THEME 4:

I want to protect the environment and be ready for a changing climate. How will you support our community and neighbourhood to be green and sustainable?

Our ongoing work

We protect and preserve natural areas such as bushland, waterways, parks, and wildlife habitats so that ecosystems stay healthy and communities can enjoy clean, green and nature-rich neighbourhoods.

- Deliver the maintenance of nature conservation reserves, waterways and roadsides to protect animals and plants and provide opportunities for the community to connect to nature.
- Monitor and protect local plants and animals on Council owned and managed land through regular surveys and wildlife management practices.
- Partner with local groups to bring cultural knowledge into land management and preservation practices.
- Deliver the protection of significant and heritage trees to preserve their history, cultural and environmental importance.
- Enforce building and land use rules to protect the environment and save water.
- Support water conservation and quality through monitoring, water management projects and planning waterway corridors, along with water-saving measures in new Council buildings and public spaces.
- Deliver ongoing monitoring and care for closed landfill sites to protect the surrounding environment.

We actively address climate change by reducing Council's emissions and continuously enhancing the sustainability of our operations.

- Deliver a growing tree canopy cover across the municipality by planting new trees and caring for existing ones to reduce urban heat.
- Partner on regional climate action initiatives with a focus on carbon reduction and climate adaptation.
- Deliver continued reduction of Council's carbon emissions, including converting Council facilities to all-electric and upgrading public streetlights.
- Plan for gas-to-electricity conversion at Council-owned aquatic centres to reduce carbon emissions, improve efficiency and reduce power costs.

We support the community to take local climate action, make sustainable choices and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate.

- Deliver community education to raise awareness about the benefits of trees and canopy cover.
- Provide the community with tools and advice on living sustainably, adapting to climate change, responding to extreme heat and fire safety.
- Partner with local Landcare and 'Friends of' groups to help care for nature.
- Partner with other organisations to deliver bush kindergarten programs and pop-up bush playgroups.
- Provide guidance to those managing land in rural areas on best practices for sustainable land care and pest control for introduced species.

Strategic Priority

SP9	Deliver and advocate for initiatives that help people and businesses make homes and workplaces more comfortable, energy-efficient and environmentally friendly.	HP DAP
SP10	Provide additional opportunities to generate local carbon offsets on Council owned and private land to help reduce municipal wide carbon emissions.	HP DAP
SP11	Deliver the City Forest program, planting more than 60,000 trees and working towards a target of an additional tree per resident across the municipality, to increase canopy cover, decrease urban heat and enhance biodiversity.	HP DAP
SP12	Deliver new stormwater harvesting at Council-owned sports fields and facilities to reduce potable water reliance, enhance water conservation and generate savings.	HP DAP

HP Health Plan DAP Disability Action Plan

Responsibility of others

Service or program by others	Who
Conservation management of State government owned land, such as the Plenty Gorge Parklands and Yan Yean Reservoir	Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Department of Environment, Energy, Water and Climate Action
Secure the Grassy Eucalypts Woodland Reserve within the Green Wedge	Department of Environment, Energy, Water and Climate Action
Continue to invest in home energy upgrades to support the thermal efficiency and comfort of our residents' homes	Victorian Government, Australian Government

Community quote:

"Education on sustainability and what people can do in their own homes - solar panels, water tanks, composting, recycling."

