1.11.1 Infrastructure

- a. Continue to invest in infrastructure to encourage walking and cycling, such as shared-use paths, walking trails, bicycle parking, footpaths, and dedicated cycle lanes.
- b. Support cycling networks and connections that pass through Stonnington and beyond its borders.

#### 1.11.2 Car share

Continue to investigate ways to support and expand car sharing in Stonnington.

#### 1.11.3 Electric vehicles

Investigate ways to support the transition to electric vehicles within the community including facilitating access to charging infrastructure.

#### 1.11.4 Public transport

Advocate to the Victorian Government on priorities as outlined in Council's **Public Transport Advocacy statement**.

#### 1.11.5 Strategic planning

- a. Replace Council's Sustainable Transport Strategy with an **Integrated Transport Strategy**.
- b. Review and update Council's **Cycling Strategy**.

#### 1.11.6 Community programs

Continue to support community programs to encourage walking, cycling and public transport use.



## Strategic priority 2: Resources and waste management

### Council

#### 2.1 Provide best practice waste management services.

##### 2.1.1 Waste service improvements

Undertake a community survey every two years to improve Council waste management services and accessibility.

##### 2.1.2 Waste Transfer Station

Ensure the existing waste transfer station is best practice and explore options to expand the range of materials that can be accepted.

##### 2.1.3 Contracts and tenders

- a. Review and update waste and recycling clauses in relevant Council contracts and tenders to ensure best practice waste management and collection practices are included.
- b. Explore collaborative waste contract options with other councils and the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group.

##### 2.1.4 Planning scheme

- a. Develop waste services criteria for new apartments and multi-unit dwellings, commercial and industrial development that define appropriate waste and recycling collection processes.
- b. Ensure waste management facilities are integrated into the design of new building projects.



## Strategic priority 2: Resources and waste management

<b>2.2 Avoid the production of waste and increase resource recovery.</b>	<b>2.2.1 Kerbside garbage collection service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Maintain Council's existing garbage collection service and continue to explore opportunities to further enhance the service.</li><li>b. Support Stonnington residents to reduce their general waste bin from 240L to 120L.</li></ul>
	<b>2.2.2 Kerbside recycling collection service</b> <p>Maintain Council's existing recycling service and continue to explore opportunities to further enhance the service to improve yield and quality.</p>
	<b>2.2.3 Kerbside garden waste collection service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Maintain Council's existing garden waste collection service and continue to explore opportunities to further enhance the service.</li><li>b. Continue to promote and facilitate increased participation in Council's kerbside garden waste service.</li><li>c. Explore options to trial the collection of food waste in Council's garden waste collection service.</li></ul>
	<b>2.2.4 Hard rubbish collection service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Continue to review Council's existing hard rubbish collection service to ensure it is meeting the needs of the community, is cost effective and maximises reuse opportunities.</li><li>b. Explore ways to support apartment residents to participate in Council's hard rubbish collection service.</li></ul>
	<b>2.2.5 Internal waste management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Continue to seek ways to improve Council's waste management practices through staff engagement and access to appropriate infrastructure and waste management services.</li><li>b. Continue to undertake annual waste audits of Council offices and develop initiatives to facilitate staff behaviour change.</li><li>c. Provide support to build the capacity of Council office cleaners about the impacts of waste generation and improve recycling through engagement and guidelines.</li></ul>
	<b>2.2.6 Functions and events in Council facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Continue to provide waste and recycling bins at Council events and activities on Council land.</li><li>b. Develop a process to separate waste at functions including guidelines and appropriate infrastructure.</li><li>c. Continue to explore options to collect and recycle food waste at Council events.</li></ul>
	<b>2.2.8 Public place recycling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Continue to expand Council's public place recycling program by installing recycling bins in Stonnington shopping areas and other public areas.</li><li>b. Investigate opportunities to increase the range of materials collected through Council's kerbside recycling service, Waste Transfer Station and recycling stations located at Service Centres, pools and libraries.</li><li>c. Explore options to expand the location of recycling stations across Stonnington including schools and shopping centres.</li></ul>
	<b>2.2.9 Electronic waste</b> <p>Continue to support residents to recycle electronic waste in Stonnington by expanding the range of materials collected.</p>
	<b>2.2.10 Innovation</b> <p>Continue to investigate innovative ways to reduce waste to landfill and recover resources through involvement in trials and collaborative grant opportunities.</p>
<b>2.3 Support the reduction of single use plastics in Stonnington.</b>	<b>2.3.1 Plastic wise Council</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Develop and implement a program to support Council and the community to reduce the use and distribution of single use plastic items.</li><li>b. Create awareness on the harmful effects of plastic on the environment.</li></ul>

## Strategic priority 2: Resources and waste management

<p><b>2.4 Close the loop by purchasing materials and services with minimal environmental impact.</b></p>	<p><b>2.4.1 Procurement policy</b></p>	<p>Continue to annually review Council's Procurement Policy to ensure best practice sustainable procurement is integrated into procurement processes.</p>
	<p><b>2.4.2 Sustainable procurement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to explore opportunities to ensure materials and furniture used in public realm projects meet environment and social best practice standards.</li> <li>b. Develop guidance for Council staff on suitable sustainable alternatives for materials and furniture used in public realm projects.</li> <li>c. Continue to identify opportunities to purchase recycled materials to be used in Council operations, where suitable alternatives are available.</li> <li>d. Assess environmental and social risks and opportunities for Council procurement to identify opportunities to incorporate best practice sustainability considerations.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>2.4.3 Tenders and contracts</b></p>	<p>Develop a process to ensure that all Council tender and contract agreements include sustainability criteria and specifications.</p>
	<p><b>2.4.4 Staff engagement and training</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop a formal sustainable procurement engagement and communication plan for Council staff and external stakeholders.</li> <li>b. Develop a training plan to build the capacity of Council staff to incorporate sustainability into purchasing decisions.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>2.4.5 Monitoring</b></p>	<p>Review sustainable procurement reporting metrics and tracking processes to assess effectiveness of progress and identify areas for improvement.</p>
	<p><b>2.4.6 Trial projects</b></p>	<p>Research and, where appropriate, implement new and innovative sustainable materials, products and services.</p>
	<p><b>2.4.7 Corporate paper use</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Explore opportunities to improve Council work efficiency and reduce paper consumption through IT systems and technology.</li> <li>b. Implement education and behaviour change programs to increase the capacity of staff to reduce waste and paper usage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.5 Advocate for improved waste management infrastructure and programs.</b></p>	<p><b>2.5.1 Advocacy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to advocate to the State Government for improved waste management outcomes for Council and the community.</li> <li>b. Support and participate in initiatives and opportunities that advocate for reduced packaging, resource recovery opportunities and improved litter management.</li> <li>c. Advocate to the Victorian Government for improvements to waste management infrastructure at public housing sites.</li> </ul>



## Strategic priority 2: Resources and waste management

## Community

2.6 Reduce the level of contamination in kerbside recycling to be less than the metropolitan Melbourne average.	<b>2.6.1 Kerbside recycling service</b> Develop a program to regularly inspect and monitor kerbside bins to encourage correct use of bins and avoid recycling contamination.
2.7 Avoid the production of waste and increase the diversion of materials from landfill.	<b>2.7.1 Education and engagement</b> Continue to educate and engage the community to reduce waste through events, programs and communication materials <b>2.7.2 Local businesses</b> Work with local businesses to improve waste management practices and reduce waste to landfill. <b>2.7.3 Sports pavilions</b> Engage with local clubs to improve waste management practices at sports pavilions. <b>2.7.4 Planning scheme</b> Review planning controls to ensure waste separation systems in multi-unit developments meet best practice.
2.8 Increase the diversion of food waste from landfill.	<b>2.8.1 Organic waste</b> a. Continue to engage and support the community, including apartment buildings, to recycle food and garden waste on-site through programs and education. b. Engage with local businesses to explore options for diverting food waste in cafes and other outlets from the general waste stream. c. Investigate opportunities to support communal composting in Stonnington. See also Action 2.2.3 (c)
2.9 Choose materials, goods and services that have minimal environmental impact.	<b>2.9.1 Community education and engagement</b> Continue to educate and engage the community on choosing materials, goods and services that have minimal environmental impacts.
2.10 Engage with waste management programs and services, local to Stonnington.	<b>2.10.1 Communications and engagement</b> a. Develop a communications strategy to educate and engage the community on waste management, waste avoidance and reuse. b. Develop communications materials in relevant community languages to engage CALD community groups.



## Strategic priority 3: Integrated water management

### Council

<p><b>3.1 Maximise water efficiency in Council buildings, facilities, sports grounds and open spaces through design, technology and innovation.</b></p>	<p><b>3.1.1 Water efficiency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Undertake an assessment of potential water efficiency opportunities at Council buildings and facilities and develop a plan to implement improvements that deliver permanent water reductions and minimise use of potable water.</li> <li>b. Undertake a review of Council's current irrigation practices for sports grounds and open spaces and implement improvements to meet industry best practice.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>3.1.2 Appliances and fittings</b></p> <p>Ensure minimum water efficiency standards for major and minor appliances and fittings are specified and selected for Council buildings and new Council building projects.</p>
	<p><b>3.1.3 Smart technology</b></p> <p>Investigate opportunities to integrate smart technology at Council buildings, facilities, sports grounds and open spaces including monitoring devices, timers and sensors, to improve water efficiency and support behaviour change and engagement.</p>
	<p><b>3.1.4 Building maintenance</b></p> <p>Ensure that all maintenance upgrades support water efficiency improvements.</p>
	<p><b>3.1.5 Monitoring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to assess and implement improvements to Council's water data management process.</li> <li>b. Advocate to water authorities to develop and implement smart metering and monitoring technologies for water consumption.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.2 Install and maintain Water Sensitive Urban Design treatments throughout the city.</b></p>	<p><b>3.2.1 WSUD infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to identify and implement opportunities to include WSUD infrastructure e.g. raingardens, tree pits, structural soils and strata cells, for road and streetscape renewal projects and major precinct redevelopment projects.</li> <li>b. Continue to investigate opportunities to include best practice WSUD and integrated water management principles within capital works projects.</li> <li>c. Develop a process to ensure all WSUD infrastructure is registered and maintained to Council and Melbourne Water best practice maintenance guidelines.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>3.2.2 Capacity building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to engage and develop staff understanding of integrated water management, water sensitive urban design and water conservation principles.</li> <li>b. Develop and incorporate standardised specifications and drawings that ensure Council achieves best practice design for new and existing trees in infrastructure upgrades.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>3.2.3 Drought tolerant plants</b></p> <p>Continue to identify opportunities to plant drought tolerant species in Council parks, gardens, streets and projects where appropriate.</p>
<p><b>3.3 Achieve minimum Water Sensitive Urban Design standards for Council building projects.</b></p>	<p><b>3.3.1 WSUD standard</b></p> <p>Ensure all new Council building and redevelopment projects meet minimum ESD and WSUD standards aligned with Council's requirements of private developments through the WSUD Local Planning Policy.</p> <p><b>3.3.2 WSUD capacity building</b></p> <p>Develop and implement education activities that increase the capacity of Council staff to better understand and incorporate WSUD principles in Council building and redevelopment projects.</p>

## Strategic priority 3: Integrated water management

<b>3.4 Support development to meet minimum Water Sensitive Urban Design standards.</b>	<b>3.4.1 Meeting WSUD standards</b> Continue to ensure minimum WSUD standards are realised in development projects.
	<b>3.4.2 WSUD capacity building</b> Develop and implement education activities that increase the capacity of developers to better understand and incorporate WSUD principles.
<b>3.5 Increase the collection and use of non-potable water.</b>	<b>3.5.1 Water assets</b> Undertake a review of Council's water management and capture assets and where possible, implement improvements to meet industry best practice.
<b>3.6 Improve the health of local waterways.</b>	<b>3.6.1 Collaborative partnerships</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support state government strategic planning initiatives to protect and enhance the Yarra River.</li><li>Explore opportunities to partner with neighbouring councils and water authorities to protect and manage local waterways.</li></ol>
<b>Community</b>	
<b>3.7 Use water more efficiently.</b>	<b>3.7.1 Community engagement</b> Continue to educate and engage the community to reduce water use through events, programs and communication materials.
<b>3.8 Help improve the health of local waterways.</b>	<b>3.8.1 Community engagement</b> Continue to educate and engage the community to reduce water pollution through events, programs and communication materials.



## Strategic priority 4: Urban environment

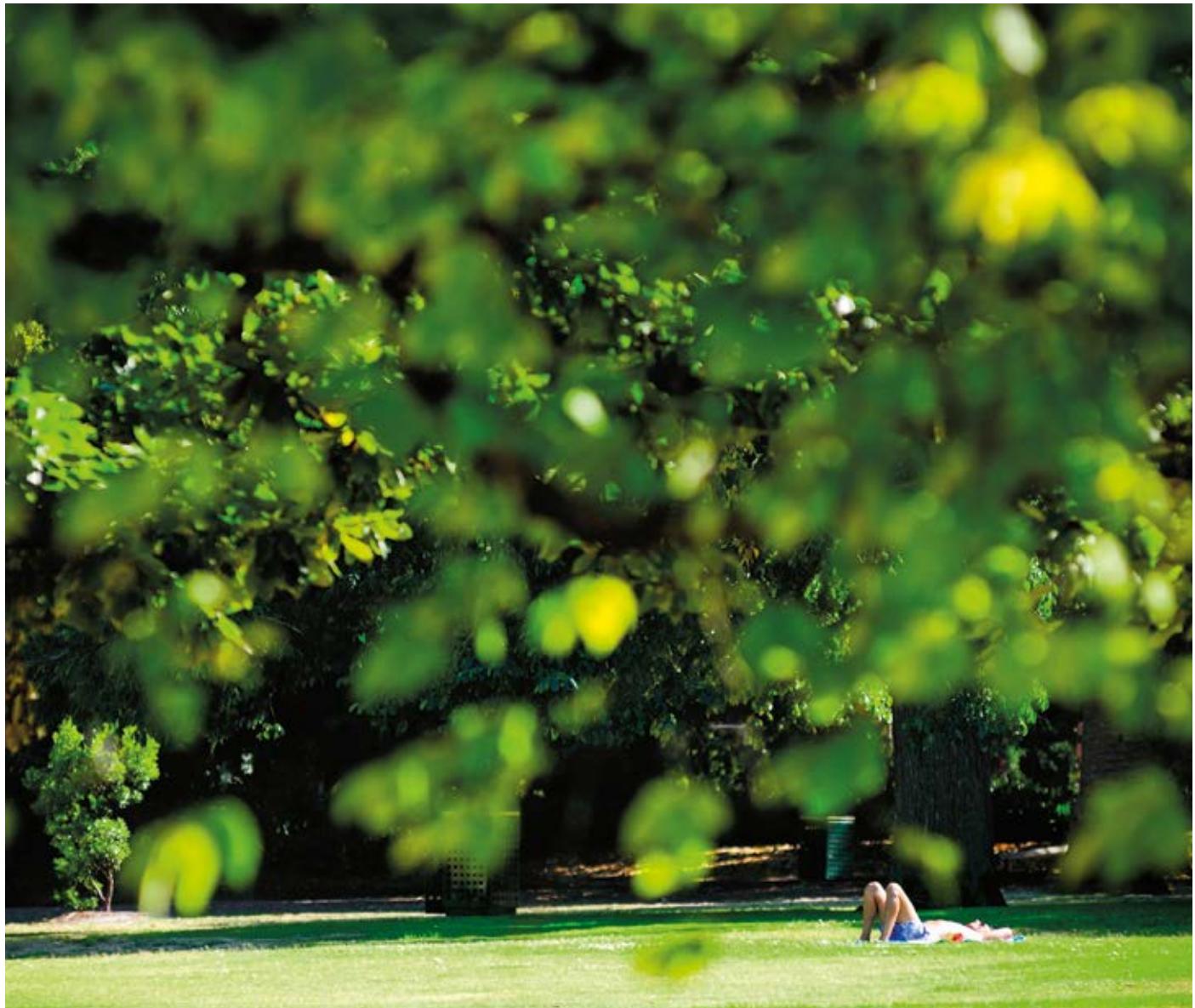
### Council

<p><b>4.1 Protect, maintain and enhance areas of natural environment throughout the City.</b></p>	<p><b>4.1.1 Enhance the natural environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to undertake revegetation activities in Council's seven key biodiversity sites to enhance biodiversity.</li> <li>b. Continue to investigate ways to enhance biodiversity in the public realm including the integration of indigenous plants, habitat hollows and nesting boxes in parks, gardens and streetscapes.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>4.1.2 Community engagement</b></p> <p>Continue to run school, community and Council staff tree planting days to enhance biodiversity in Stonnington parks and gardens.</p>
	<p><b>4.1.3 Green corridors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Complete and maintain the Yarra River Biodiversity Project to improve habitat connectivity and water quality and provide recreational and educational opportunities for the community.</li> <li>b. Complete and maintain the Scotchmans Creek revegetation project to improve habitat connectivity and water quality.</li> <li>c. Develop and implement a revegetation and biodiversity enhancement project along Gardiners Creek.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>4.1.4 Biodiversity monitoring</b></p> <p>Develop and implement a biodiversity monitoring program to track and promote biodiversity improvements across the city.</p>
	<p><b>4.1.5 Weed control</b></p> <p>Continue to explore options to efficiently, effectively and safely manage weeds including the safe use of approved chemicals.</p>
<p><b>4.2 Manage the urban forest to ensure a cool, healthy and liveable city.</b></p>	<p><b>4.2.1 Urban Forest Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Support the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy.</li> <li>b. Investigate controls within the Planning Scheme to support the desired outcomes of the Urban Forest Strategy.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>4.2.2 Capacity Building</b></p> <p>Collaborate with relevant Council staff to refine the design and construction process for tree infrastructure assets.</p>
<p><b>4.3 Integrate green infrastructure throughout the municipality.</b></p>	<p><b>4.3.1 Green infrastructure</b></p> <p>Identify and scope opportunities for trial green infrastructure projects throughout the municipality including on Council buildings, in city carparks and on local streets.</p>
<p><b>4.4 Grow the urban forest by planting 250,000 plants and trees throughout the municipality over the next five years.</b></p>	<p><b>4.4.1 Tree planting</b></p> <p>Continue to deliver and expand Council's annual tree planting program across parks, gardens, city streets and waterway regeneration projects.</p>

## Strategic priority 4: Urban environment

## Community

4.5 Integrate green infrastructure in developments.	<b>4.5.1 Green infrastructure</b> Identify and develop processes to support the implementation of green infrastructure by developers.
4.6 Increase connection and engagement in Council's natural environment.	<b>4.6.1 Nature connection</b> Continue to increase community connection and engagement with the natural environment by integrating furniture and rest areas into landscape and revegetation projects.
	<b>4.6.2 Communications</b> Develop and implement a communications campaign to promote the benefits of nature, raise awareness of the benefit of trees and encourage the community to protect existing trees on private land.
4.7 Improve habitat on private land for native wildlife.	<b>4.7.1 Biodiversity in backyards</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop and implement a program to encourage biodiversity and habitat gardening on private land.</li><li>Continue to support sustainable gardening practices within Stonnington through events and information.</li></ol>



## Strategic priority 5: Education, engagement and collaboration

### Council

<p><b>5.1 Integrate sustainability into Council services, functions and decision-making processes.</b></p>	<p><b>5.1.1 Policies and plans</b> Continue to integrate environmental considerations into Council's policies, plans and decision-making.</p>
	<p><b>5.1.2 Capacity building</b> Continue to build the capacity of staff to assist them to deliver sustainability outcomes in their roles within Council.</p>
	<p><b>5.1.3 Council leadership</b> Continue to drive organisational change and implement Council's sustainability commitments through Council staff, senior management and Council.</p>
<p><b>5.2 Monitor, evaluate and publicly report on Council's progress towards achieving its sustainability objectives and targets.</b></p>	<p><b>5.2.1 Annual reporting</b> Continue to publicly report annually on Council's environmental performance and achievements.</p> <p><b>5.2.2 Data management system</b> Continue to investigate opportunities to improve data management and capture of Council's key sustainability indicators.</p>
<p><b>5.3 Develop and strengthen partnerships with relevant external stakeholders to advance sustainability.</b></p>	<p><b>5.3.1 Partnerships</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to support local community groups and activities to empower and engage the wider community.</li> <li>b. Continue to investigate opportunities to work with key external stakeholders to deliver outcomes associated with Council's key strategic priority areas as outlined in this strategy.</li> <li>c. Explore options to join state, national and global sustainability programs that contribute to Council's leadership and sustainability commitments.</li> </ul> </p>
	<p><b>5.3.2 Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to collaborate and partner with other local governments within Melbourne on sustainability projects.</li> <li>b. Continue to investigate opportunities to work collaboratively with Distribution Network Service Providers to identify energy efficiency initiatives to improve electricity network reliability and community resilience.</li> <li>c. Continue to collaborate with other metropolitan councils to support innovation and sustainability in apartment buildings.</li> </ul> </p>
<p><b>5.4 Support staff action and behaviour change through environmental education and engagement.</b></p>	<p><b>5.4.1 Internal engagement</b> Continue to engage with Council staff through sustainability programs and activities to support staff action and behaviour change.</p>

## Strategic priority 5: Education, engagement and collaboration

## Community

<b>5.5 Reduce its environmental impact through environmental education and engagement.</b>	<b>5.5.1 Communication</b> Continue to engage and educate the community on sustainability through information, news, events and programs.
	<b>5.5.2 Culturally and linguistically diverse community</b> Develop material and education resources for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups on a range of sustainability topics.
	<b>5.5.3 Vulnerable communities</b> Build the capacity of Home and Community Care (HACC) staff to engage with vulnerable communities on energy efficiency and heatwave preparedness.
	<b>5.5.4 Green schools</b> Continue to investigate opportunities to develop and expand Council's Green Schools Program.
	<b>5.5.5 Community sustainability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Continue to explore ways to support community sustainability action, including through grants, education and volunteering activities.</li><li>b. Continue to explore opportunities to work with owners corporations and residents of apartment buildings to improve sustainability on-site.</li><li>c. Continue to explore opportunities to support local businesses to improve sustainability through education and support.</li><li>d. Continue to deliver a series of environmental events to support and advance sustainability action.</li><li>e. Develop a program to work with local real estate agents and owners corporations to provide sustainability information to new tenants and new home owners.</li></ul>







## City of Stonnington

**Mail**  
PO Box 58, Malvern Victoria 3144  
**T** 8290 1333  
**F** 8290 2255  
[council@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@stonnington.vic.gov.au)

## Service Centres

**Stonnington City Centre**  
311 Glenferrie Road, Malvern

**Prahran Town Hall**  
Corner Chapel and Greville Streets, Prahran

**Depot**  
293 Tooronga Road, Malvern

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