



Sustainable Environment Strategy

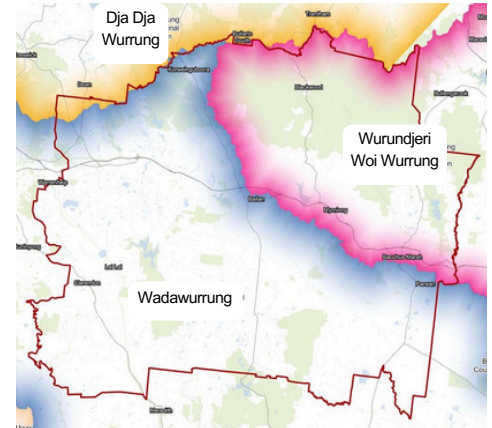
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Acknowledgement of country

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land which includes the **Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung**, **Wadawurrung** and **Dja Dja Wurrung** people. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.



Map of Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporations



Lal Lal Falls

Introduction

Moorabool Shire intersects a unique range of urban, environmental and agricultural landscapes, creating a distinctive piece of Victoria in which to live and work. As a peri-urban Shire, we are proud to showcase our prosperous country lifestyle, and our productive rural landscapes provide peaceful and scenic vistas surrounded by rugged ranges, flowing river plains and lush bushland. Our public reserves, parks and roadsides support critical biodiversity habitat for threatened and endangered species, and we are home to a highly passionate community who are strong advocates for the protection of the environment.

At Council, we value our environment and have been undertaking a range of programs to demonstrate this, such as installing solar panels on our buildings, transitioning our buildings’ equipment and fleet towards electric, and planting thousands of trees and shrubs alongside our community. Development planning also requires specific environmental management plans in order to be approved.

Our vision for this strategy aligns with our 2030 Community Vision which seeks to:

“Preserve our natural environment and champion sustainable practices through transparent and proactive activities that inspire action”

To achieve this we will focus on three strategic areas, each with their own specific goals and actions for Council:

THREE STRATEGIC AREAS



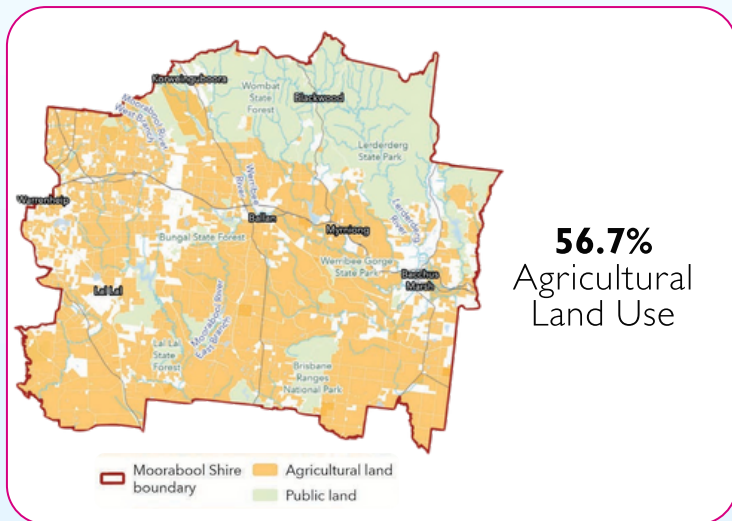
However, we know that more needs to be done. Droughts, bushfires and storms are predicted to increase in severity over the coming decades and their impact could be significant if we don’t seek to adapt our Shire by creating sustainable, liveable and safe communities.

As a fast-growing municipality we acknowledge that unsustainable growth and climate change pose some of the biggest challenges for our future environment and community. To address this, we recognise that there is a significant opportunity to renew our commitment to the environment and our community through our Sustainable Environment Strategy.

This Sustainable Environment Strategy will guide our decision-making and activities to create a more sustainable future for Moorabool. We have a big task ahead of us to manage our natural and built environment more sustainably, but together with our partners and community we can deliver sustainable outcomes into the future.

A snapshot of Moorabool's environment

Our environment is home to three important rivers: the Werribee, Lerderderg and the Moorabool which run through the Central Victorian Highlands into the Victorian Volcanic Plains. These landscapes provide habitat to a vast range of wildlife, including threatened species such as Greater Gliders, Growling Grass Frogs, Little Eagles, Striped Legless Lizards, Platypus, and, in winter, beautiful, critically endangered Swift Parrots.

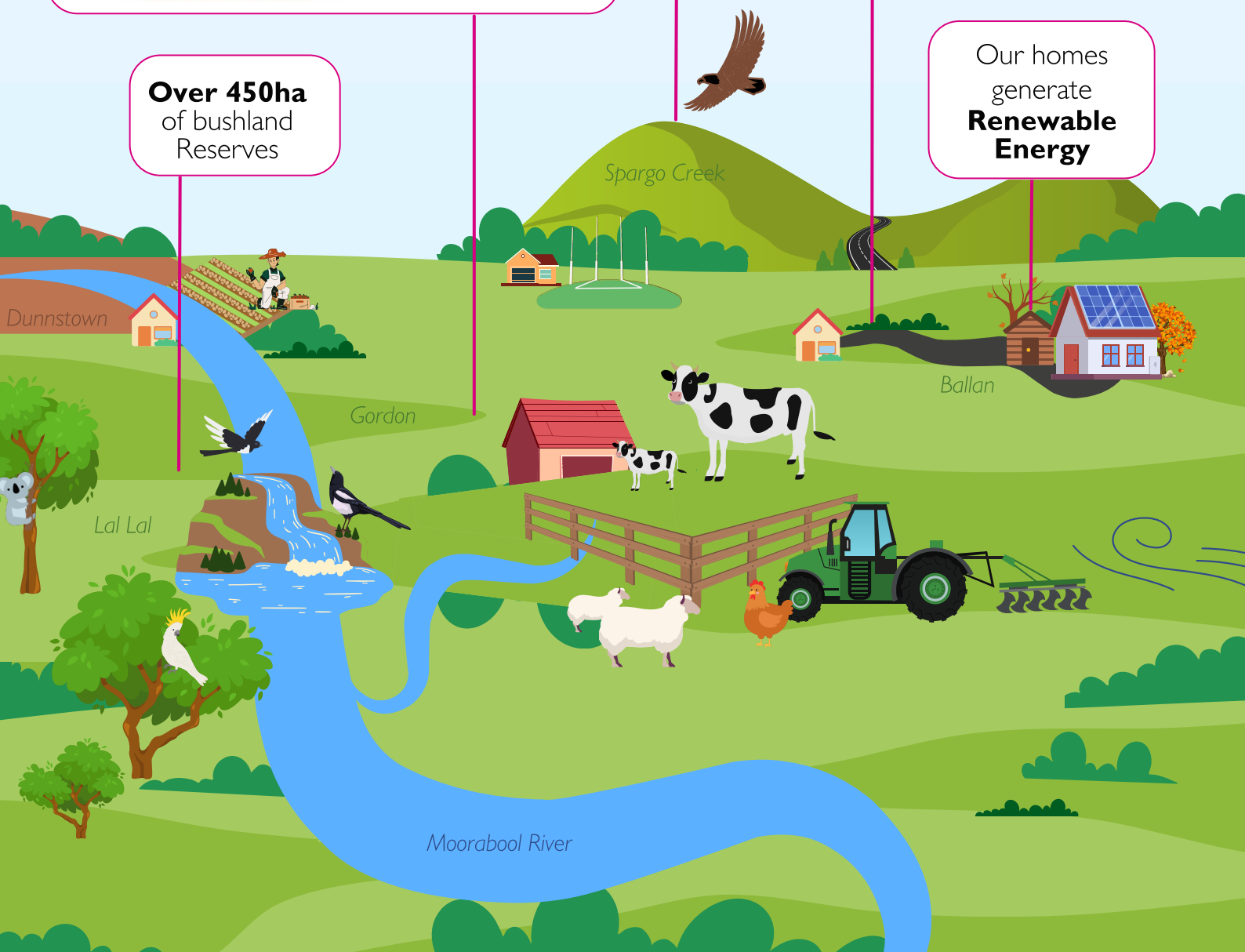


17
Threatened
and
Endangered
Species

Over 1400kms
of Roadside
Vegetation

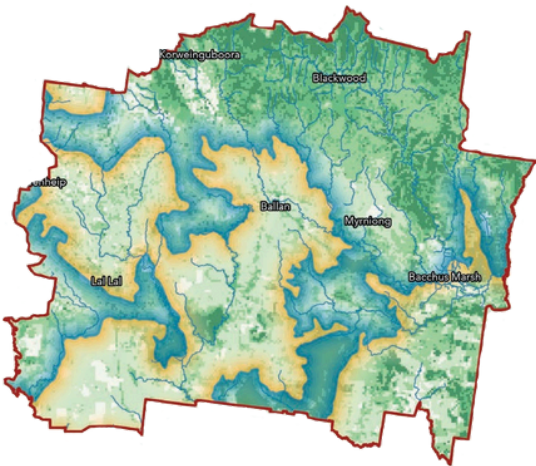
Our homes
generate
**Renewable
Energy**

Over 450ha
of bushland
Reserves



WHO LOOKS AFTER OUR ENVIRONMENT?

Moorabool Shire and its community are lucky to have many different organisations and community groups nurturing our environment. This includes three Traditional Owner Corporations, Parks Victoria, and the Corangamite, North Central and Port Phillip Catchment Management Authorities who undertake integrated catchment management and look after our natural waterways. Moorabool's environment is also cared for by many passionate Landcare, 'Friends of', and community volunteer groups.



TWO
Bioregions

Bioregion
Central Victorian Uplands
Victorian Volcanic Plain

Strategic Biodiversity Value
Lowest
Highest

27%
of Moorabool is State and Federal
Protected Parks and Forests

THREE
Major Rivers



Challenges and opportunities

Environmental sustainability is crucial for Moorabool to preserve our environmental health, liveability and unique landscapes. The forests, waterways and agricultural land which form Moorabool Shire are central to our economy, identity and wellbeing. The region’s proximity to key natural places presents both opportunities and challenges for environmental sustainability. We recognise that if we do not address these challenges, Moorabool could risk significant impacts to our environment which ultimately compromises our community’s health and wellbeing.

OUR CHANGING COMMUNITY

We are a fast-growing municipality which has seen significant urban development over the last four decades in order to keep up with our growing population. Supporting infrastructure will be required to service these communities including transport, waste recovery, open space, early years education, etc. and the challenge will be to ensure that this growth does not negatively impact on our natural environment or the idyllic rural lifestyle desired by our community.

Between 2021 and 2046, the population for **Moorabool Shire is forecast to increase by 35,749 persons (94.24% growth)**, at an average annual change of 2.69%.

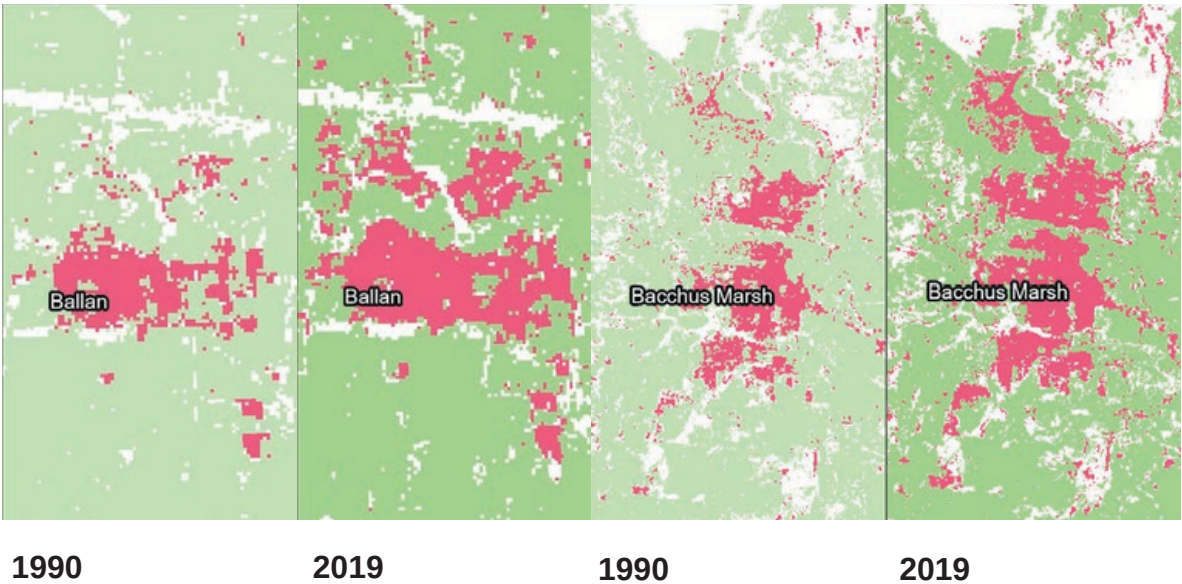
Population growth continues to change and challenge our landscapes, often encroaching on agricultural land. The Victorian Government has set a housing target for Moorabool of 20,000 new homes by 2050. In the past 5 years over 350 dwellings and 1900 subdivisions were approved in preparation for current growth predictions.

Our changing demographic presents an opportunity for Council to use a range of mechanisms that seek to protect the character and amenity of the Shire while ensuring that new development has less of an impact on the natural values of our shire.

The figure below demonstrates increases in built form over the past almost 30 years.



Community farmers markets



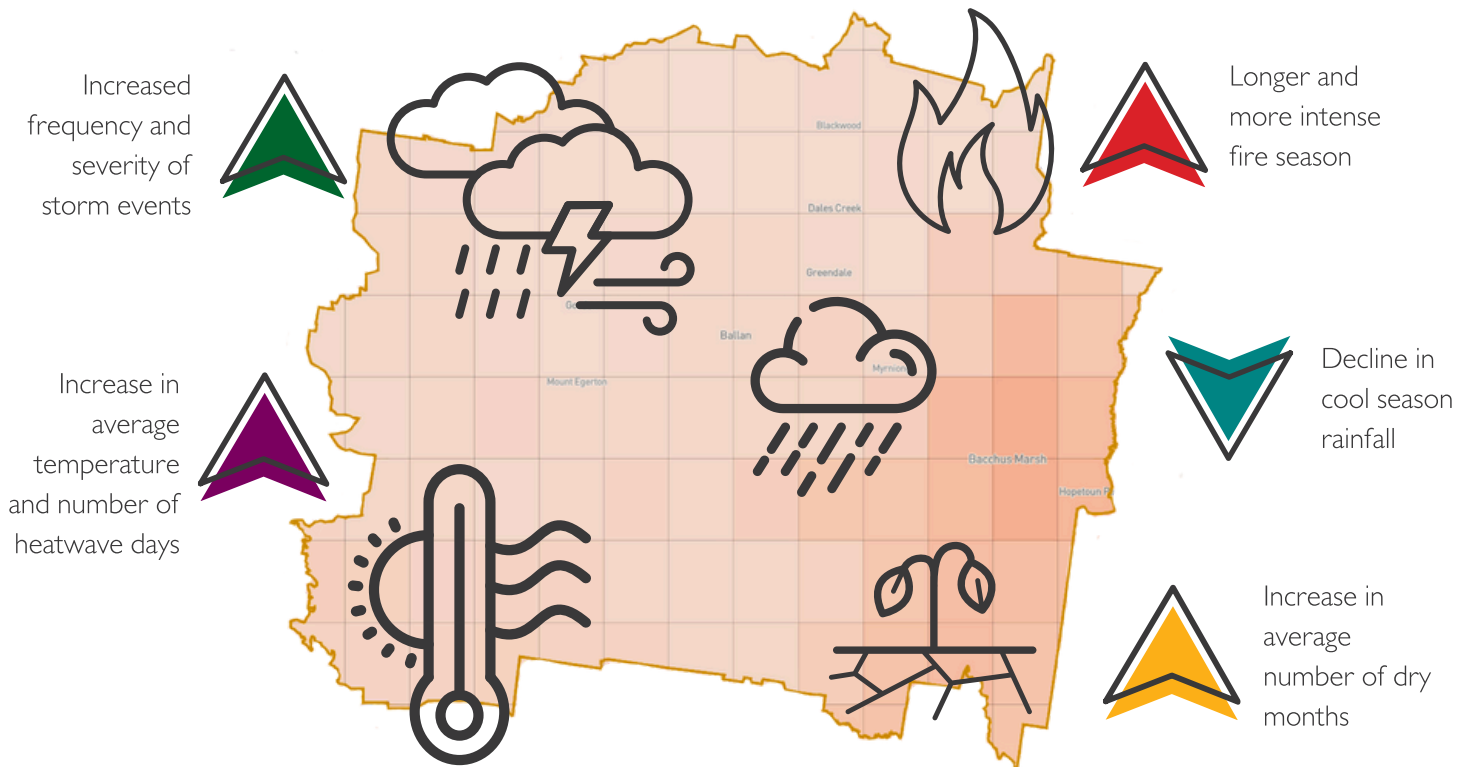
The increase in built form across the Shire as a result of residential housing built since 1990 to 2019

OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

Climate change is likely to be one of the biggest challenges facing Moorabool and its community. We have already seen extensive droughts, storms, fires and floods, all of which are modelled to increase in frequency and intensity. Climate change has the potential to impact on our health, homes, agriculture, infrastructure and environment.

Building resilience into the work we do will be key in helping Moorabool and the broader region to adapt to these changes. This means requiring safer, more sustainable housing, growing greener, cooler landscapes, reducing our waste and greenhouse gas emissions, and empowering our community to make their own adaptation decisions.

PREDICTED CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS TO MOORABOOL SHIRE

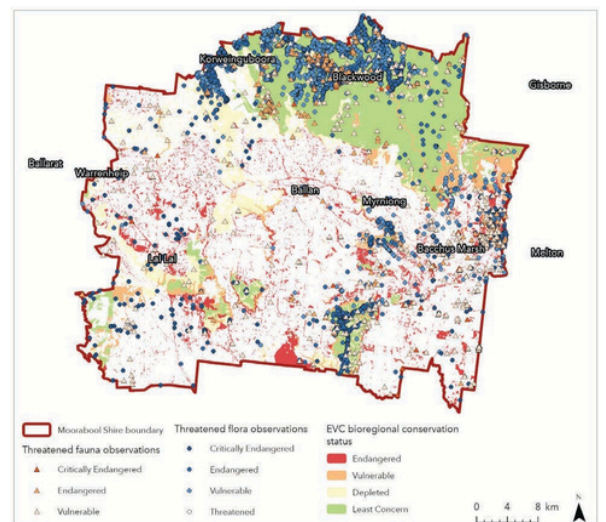


OUR CHANGING NATURE

Some of our most valued natural assets are under increasing threat from pests and weeds which compromise their capacity to remain healthy and viable, this includes our threatened species and ecological vegetation communities (EVC'S).

Our growing population and industry activities (agriculture, mining, energy, etc.) continue to put pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity throughout the Shire though also present a tangible opportunity for improvement.

Moorabool is home to species that don't occur anywhere else, such as the Werribee Blue Box tree (*Eucalyptus baueriana subsp. thalassina*) which is unique to the Werribee River, and the Bacchus Marsh Wattle (*Acacia rostriformis*) which occurs only in the Bacchus Marsh area.



Map of threatened flora and fauna across Moorabool

Managing our environment

WHAT IS COUNCIL’S ROLE?

Council plays a key role in:

- managing environmental assets under its control (such as parks, bushland reserves and rural roads)
- influencing the environmental outcomes from planning and development, and
- partnering with regional, state and national agencies to support the delivery of environmental sustainability programs.

The following section outlines the important role Moorabool Shire Council plays in national, state and local environmental sustainability.

Council is required, under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020, to:

- **Promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district**, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks
- **Give priority to achieving the best outcomes** for the municipal community, including future generations
- **Take into account the regional, state, and national plans and policies** during council’s strategic planning
- **Ensure its decisions, actions, and information are transparent**

While Council acts on a local scale, our operations and strategies must align with the broader state and federal context. Under the requirements from state and federal laws, Council:

- **Protects biodiversity** listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- **Keeps our community, infrastructure and environment safe from climate change** under the *Local Government Act 2020*
- **Actively reduces and removes pests and weeds that threaten the health of the environment** under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*

A full list of our responsibilities under Federal and State legislation and within our own strategies and plans are included in Appendix 2.

GLOBAL ISSUE, LOCAL ACTION

Council recognises the importance of making efforts locally in response to Climate Change. **As the closest level of government to the community, Council are best placed to support our community toward a climate prepared future.** The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals highlight areas that Council can have direct influence on, such as:

- **Reduce emissions of Council operated buildings**
- **Promote climate change resilience and adaptation**
- **Encourage waste and resource recovery**
- **Advocate for affordable and clean energy**



17 UN Sustainable Development Goals

WHAT ROLE DO OTHERS PLAY?

Many of our beautiful natural assets are owned and managed by other government agencies such as DEECA and Parks Victoria. Their roles are to protect and enhance the areas under their jurisdiction. In some cases Council is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of this land through an established Committee of Management. There are unique opportunities to partner with these agencies and provide complimentary management actions on adjacent parks and roadsides to achieve shared outcomes (e.g. habitat connectivity, weed control, fire prevention, access and safety).

A substantial amount of environmental conservation and improvement programs are run by Water Catchment Management Authorities, local Landcare groups and Non-profits like Grow West. Their work reaches areas across the entire shire and focuses on revegetation with indigenous vegetation.

Private landowners, including farmers own the majority of land within our shire. They are responsible for the stewardship of their own land in line with relevant environmental legislation, weed control is a main component of this. Council can support weed control and revegetation efforts on private land through education and connecting landowners with local groups.

We acknowledge that we alone cannot manage and restore all elements of our environment; so working in partnership can have a greater impact.

A list of groups/agencies, their role and our partnership opportunities with them are included in Appendix 1.



Farmland in Parwan South

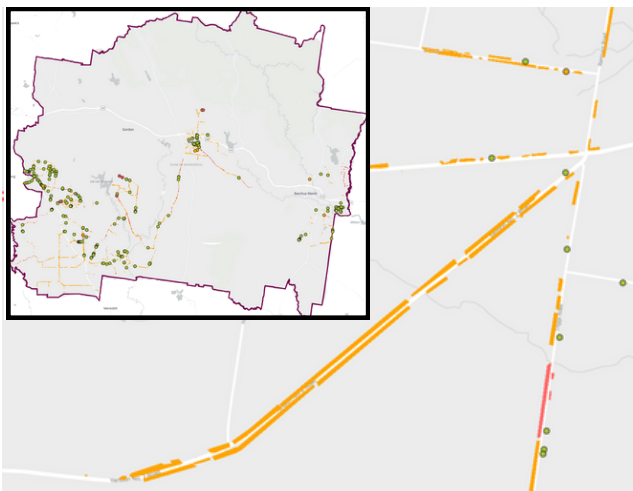
WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL?

Council currently undertakes core environmental asset management across the Shire. This includes revegetation, open space maintenance, rural roadside protection and maintenance, providing opportunities for the community to be involved, and ensuring our developments and buildings are more sustainable.

OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Some natural environment based actions Council already work towards include:

- Proactive pest plant and animal management
- Conducting roadside conservation and habitat values mapping
- Planting 5,000 seedlings in open spaces each year
- Stormwater harvesting from Council Buildings to use on sports fields



Examples of roadside conservation values across Moorabool

Biodiversity Conservation Values along our rural roads (example above)

We are currently undertaking a comprehensive assessment of all the roads in the Shire to understand the conservation values of our roadsides. Roadsides are often some of the last remnant vegetation in the landscape and act as much needed biodiversity corridors and habitat for native plants and animals. We want to make sure that we understand the current condition of our roadsides to be able to protect these values from key threats and effectively manage them within the context of fire and road safety.

OUR COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

Some community-based actions Council already work towards include:

- Partnering with Landcare to enhance parks and open spaces
- Hosting Native Plant Giveaways
- Providing Community Grants for Environmental and Sustainability Projects

We also partner with WAGA for collective climate action as appropriate.

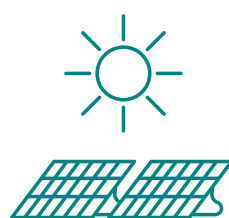
OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some built environment-based actions Council already work towards include:

- Participate in the Sustainable Subdivision Framework to guide sustainable development
- Using Recycled Materials where appropriate in pavements, roads, furniture, fences and bollards
- Installing Solar Panels on Council Buildings
- Upgrading public lighting to energy efficient globes
- Planting trees in our urban parks and reserves



Council has **3 Electric Vehicles** which has saved over 4500L of fuel and reduced our fleet carbon emissions by over 4000kgs



Council has over **410 Solar Panels** on our buildings reducing our dependence on fossil fuels

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?

Consultation for the Moorabool Community Vision identified that 95% of our community want to see improvements in the natural environment, and 87% want to see improvements in Council's sustainability efforts.

We see this strategy as the critical first step to improving our management of our environment sustainably in response to community expectations.

Planning and Operational Improvements

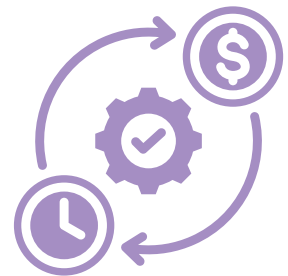


We recognise the need to **continually improve our planning and operations to ensure we have greater capacity, skills and knowledge** to look after our environment.

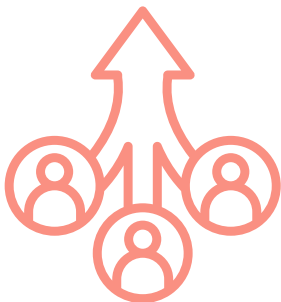
We know from our Community Vision, that the Moorabool community values our natural environment and wants Council to enact services that better protect it. The community is also concerned by the increasing environmental threats of population growth, urban sprawl and climate change.

Resourcing Improvements

Our current resourcing and budgets do not always allow us to be able to deliver all the programs we would otherwise want to. However, we know that there is always an **opportunity to improve our resource management while striving for more positive and impactful environmental outcomes.**



Data and Partnership Improvements



We understand that we have a **clear opportunity to better align our work with key regional, state and federal priorities.**

In the past, we have not had a plan in place to think strategically about our programs and therefore leverage off other work being done by others. We recognise the value in **working smarter through meaningful partnerships** with others to maximise outcomes on the ground. A good example of this, is **data collection**. We have very little Moorabool specific data about our key environmental and built form assets.

Partnering with other groups and agencies such as Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and Melbourne Water, who undertake significant data collection, could address this gap.



1000+ Steps - Bald Hill, Darley

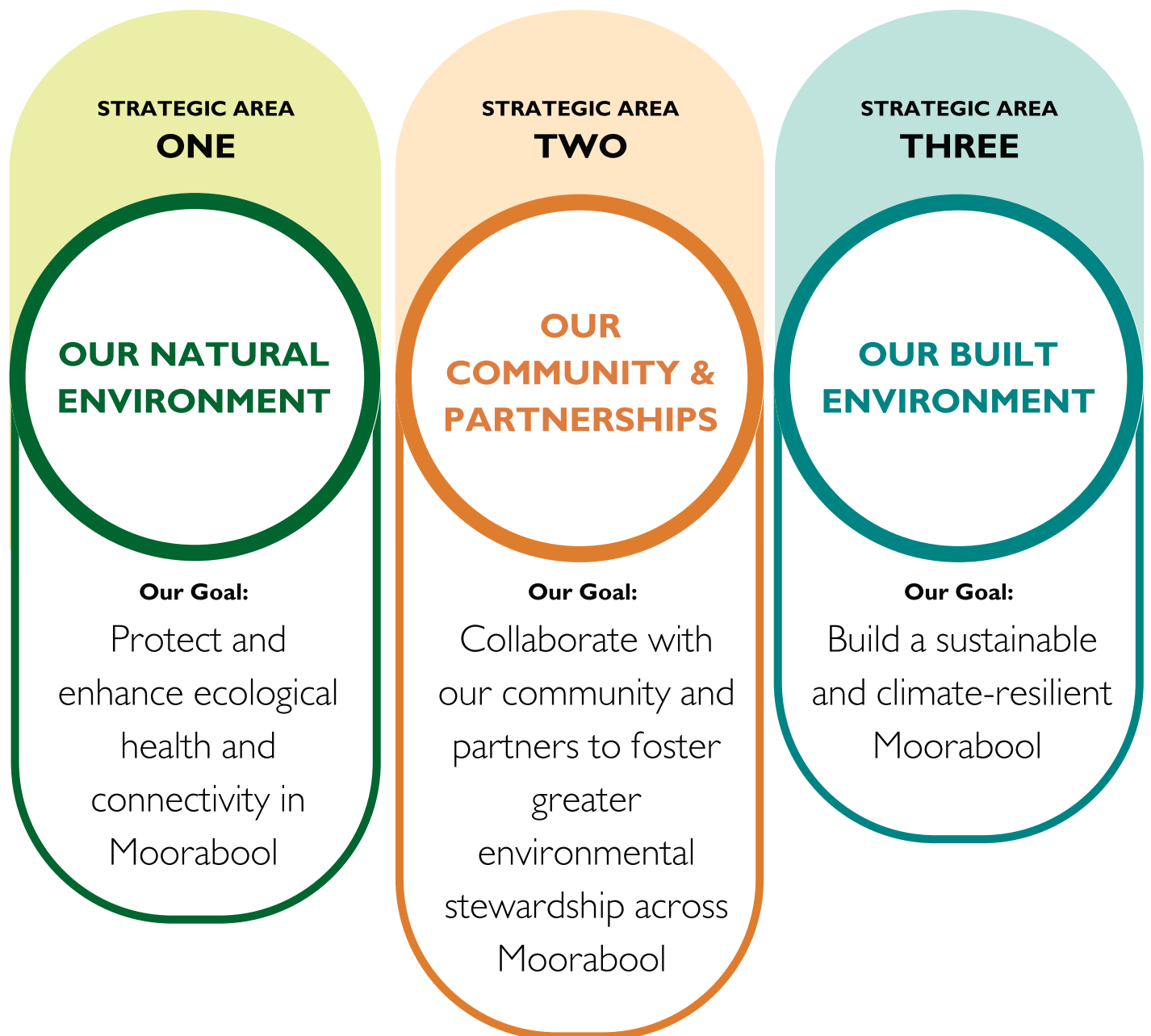
Pathways for action

Our guiding vision for Moorabool is to:

“Preserve our natural environment and champion sustainable practices through transparent and proactive activities that inspire action”

Our key goal for the Strategy is to promote sustainability across the organisation, within our community and for our key stakeholders. We have identified three strategic focus areas for our actions, they are based on the programs and assets where we have the biggest influence.

These are:



Each of these strategic area identifies actions that Council, partners and community members can take to support our environmental aspirations.

STRATEGIC AREA ONE

OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Our goal is to:

Protect and enhance ecological health and connectivity in Moorabool

This means seeking to manage, restore and protect the vegetation and habitat of our:

- *Forests and bushlands*
- *Waterways and associated reserves*
- *Open spaces and parklands*
- *Rural roadsides*
- *Rural and agricultural land*

Our actions within strategic area one align with the below UN Sustainable Development Goals:



HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCESSFUL?

We will measure our success using the below key indicators:

- Strategic revegetation works have increased and weed spread is limited
- Bushland Reserves Prioritisation and Planning Guideline and Conservation Management Plans have been developed for Council bushland reserves
- Public tree canopy cover in our townships is increased each year to reach 30% tree canopy cover by 2050
- Our key biodiversity and roadside vegetation values data has been collected
- Biodiversity and roadside vegetation data is mapped in Council's spatial assets system and used to inform planning applications and asset management planning

WHAT WILL WE DO TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL?

COUNCIL WILL:

- **Manage and care for our natural places**, by improving data collection on reserve and roadside vegetation, undertaking strategic and climate sustainable revegetation, improving litter control efforts, and using best practice environmentally-friendly plant and weed management.
- **Develop management plans for our reserves** to inform strategic revegetation, pest and weed control and protection of critical habitat
- **Manage our urban trees to increase tree canopy cover on public land** in our townships. We will also measure our baseline urban tree canopy cover
- **Review our urban tree strategy** to increase protection of existing trees and ensure we are planting more of the right trees in the right locations
- **Enhance biodiversity** through the strategic planning and planting of native vegetation and trees
- **Identify and map the distribution of biodiversity in our roadsides, parks and open spaces** prioritising the mapping of threatened and endangered species and ecological communities
- **Complement delivery of our Roadside Action Plan by improving data capture** to protect biodiversity and threatened species on our rural roadsides and reduce the threat of pest plants and animals
- **Seek to better protect threatened and endangered species** by exploring considered and appropriate planning controls and enforcement opportunities suited to Moorabool's planning scheme and local laws

COUNCIL WILL WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS TO:

- **Support delivery of agency/organisational strategic plans** that align with our sustainable environment goals e.g. Regional Catchment Strategies
- **Collect and share biodiversity, ecological corridors and threatened species data** to identify management priorities for Council. Data sharing partnerships will be developed with Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Landcare
- **Protect and care for our waterways** under Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways program and Corangamite's Waterway Protection Program
- **Support community-based groups** (i.e. Landcare and Friends of groups) to improve biodiversity outcomes through their projects
- **Promote and advertise partner's environment programs** and events on Council's website
- **Continue to actively partner with Grow West** to deliver restoration projects in our Shire

Community Members Can:

- **Plant and retain native vegetation** on private property
- **Manage Pest and Weed species** on private property
- **Explore and Implement Sustainable Agricultural Practices**



STRATEGIC AREA TWO

OUR COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Our goal is to:

Collaborate with our community and partners to foster greater environmental stewardship across Moorabool

We will work to deliver targeted environmental and sustainability outcomes with:

- Community groups
- Land Management Agencies: Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Moorabool and Geelong Landcare Networks, WAGA, Grow West, DEECA.
- Traditional Owners
- Private landholders
- Business owners

Our actions within strategic area two align with the below UN Sustainable Development Goals:



HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCESSFUL?

We will measure our success using the below key indicators:

- Guidelines to support Landcare and Friends of Groups are developed and implemented
- The number of community environmental events and agency co-delivery of activities is increased to at least one event per quarter
- The outcomes from the Community Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants are directly aligned with the three strategic focus areas and goals
- The number of effective working partnerships with key agencies, community groups and Traditional Owners is increased
- A sustainable events best-practice guideline or standard is developed

WHAT WILL WE DO TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL?

COUNCIL WILL:

- **Promote and empower community groups to participate in the Community Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants program** and align with local and regional priorities
- **Develop and implement guidelines for supporting Landcare and Friends of Groups**
- **Deliver community engagement events** (e.g. Nature Stewards Program) to improve environmental and sustainable outcomes
- **Improve the quality and scope of environmental and sustainability information on Council's website**
- **Improve the quality and distribution of interpretive signage** in key environmental areas and rural roadsides
- **Raise awareness of environmental protection** within the public realm, such as through the use of campaigns, art and sculpture
- **Develop a sustainable events policy, guideline or standard**
- **Develop community behavior and practice change programs** that also align with other Council strategies. E.g. *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy* goals of *AVOID*, *RECOVER* and *PROTECT*
- **Utilise existing and develop new engagement programs with Youth Services** to leverage sustainability messaging with the next generation of decision makers

COUNCIL WILL WORK WITH OUR PARTNER TO:

- **Support and align with key regional strategies** e.g. Regional Catchment Strategies for Corangamite and Western Port and Port Phillip
- **Develop effective partnerships to deliver educational and community engagement programs** (e.g. with the CMAs and Traditional Owner groups)
- **Develop and promote nature steward and/or citizen science programs.** For example, create a flagship community program
- **Support Gardens for Wildlife** to help residents access information about planting native species
- **Encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices** such as waste reduction and participate in energy efficiency programs
- **Work with Wadawurrung, Wurundjeri and the Dja Dja Wurrung Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)** to support Aboriginal environmental management techniques and values where appropriate
- **Develop a flagship project with community** to support long-term environmental outcomes in priority areas

Community Members Can:

- **Join a Community-based Environmental Group** e.g. Landcare, Friends of...
- **Start or Join a Citizen Science Project**
- **Share sustainability information, projects or ideas**



STRATEGIC AREA THREE

OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Our goal is to:

Build a sustainable and climate-resilient Moorabool.

This means we aim to improve the sustainability and resilience of urban development, buildings, plant equipment and vehicles.

Our actions within strategic area three align with the below UN Sustainable Development Goals:



HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCESSFUL?

We will measure our success using the below key indicators:

- An Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy has been developed and implemented
- Council has partnered with key agencies to deliver more energy efficiency education programs for community
- At least one Sustainable Subdivisions Framework development has been delivered
- Council has undertaken a climate risk assessment with its partners and identified opportunities for Council building upgrades
- The number of electrified Council fleet, plant and equipment is increased
- A baseline of GHG emissions of Council buildings and fleets has been established to inform a target for emissions reduction
- The procurement policy has been reviewed to incorporate sustainability considerations throughout Council's purchasing processes
- Council has increased paperless council notices by 20%



WHAT WILL WE DO TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL?

COUNCIL WILL:

- **Develop and endorse an ESD Policy** for both infill and subdivision development
- **Encourage the uptake of the Sustainable Subdivisions Framework** for new developments in our Shire
- **Embed the principles of the Sustainable Infrastructure Guidelines** from the Infrastructure Design Manual into all capital and asset renewal works.
- **Review the landscape design manual** to promote a broader ecological design focus
- **Continue to transition towards low emission/electric plant, equipment, vehicles, buildings and assets** where appropriate
- **Establish a baseline for GHG emissions of Council buildings and fleet** to inform the development of an emissions reduction plan and target
- **Identify needs and opportunities for the installation of renewable energy infrastructure** and climate preparedness upgrades in Council buildings and facilities
- **Develop a policy to reduce and contain onsite waste on all development sites**, targeting plastics and waffle pods that contaminate the environment
- **Improve streetscape outcomes at developer hand over** by appropriately auditing the quality of open space, street trees planted during development, and any ESD requirements as part of planning conditions
- **Develop and enforce a minimum acceptable standard for unencumbered lands** handed over by developers to ensure they have conservation value and can be maintained
- **Encourage the community to transition to electronic notices** to reduce paper use
- **Review and update the procurement policy** to embed sustainability practices and values within Council's purchasing power

COUNCIL WILL WORK WITH OUR PARTNER TO:

- **Strengthen the WAGA partnership** and deliver more programs as appropriate, e.g. installing energy efficient streetlights
- **Encourage developers to adopt the sustainable infrastructure principles** of the IDM and the SSF to build more sustainable housing and future communities
- **Seek additional funding sources** to support the delivery of a more sustainable built environment e.g. renewable energy, energy efficiency upgrades
- **Consider electric vehicle charging stations** for community and visitors
- **Identify and articulate the regional risks of climate change** and identify priority areas for adaptation
- **Partner with Victorian Climate Resilient Councils** to conduct a climate risk assessment for Moorabool
- **Explore opportunities to reduce potable water use** through monitoring and increase use of recycled water with GWW

Community Members Can:

- *Transition households from gas to electricity*
- *Catch Public Transport, Carpool, Cycle or Walk to work and events*
- *Consider energy efficiency upgrades in new housing or renovations*

Measuring Success and Accountability

Council understands that it is important to regularly assess our progress towards our goals by monitoring and evaluating our programs and works. This section of the Strategy outlines the process for the regular review of this Sustainable Environment Strategy.

To support the implementation of the strategy, it is recommended that Council develop:

- **A dashboard to record progress and learnings** against the key performance indicators and key evaluation themes/questions
- **An annual Sustainable Environment Work Plan** to identify strategic priorities for Council for each financial year, including required resourcing and budgets
- **A one-pager report** to bring to Council, Advisory Committees and Community each year to demonstrate progress and accountability

Both the dashboard and the work plan will inform engagement with local environmental organisations, our partners and internal staff to review progress, reprioritise actions where needed, and measure the positive impact that Council activities have on Moorabool's environment.

Examples of key evaluation questions to be considered when assessing progress are outlined below:

EVALUATION THEME	KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS
Effectiveness	To what extent have the actions in the strategy been implemented?
Efficiency	What resources have been used to achieve the actions? Have they been utilised and invested to maximise outcomes? To what extent have we leveraged partnerships to deliver shared strategic actions?
Appropriateness	Are the strategic actions appropriate for achieving the goals?
Impact	To what extent is the strategy making progress towards achieving the goals? What has the impact of the work been done to date?
Legacy	What impact will the activities have beyond the life of this strategy and what are the implications for future management? What lessons have been learnt and how can these be applied in future iterations of the strategy?

Monitoring and evaluation should involve a minimum of a biennial reporting against the key performance indicators under each strategy. Collection of data for each indicator varies depending on the complexity and timeframe.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS TO BE MEASURED		TIMEFRAME
OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic revegetation works have increased and weed spread is limited Bushland Reserves Prioritisation and Planning Guideline and Conservation Management Plans have been developed for Council bushland reserves Public tree canopy cover in our townships is increased each year to reach 30% tree canopy cover by 2050 Our key biodiversity and roadside vegetation values data has been collected Biodiversity and roadside vegetation data is mapped in Council's spatial assets system and used to inform planning applications and asset management planning 		Quarterly (records) Annually Every 5 years Once Off Every 5 years
OUR COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines to support Landcare and Friends of Groups are developed and implemented The number of community environmental events run and agency co-delivery of activities is increased to at least one event per quarter The outcomes from the Community Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants are directly aligned with the three strategic focus areas and goals The number of effective working partnerships with key agencies, community groups and Traditional Owners is increased A sustainable events policy or plan is developed 		Once off Annually Annually Annually Once off
OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Environmentally Sustainable Design policy has been developed and implemented Council has partnered with key agencies to deliver more energy efficiency education programs for community At least one Sustainable Subdivisions Framework development has been delivered Council has undertaken a climate risk assessment with its partners and identified opportunities for Council building upgrades The number of electrified Council fleet, plant and equipment is increased A baseline of GHG emissions of Council buildings and fleets has been established and a target for emissions reduction has been set Percentage of total Council notices sent are paperless The procurement policy has been reviewed, updated and adopted throughout all of Council's purchasing processes 		Once Off Annually Annually Once Off Once Off Once Off Annually Once Off



Lerderderg State Park

Appendix I: Managing our environment

Table A I - I: Partner Organisation Opportunities

GROUP/AGENCY	ROLE	PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)	Seeks to improve Victoria's liveability with a population expected to almost double by 2050 while responsibly tackling climate change and protecting our natural environment, infrastructure and heritage for future generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants for environmental works, working with Traditional Owners Administer the FFG Act
Parks Victoria	Protect and enhance dedicated National, state and regional parks and reserves under their jurisdiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complementary management actions on adjacent parks and roadsides to achieve shared outcomes (e.g. habitat connectivity, weed control, fire prevention, access and safety)
Melbourne Water as Westernport and Port Phillip Catchment Management Authority	Provides leadership to deliver integrated catchment management and sustainability of the region's catchment assets by building cooperation, and partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data sharing Key partner for working with Landcare groups and Traditional Owners Waterway and conservation area revegetation, weed control, water quality improvements Citizen science programs
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	Partner with land managers, communities, other organisations and governments to protect and improve the health of the region's natural resources (water, soils, biodiversity), to improve the health and sustainable productivity of the Corangamite region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key partner for working with Landcare groups and Traditional Owners Data sharing Waterway and conservation area revegetation, weed control, water quality improvements
Aboriginal Corporations (Wadawurrung, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung)	Supports each Aboriginal Corporations' aspirations and protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in accordance with the <i>Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs that include Caring for Country, community education and cultural awareness programs, adoption of Traditional Owner language and place naming, and incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA)	Work collaboratively to respond to climate change across the region and encourage communities – residents and businesses – to make a transition to a low carbon society. WAGA's plans and projects focus on both mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working together with the other six Councils in joint climate projects such as energy efficiency programs, renewable energy projects, sustainable living programs, and circular economy initiatives.
Grow West	Leading an extensive land restoration program to convert 10,000 hectares to sustainable land uses such as farm forestry and revegetation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilising Council managed land for the project to achieve shared outcomes e.g. revegetation.
Landcare: Moorabool and Geelong Landcare Networks	Supports many Landcare groups across the Shire and empowers members to undertake land management practices that improve environmental sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of events and information Aligning key values and outcomes across the public and private landscape.
Moorabool Environment Group (MEG)	Raise awareness of and advocate for the unique local environment as well as broader environmental issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revegetation activities, citizen science, litter clean-up projects, state and federal government advocacy.
Friends of Groups – six groups	Undertake key environmental works specific to a location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and data sharing Support grant funding Increase on-ground works capacity in strategic locations.
Private landholders	Responsible for the stewardship of their own private land, in line with relevant legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing Educational and extension programs. Support grant funding
Local Businesses	Provide goods and services, support the local economy and local initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of events and information Support educational and extension programs
Private developers	Develop and build the communities of the future, including open spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support sustainable development and encourage the building of climate adapted housing that is future proofed economically responsible.
Agricultural Industry	Responsible for the stewardship of their own private agricultural land, in line with relevant legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable farming education and support Information sharing Revegetation activities
Renewable Energy Sector	Planning and building the infrastructure required to transition to a renewables future to meet Net Zero commitments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transitioning council assets to support renewable energy generation, identifying opportunities for community groups to benefit from renewable energy grant schemes

Appendix 2: Council's legislative role

Table BI-1: Federal Requirements

Federal Legislation	Description
Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999	Main environmental legislation and provides a way for us to protect and manage nationally and internationally important plants, animals, habitats and places. There is a list of protected species under the EPBC. The Act protects the environment when actions are taken on Commonwealth land or impact upon Commonwealth land, by an Australian Government agency, that impact Commonwealth heritage places overseas.
Recycling and Waste Avoidance Act 2020	The Act provides tools and mechanisms to support Australia's transition to a circular economy, including the product stewardship regimes. The Act encourages and regulates: Reuse, remanufacture, recycling and recovery of products, waste from products and waste material in an environmentally sound way Manufacturers, importers, distributors, designers and other persons to take responsibility for products, including by taking action that relates to i) reducing or avoiding generating waste through improvements in product design; ii) improving the durability, reparability and reusability of products; and iii) managing products throughout their life cycle.
National Waste Policy 2018	The Policy proposes less waste and more resources by defining a framework for collective action by business, governments, communities and individuals. The policy incorporates the waste hierarchy, and a focus on high order uses, while building on the idea of continually reusing, recycling and reprocessing materials. The policy promotes the application of circular economy principles including the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid waste • Improve resource recovery • Increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products • Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy • Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.
National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Act 2007	The Act establishes the legislative framework for the NGER Scheme which is a national framework for reporting greenhouse gas emissions, greenhouse gas projects and energy consumption and production by corporations in Australia.

Table BI-2: State Requirements

State Legislation	Description
Environment Protection Act 2017	Councils have the power to regulate onsite wastewater management, noise from residential premises, litter and other waste.
Victorian Local Government Act 2020	<p>The role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community. A Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. The following are the overarching governance principles: the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.</p> <p>Other overarching principles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils are required to give priority to achieving best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations • Regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account during council's strategic planning • Councils must ensure its decisions, actions and information are transparent. <p>This means that processes like strategic planning must incorporate consideration of climate change and relevant state and national plans. It is likely that a court will construe that the risks and impacts of climate change are now reasonably clearly foreseeable. Councils have a duty of care in the context of climate change adaptation, and this has been recognised by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal since 2010.</p> <p>Negligence claims against local government can include a breach of duty of care by development approvals, the provision of protective works or the provision of information or statements which are considered by a court to be negligent.</p>

Table BI-2: State Requirements (continued)

State Legislation	Description
Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988	<p>Contains an obligation or duty on public authorities and ministers to consider potential biodiversity impacts when exercising their functions.</p> <p>The act requires that in performing any of their functions that may reasonably be expected to impact on biodiversity, including a function that under any act, ministers and public authorities must give proper consideration to the act's objectives, so far as is consistent with the proper exercising of their functions. Biodiversity considerations should be integrated as far as possible.</p> <p>The Minister for Environment and Climate Change can request public authorities to provide information to ensure that the duty is being performed or to ensure that an action taken does not threatened a listed taxon, community or critical habitat.</p>
Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994	<p>Land managers must eradicate regionally prohibited weeds, prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds, prevent the spread of and eradicate pest animals on their lands.</p> <p>Councils are responsible for controlling declared noxious weeds on roadsides if the land is a municipal road.</p>
Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework	<p>Outlines the approach to managing existing and potential invasive species across the whole of Victoria.</p>
Planning and Environment Act 1987	<p>Sets out the framework for the use, development and protection of land in Victoria in the present and long-term interests of all Victorians. Includes sustainable land use and development, the protection of biodiversity and natural resources and the maintenance of ecological processes.</p> <p>The subordinate instruments of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 such as the Victoria Planning Provisions give more detailed direction, including climate change impacts, planning for places, agricultural adaptation to climate change, energy and resource efficiency and integrated water management.</p>
Victorian Climate Change Act 2017	<p>The Act outlines principles for criteria for assessing the suitability of council decision making. This includes reducing the state's emissions. Building resilience of state infrastructure, managing the State's natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity to promote resilience, support transition to net zero and support vulnerable communities.</p> <p>The role of a Council is to provide good governance for the benefit and wellbeing of their community. Councils are required to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks.</p>
Circular Economy (Waste Reductions and Recycling) Act 2021	<p>Provides foundation for Victoria's transition to a sustainable and thriving circular economy, to minimise waste and landfill and increase reuse and recycling of resources.</p> <p>Includes laws to require those who provide an essential waste, recycling or resource recovery service to minimise the risks of serious failure, disruption or hinderance to the service.</p>
Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008	<p>Must consider climate change, including the potential impacts of climate change relevant to that decision or action (adaptation) and the potential contribution to the state's greenhouse gas emissions of the decision or action (mitigation).</p>
Victorian Planning Provision Clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation)	<p>Requires a permit to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation, including dead native vegetation, unless an exemption applies which removes the permit requirement.</p>
Plan Melbourne 2017 – 2050	<p>Plan Melbourne is a metropolitan planning strategy that aims to shape the future of the city as a global city of opportunity and choice. The main themes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing population growth • Growing the economy • Creating affordable and accessible housing • Improving transport • Responding to climate change • Connecting communities.
Sustainability Victoria Act 2005	<p>Establishes Sustainability Victoria which promotes and facilitates environmental sustainability in the use of resources</p>

Table AB-2: State Requirements (continued)

State Legislation	Description
Environment Protection Regulations 2021	The Regulations aim to support the objectives of the legislation by preventing or minimising risks of harm to human health or the environment from pollution or waste.
Victorian Renewable Energy Act 2006	The Act provides an incentive for investment in renewable energy power stations and smaller systems while ensuring the energy sources used are ecologically sustainable.
Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2021	The Strategy guides investment for reducing emissions, while creating new opportunities and jobs.
Victorian Renewable Energy (Jobs and Investment) Act 2017	The Act supports a target of 50% renewable energy generation by 2030.

Table BI-3: Council Plans and Policies

State Legislation	Description
Moorabool Planning Scheme	<p>Clause 21.02 (Natural Environment): This clause aims to protect the Shire's natural environment including its biodiversity and landscapes, managing land uses in an environmentally sustainable manner and to assist in reducing the ecological footprint of land within Moorabool Shire.</p> <p>Clause 21.03.04 Landscape and Neighbourhood Character: Infill development protects and enhances the existing character, built form and natural environment of the Shire's towns and villages including the country town scale and rural atmosphere of each town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development in growth areas achieves a strong sense of place that respects its landscape setting • New development protects the visual, aesthetic, and environmental values of escarpments and ridgelines generally, and views from the Bacchus Marsh valley in particular • New development is appropriately sited, designed and constructed to blend with the surrounding landscape and protects significant landscape values, native vegetation and rural settings; and • Inappropriate development on scenic hilltops, ridge lines and areas of visual prominence are discouraged.
Community Vision 2030	<p>Vision: we embrace our natural environment and lifestyle options to create an inspiring place for everyone to live, work and play. Children's vision includes less pollution, parks and open spaces, electric cars, bike trails and recycling education. Maintaining rural charm includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining natural assets and diverse local ecosystems • Encouraging high green rating developments • Conserving local flora and fauna • Advocating for increased funding to better maintain State Forests and National Park assets. <p>Connected communities includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport links, citizen participation and facilitate a sense of belonging. <p>Well planned neighbourhoods include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for future growth while being sympathetic to the environment • Vibrant community spaces • Strategic planning that balances green spaces. <p>Strong local economy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling sustainable farming and food production. <p>Embracing sustainability includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating residents and the community about global forces such as conservation, climate change and the circular economy • Introducing new recycling and waste management initiatives • Exploring working with local sustainability champions • Displaying leadership through reducing Council's own energy consumption <p>Advocating for clear policy direction for state and federal governments.</p>

Table BI-3: Council Plans and Policies (continued)

State Legislation	Description
Council Plan 2021-2025	Objective 2: Liveable and thriving environments – enhance our natural environment by commencing, consulting on and finalising the Sustainable Environment Strategy and implement annual actions Priorities for this objective include enhancing liveability, beautifying the shire, enhancing natural environments, growing local employment and creating options to increase visitor and tourist numbers.
Roadside Action Plan 2022-2026	Planned programs for gorse, serrated tussock, rabbit control, caltrop control, blackberry control, emerging weeds and high value environmental roadsides protection program
Waste and Resource Recovery Plan 2030	This strategy covers all things waste and resource recovery management in order to protect the environment from the impact of waste directly.
Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025	Focus area: tackling climate change and its impact on health through improved energy efficiency options and incentives for homes and buildings, providing education sessions on how to prepare, respond and recover from climate change impact, developing an advocacy position on the importance of climate change initiatives and updating landscaping guidelines to respond to climate issues.
Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2023-2026	Bushfire/grassfire, extreme temperatures and storms all have their own sub-plans under the MEMP.
Domestic Animal Management Plan	Cat trapping program to reduce feral cat breeding and damage to the environment. There is also a cat curfew program to stop cats wandering at night.
Hike and Bike Strategy 2014	Identifies benefits from the strategy, such as reduced use of vehicles, traffic congestion, fossil fuels and improved air quality. It aims to plan for regional and local open space networks for both recreation and conservation of natural and cultural environments
Procurement Policy 2021	The purpose of the policy is to provide guidance to Council for consistent application of best practice procurement. One of the aims is for the policy to support Council in all procurement activities by ensuring the framework aligns with corporate strategies, aims and objectives including, but not limited to those related to sustainability, protection of the environment, and corporate social responsibility.
Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027	The Strategy aims to facilitate employment growth, investment attraction and business development within the Shire.
Asset Management Policy 2021	The purpose of the policy is to acknowledge Council's commitment to asset management and provide a consistent asset management approach to manage Council's assets for the current and future communities. The aim of the policy is to ensure that infrastructure assets are fit for purpose and support services that are appropriate, accessible, responsive, timely and sustainable for the community.
Asset Management Strategy 2022-2032	The purpose of the strategy is to outline Council's asset management systems and strategies to manage the delivery of its infrastructure assets effectively and efficiently. The strategy recognises that climate and the environment are key strategic challenges, and that more sustainable lifestyles are required for Council's current and future communities.



Moorabool

Shire Council

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