



GLEN EIRA  
CITY COUNCIL

# Environmental Sustainability Strategy

2016–2021



The *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016–2021* sets out Council's strategy for how it will improve environmental sustainability from its own operations and how it will support and advocate on behalf of the community.





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Council's *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016–2021*, sets out how we plan to achieve our vision “for a healthy environment that supports our community to live healthy, happy lives into the future and protects the diversity of plants and animals.”

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Glen Eira we know that environmental sustainability is important to our community.

Council has achieved successes such as cutting emissions from street lights, creating new open spaces, increasing the number of street trees, and supporting community and schools. There is more work to do.

Like many councils, Glen Eira faces the ongoing challenges of moving to renewable energy, future proofing infrastructure and protecting the environment at the same time as meeting the needs of a growing population.

To achieve our vision, we will build on the significant achievements to date and work with the community on collective solutions.

This *Strategy* sets out our goals and objectives across four themes:

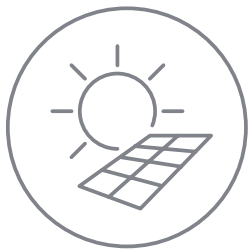
- > Climate change
- > Recycling and waste
- > Biodiversity
- > Water

New technologies have emerged to help address the challenges. Over the next five years, we will focus on:

- > accelerating efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- > improving sustainability of infrastructure over time;
- > advocating on behalf of the community; and
- > supporting and mobilising the community.

Council aims to look back in five years' time and see significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, leading infrastructure projects and vibrant community programs.

What will Council focus on for the next five years to achieve these goals?



#### **Accelerating efforts to reduce carbon**

Council will introduce food waste recycling for residents, improve recycling of other materials, retrofit buildings to make them more energy efficient, and install solar power and efficient street lighting. New buildings and lighting will be highly efficient.



#### **Improve sustainability of infrastructure**

Council can achieve a lot over time by using high sustainability standards when we update, renew and develop buildings, parks, roads, drains and other infrastructure. Council will increase water capture, adapt to a changing climate, incorporate green infrastructure and integrate natural heritage features.



#### **Advocating on behalf of communities**

Local communities often can't easily reduce their environmental impact on their own and Local Government has limited options to solve these problems. We will advocate for changes in state and federal policy such as for better public transport, higher standards for buildings to help reduce energy bills and new generation waste and recycling facilities for the region.



#### **Supporting and mobilising communities**

Communities are important stewards in their own homes and gardens and can help with regional efforts such as protecting the Bay. Council will support communities with a range of education, volunteering and other programs to tap into their skills and energy. Through its recent review of the *Planning Scheme*, Council is also considering options within the *Scheme* to support environmental sustainability in private property in the City.



## 1

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### 1.1 THIS STRATEGY

This *Strategy* sets out how we plan to achieve our vision “for a healthy environment that supports our community to live healthy, happy lives into the future and protects the diversity of plants and animals.”

Like many councils, Glen Eira faces the ongoing challenges of moving to renewable energy, future proofing infrastructure and protecting the environment at the same time as meeting the needs of a growing population. New technologies are continuing to emerge to help address these challenges.

Four themes are used in this *Strategy* to cover the main issues relevant to Glen Eira (climate change; recycling and waste; biodiversity; and water). Council's goals and plans are outlined for each theme. Advocacy and education is an important part of how Council will achieve its goals in all four themes.

This *Strategy* builds on the significant achievements so far and updates Council's previous *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2010*. It also replaces the *Sustainable Water Use Plan* and the *2011 Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan* as these issues are dealt with by two themes in this *Strategy* — water and climate change.

### 1.2 METHODOLOGY

To develop this *Strategy*, Council used a methodology that explored what is important to the community and drew on expert advice. Wide-ranging research was completed as outlined below:

- > A representative survey of community views on environmental sustainability.
- > A *Community Environment Forum* to seek input from the community.
- > Detailed research on each theme, including forecasts for local and regional impacts and options available to address issues.

- > Assessment of Council's progress and achievements.
- > A review of practices of other organisations.
- > A review of recent changes in state and federal legislation and programs.

### 1.3 COMMUNITY VALUES ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In Glen Eira we know that environmental sustainability is important to our community. The annual *Community Satisfaction Survey*<sup>1</sup> has consistently shown that approximately 90 per cent of Glen Eira residents consider environmental sustainability important or very important. This was reinforced by research for development of this *Strategy*. A representative random telephone survey of 400 Glen Eira households was conducted in January 2015 by AFS Smart Askers. This showed 89 per cent of residents considered environmental sustainability to be very important (62 per cent) or important (27 per cent).

When residents were asked to rank the importance of actions from six options: reducing pollution that enters the Bay, reducing carbon emissions and improving recycling were identified as the priorities.

Council has used the feedback from the *Survey* and from the *Community Environment Forum* to help set goals and objectives and to identify recommendations in this *Strategy*.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Council elects to participate in the *Community Satisfaction Survey* co-ordinated annually by the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI) on behalf of Victorian councils. In 2012, the Department of Planning and Community Development (the name of the Department at the time), appointed independent research company JWS Research to conduct the *Survey*.



#### 1.4 ABOUT THE CITY OF GLEN EIRA

The City of Glen Eira is a vibrant urban area with great parks and public transport connections. It covers 38.7 square kilometres in inner south-east metropolitan Melbourne. It is mostly residential with shopping precincts that support the City. Many Glen Eira residents work in other parts of Melbourne.

Like Melbourne as a whole, Glen Eira's population is growing. The population is estimated to grow by around 14 per cent in the next 10 years.<sup>2</sup>

The City of Glen Eira is widely recognised as one of Melbourne's premier leafy green municipalities, however it has the least amount of public accessible open space in the Melbourne metropolitan region. Council has created several new parks and open spaces since 2010, such as Booran Reserve and Elsternwick Plaza. The number of street trees has increased from around 30,000 in the 1980s to around 50,000.

Glen Eira City is close to Port Phillip Bay and many residents regularly visit the Bay. There are no natural waterways in Glen Eira itself as these have either been filled in or piped. The natural landscape is highly modified which reflects its role and history as an urban area.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>2</sup> Forecast 2026 population — see: <http://forecast.id.com.au/glen-eira> (accessed January 2016).

1

FIG. 1 GLEN EIRA MUNICIPALITY







### 1.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

Local Government is the third level of government. Local Government's functions are different to those at federal or state levels. Council is an area-based, representative government with a legislative and electoral mandate to manage local issues and plan for the community's needs.

Council services can be grouped into a number of broad categories:

- > general public services;
- > health, welfare and community services;
- > planning and building services;
- > land use management services;
- > environment services; and
- > infrastructure and asset management services.

Council has developed plans and strategies that support and foster environmental sustainability. These include:

- > *Strategic Resource Plan 2015–2025*;
- > *Asset Management Strategy 2014*;
- > local policies within the *Glen Eira Planning Scheme*, which direct more intensive development to activity centres;
- > *Environmental Sustainability Policy*, which guides sustainability in Council operations;
- > *Procurement Policy*;
- > *Open Space Strategy 2014*;
- > *Towards Sustainable Transport 2011*; and
- > *Bicycle Strategy 2010*.

### 1.6 VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Victorian Government has an environmental legislation and a policy framework that controls or influences how Council and the community manage the environment.

Significant Victorian environmental legislation includes:

- > The *Environment Protection Act 1970* established the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to control air, water, land and noise pollution, and set performance standards for protection of the environment.
- > The *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* provides for the conservation of threatened species and ecological communities and for the management of potentially threatening processes.
- > The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* provides for catchment management and the control of noxious weeds and pest animals.
- > The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* establishes a framework for the planning, development and protection of land in Victoria.
- > The *Climate Change Act 2010* provides a framework for action on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Key Victorian environmental policies and programs include:

- > The Victorian Government has committed to a net zero greenhouse gas emissions target for Victoria by 2050, with a series of five year interim emissions reduction targets.
- > The Victorian *Energy Efficiency Target Scheme* is designed to make energy efficiency improvements in homes and businesses more affordable.<sup>3</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>3</sup> See: <https://www.veet.vic.gov.au>

## 1

- > The Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) co-ordinates delivery of waste and recycling facilities across metropolitan Melbourne and, in 2015, tendered for recycling services for green waste and food waste on behalf of a group of councils including Glen Eira City Council.<sup>4</sup>
- > *Plan Melbourne* was released in May 2014 and provides a long-term vision for the strategic planning and development of metropolitan Melbourne to 2050. The *Plan* is referenced in the *State Planning Policy Framework* and is to be updated by the Victorian Government in 2016.<sup>5</sup>
- > The *Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines*<sup>6</sup> assists management and protection of stormwater quality and helps maintain the health of water bodies including Port Phillip Bay as outlined in the *State Environment Protection Policy — Waters of Victoria*.<sup>7</sup>

## 1.7 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The main areas of federal policy and legislation that control or influence how Council and the community manage the environment are summarised below.

- > The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth) provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places — defined in the Act as matters of national environmental significance.<sup>8</sup>
- > The *Product Stewardship Act 2011* (Commonwealth) provides a national framework for voluntary, co-regulatory and mandatory product stewardship initiatives. In 2011, for example, the Commonwealth Government established regulations that require importers and manufacturers of televisions, computers and computer products to fund and implement recycling services for these products, and to meet a range of other requirements.<sup>9</sup>
- > The National Construction Code 2015 (NCC) is an initiative of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and sets the minimum requirements for the design, construction and performance of buildings throughout Australia.<sup>10</sup> All new residential buildings, renovations, alterations and additions need to meet Six Star Standards for energy efficiency.<sup>11</sup>

Other Federal Government environment-related policies and programs include:

- > The national greenhouse gas reduction target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.<sup>12</sup>
- > The *Renewable Energy Target Scheme* which stimulates the renewable energy market including wind power and solar power.

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>4</sup> See: <http://www.mwrrg.vic.gov.au/local-government/organics>

<sup>5</sup> Victorian Government 2014, *Plan Melbourne, Metropolitan Planning Strategy*. See: <http://www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au/Plan-Melbourne>

<sup>6</sup> The *Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines* were commissioned and overseen by the Stormwater Committee; a partnership between the Environment Protection Authority, Melbourne Water Corporation and local government aimed at improved stormwater quality, CSIRO Publishing 1999. See: <http://www.publish.csiro.au/issue/3822.htm>

<sup>7</sup> See: <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation/water-legislation/water-related-policies>. Note the Policy is under review as of October 2015. See: <http://delwp.vic.gov.au/water/rivers,-estuaries-and-wetlands/state-environment-protection-policy-waters-review>

<sup>8</sup> See: <https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc>

<sup>9</sup> See: <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/national-waste-policy/product-stewardship/legislation>

<sup>10</sup> Australian Building Codes Board 2015, *National Construction Code Series 2015*. See: <https://services.abcb.gov.au/NCCOnline/Publications/2015>

<sup>11</sup> See: <http://www.vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/6-star-standard>

<sup>12</sup> See: <https://www.dpmc.gov.au/pmc/publication/summary-report-australia%E2%80%99s-2030-emission-reduction-target>



## OUR APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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Achieving our vision for environmental sustainability requires collective solutions. We will lead by example and focus on where we can have the most impact, in the most effective way.

Council has had considerable success integrating sustainability into the way that we operate. Designs for new parks and buildings now routinely incorporate water capture and treatment and include drought tolerant plants such as at Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre and Booran Reserve. Solar power now supplies energy to Council's two largest sites and an increasing number of smaller sites. Recycled and sustainably sourced paper is used routinely for copy paper and printed publications, and all rubbish collected in street litter bins is sorted for recycling.

We will build on this success and continue to integrate sustainability into infrastructure during planning and design phases. Over time this will make a significant difference.

Council has significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions from waste, from street lights and from buildings thanks to a wide range of projects including changeover of street lighting to efficient alternatives, energy efficiency improvements in buildings and provision of green waste recycling services to the community.

This *Strategy* now sets clear goals and objectives for accelerating reductions in greenhouse gas emissions over the next five years. These are informed by expert advice and will demonstrate leadership in this sector.

We recognise that the community is an important collaborator in addressing the collective environmental issues we all face. At the same time, we understand that the community faces barriers and constraints about what they can do. We will advocate to state and federal governments for the protection of natural heritage and for better public transport, higher standards in buildings and other policy change that supports our community.

We will extend the community education programs Council has established in the last five years. We will focus on tapping into the skills and energy of the community and supporting volunteerism.





## OUR VISION AND PLAN

### 3.1 VISION

Our vision is for a healthy environment that supports our community to live healthy, happy lives into the future and protects the diversity of plants and animals.

### 3.2 MISSION

Council will contribute to achieving this vision by leading by example in its own operations, by advocating for and supporting community members to help them play their part and collaborating with others on shared solutions.

### 3.3 FROM VISION TO ACTION

To achieve this vision, we have identified aspirational goals, goals to 2021 and objectives for each of four themes below:

- > climate change;
- > recycling and waste;
- > biodiversity; and
- > water.

These goals and objectives focus on where Council can make the most difference.

We will implement a series of recommendations to achieve each objective over five years to 2021. Each year, the recommendations will be used to build an action plan that identifies the specific actions, such as projects, programs or activities that will be implemented the following year.

We will monitor performance against the objectives and progress against the action plan and use this to inform the annual review of the action plan.

### 3.4 NAVIGATING THIS DOCUMENT

This document is in five sections corresponding with each of the four themes and a fifth section that summarises Council's advocacy and education plans.

Each section outlines our approach to the theme and provides a snapshot of our aspirational goals, goals to 2021 and objectives. It summarises how we will achieve these and provides background on our achievements to date and the theme itself. The final part of each section is the recommendations that explain how Council will achieve each objective. Recommendations are divided into two tables, those which relate to Council infrastructure and operations and those which outline how we will support the community.

The baseline for any goal or objective is to be set at 2014–15.

**Note:** The terms 'greenhouse gas emissions' and 'carbon emissions' are used interchangeably throughout this document. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the most common greenhouse gas emitted from human activities.





4

Climate change





CLIMATE CHANGE



# 4

## Climate change

### 4.1 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

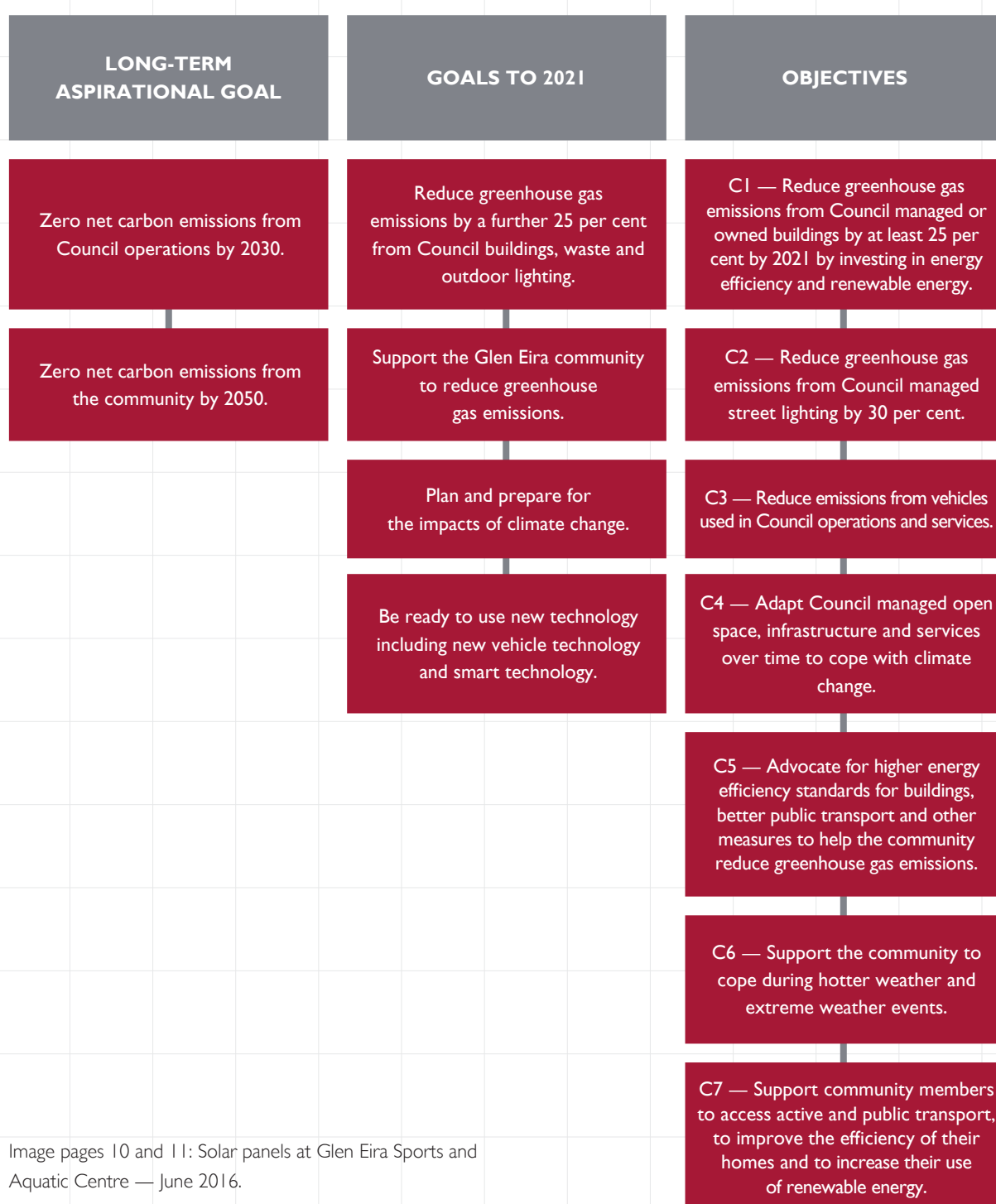


Image pages 10 and 11: Solar panels at Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre — June 2016.



## 4.2 OUR APPROACH

Over the next five years, Council will accelerate efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Council acknowledges that further emissions reductions will be needed to minimise impacts of climate change.

The main recommendations to reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions are summarised below and focus on what will have the most impact with current technology:

- > Street lighting — replace high pressure sodium type lights with more efficient alternatives to reduce street lighting emissions by an estimated 25 per cent.
- > Buildings — various actions, including solar power installation, replacing lighting and appliances with more efficient alternatives, and improving insulation and building performance. These and other building related actions will reduce emissions from Council buildings by an estimated 30 per cent.
- > Recycling and waste — reducing emissions associated with waste (as outlined in section 5).

As well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Council will adapt its infrastructure over time to accommodate incremental changes in climate.

Council will support the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The main ways we plan to do this are highlighted below:

- > Education activities to support the community to reduce emissions from their homes and from transport.
- > Advocacy to State and Federal Government for a policy that will support the community in reducing emissions.
- > Programs to facilitate practical assistance for residents and businesses, with programs such as the *Energy Saving Program* which helps residents access free energy saving products.

## 4.3 PROGRESS TO DATE

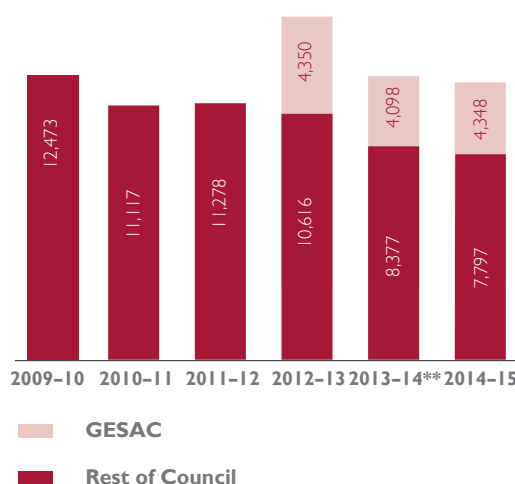
We have already had significant success reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, waste and street lighting, which are the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Council's control (see Figure 2). There are further opportunities to build on our achievements and significantly reduce emissions in the next five years. One of the challenges is the need to provide more services for a growing population. Since 2010, new facilities have offset some of the gains with increased demand for energy. Major achievements are below:

- > Changeover of more than 5,300 street lights from old style mercury vapour 80 watt lights to efficient compact fluorescent lights in 2012–13 and 2013–14. The street lights installed are 68 per cent more efficient and have reduced maintenance and energy costs. Council's carbon footprint decreased 2,722 tonnes as a result of this change in 2013–14.
- > Ecological sustainable design features have been used to minimise energy use in new and refurbished buildings, such as at Duncan Mackinnon Pavilion.
- > Installation of 384 solar panels on the roof of GESAC and 203 solar panels on the roof of Town Hall was completed in 2015–16. These are Council's two largest energy using buildings. A growing number of Council buildings have solar power including Bentleigh Reserve Pavilion, Murrumbene Child Care Centre, Leila Road Community Centre, Elsternwick Library and senior citizen centres in Bentleigh, Bentleigh East and Ormond.
- > Council uses renewable energy to power 25 per cent of its buildings and facilities by buying GreenPower, which is mostly generated from wind power in Victoria.
- > A *Landfill Gas Electricity Generation Program* at the jointly owned Clayton South Regional Landfill, converts waste methane gas to energy and provides power to more than 20,000 homes via the electricity grid.

# 4

- > Long standing free education and information programs on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are delivered by Council.
- > Establishment of a partnership in 2013 with energy efficiency specialist Energy Makeovers, to run the *Glen Eira Energy Saving Program*, which offers households free installations of small energy saving products at no charge. Since starting the *Program*, greenhouse gas emissions in the community have reduced by almost 5000 t CO<sub>2</sub>-e over 10 years.
- > Progressive installation of efficient appliances and features (such as lighting and insulation) in its older buildings. In 2014–15, Council's carbon footprint decreased by just more than 2.65 per cent compared to the previous year (to 12,145 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e) largely due to reductions in energy use at small and medium buildings.
- > Council has more than 50,000 street trees, which is up from around 30,000 in the 1980s. In 2014–15, an additional 1,000 street trees were planted as part of a long-term commitment to increase the number of street trees.

**FIG. 2 CARBON FOOTPRINT\* (TONNES CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENT EMISSIONS)‡**



\*(Scope 1 and 2 plus street lighting).

\*\*Decrease due to installation of energy efficient street lighting.

‡The estimates for gas use at GESAC were adjusted for the three years from 2012–13 to 2014–15 and this increased Council's total carbon footprint compared to what was previously reported. In 2015–16 actuals are expected to be available after a faulty meter was replaced during 2014–15. Council uses a financial boundary for reporting. The methodology used to identify emissions at each site includes estimates for some sites for part of the year where data gaps exist. These are not considered to be material and details of the methodology are recorded by Council.





#### 4.4 BACKGROUND

CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology have reported impacts of climate change on Australia:<sup>13</sup>

- > Temperatures are projected to continue to increase, with more hot days and fewer cool days.
- > Average rainfall in southern Australia is projected to decrease, with a likely increase in drought frequency and severity.
- > The frequency and intensity of extreme daily rainfall is projected to increase.

Like other municipalities across Australia, Glen Eira is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on our natural and built environments and on our community. Climate change may bring increased flood and storm damage, increased heatwaves, disruption to essential services, stressed plant and animal communities, and increased health risks for vulnerable groups within the community.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change considers that adapting to and preventing climate change are complementary for reducing and managing the risks of climate change: "Substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades can reduce climate risks in the 21st century and beyond, increase prospects for effective adaptation, reduce the costs and challenges of mitigation in the longer term and contribute to climate-resilient pathways for sustainable development."<sup>14</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>13</sup> CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology 2014 *State of the Climate 2014*, p.3.

<sup>14</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2014 *Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers*, p.17.








## 4.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

### Council infrastructure and operations

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
<b>C1 — Objective: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council managed or owned buildings by at least 25 per cent by 2021 by investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy.</b>		
<b>C1.1</b>	Build any new Council buildings to be a very low carbon footprint, continue to allocate five per cent of capital budgets for sustainability measures.	High
<b>C1.2</b>	Continue to reduce emissions generated from existing buildings, including through an annual rolling program of energy efficiency and renewable energy works.	High
<b>C1.3</b>	Continue to purchase at least 1,900,000 kilowatt hours per year of green power or equivalent product.	High
<b>C1.4</b>	Investigate and incorporate further lower emissions alternatives for use in construction.	Medium
<b>C1.5</b>	Further develop energy monitoring and reporting practices to allow automation and support behaviour change.	High
<b>C2 — Objective: Reduce Council greenhouse gas emissions from Council managed street lighting by 30 per cent.</b>		
<b>C2.1</b>	Further improve efficiency of streetlights significantly, prioritising the replacement of high pressure sodium type lights, in collaboration and with funding from VicRoads.	High
<b>C2.2</b>	Replace any remaining older type Council outdoor lights, including mercury vapour lights with more efficient alternatives.	High
<b>C3 — Objective: Reduce emissions from vehicles used in Council operations and services.</b>		
<b>C3.1</b>	Review options to reduce emissions from vehicles used by Council and contractors; and encourage use of active and public transport.	Medium
<b>C4 — Objective: Adapt Council managed open space, infrastructure and services over time to cope with climate change.</b>		
<b>C4.1</b>	Consider climate change impacts, such as storm frequency and peak stormwater flows, on open space, infrastructure and services and adapt these over time, usually during design or service reviews.	Medium
<b>C4.2</b>	Ensure staff have access to regular training to stay up-to-date with rapidly changing knowledge and technology.	Medium
<b>C4.3</b>	Incorporate features to minimise the urban heat island effect in design of buildings, streetscapes and open space.	High



## Supporting the community

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
<b>C5 — Objective: Advocate for higher efficiency standards for buildings, better public transport and other measures to help the community reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</b>		
<b>C5.1</b> 	Advocate to State and Federal Governments to support the community in reducing emissions from buildings, appliances and transport and to incorporate emissions reduction initiatives into their own projects and programs.	High
<b>C6 — Objective: Support the community to cope during hotter weather and extreme weather events.</b>		
<b>C6.1</b> 	Regularly review Council's <i>Heat Wave Response Plan</i> and <i>Emergency Response Plan</i> for currency and implement the plans when triggered.	High
<b>C7 — Objective: Support the community to access active and public transport, improve the efficiency of their homes and to increase their use of renewable energy.</b>		
<b>C7.1</b> 	Celebrate the sustainability features at Council buildings and facilities as part of community education activities to demonstrate energy efficiency and renewable energy, for example, by running tours or promoting case studies.	High
<b>C7.2</b> 	Help residents access practical solutions and rebates available from other levels of government, including reviewing and expanding the <i>Energy Saving Program</i> .	High
<b>C7.3</b> 	Run ongoing community education programs on reducing carbon emissions in the home, supporting sustainable transport and activities to increase walking and cycling.	Medium

Each year an action plan is developed for the year ahead that outlines how each recommendation will be implemented.







5

Recycling and waste





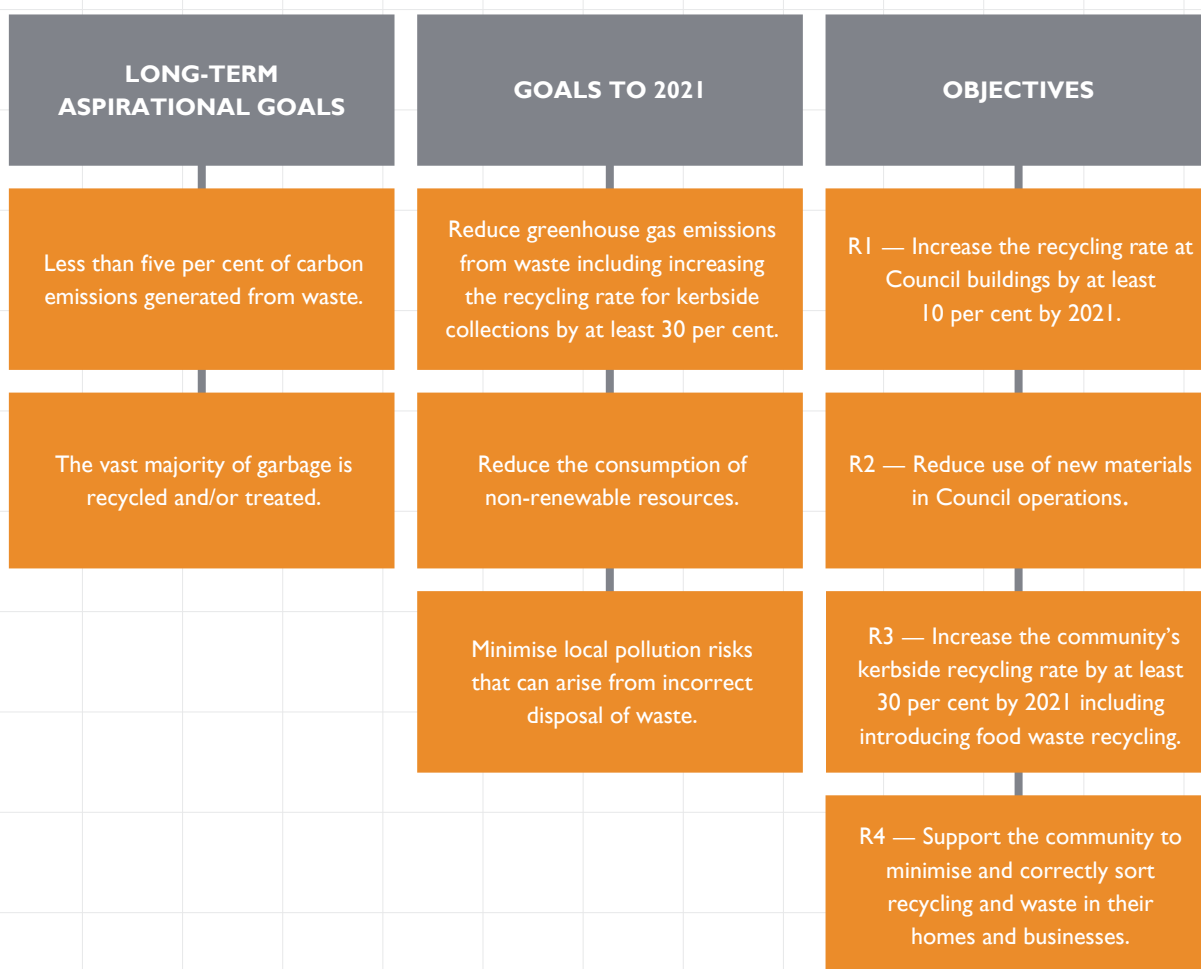
## RECYCLING AND WASTE



# 5

## Recycling and waste

### 5.1 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES





## 5.2 OUR APPROACH

Over the next five years, we will focus on increasing recycling rates in the community and from our operations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (as discussed in section 4) and to minimise the need for new resources.

The Clayton Regional Landfill closed in early 2016. Council with the other four part owners (four other councils) will provide for the long-term management and environmental rehabilitation of the site over the next 30 years.<sup>15</sup> The landfill site that Council now takes its garbage to is in Hampton Park, which is further away than Clayton Regional Landfill and is also expected to be full within the next decade.

Council will actively engage with other councils, the Victorian Government and the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group to seek new waste processing facilities and services that incorporate new technologies that support more recycling and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Council will design and implement community engagement programs to increase recycling and appropriate waste disposal and target recycling of priority materials.

Council also has an important role in managing litter through litter bins and street sweeping.

## 5.3 PROGRESS TO DATE

Council's primary role in relation to waste management for the Glen Eira community is to collect and transport municipal recycling and waste to a resource recovery facility and/or landfill. Council places significant focus on reducing waste sent to landfill and increasing recycling. By encouraging recycling, Council helps the Glen Eira community reduce its impact on the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Council has undertaken a range of actions to date to improve waste management and recycling including:

- > implementing a household waste bin downsizing policy and delivering green waste bins to reduce waste being sent to landfill;

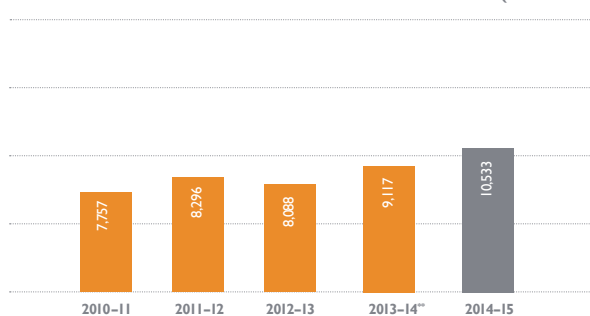
- > introducing recycling into on call hard rubbish and bundled branch collection service, which includes recycling of e-waste;
- > minimising waste and maximising recycling in our own operations, including participating in environmental-friendly purchasing, improving recycling facilities and introducing staff education programs; and
- > delivering street sweeping and litter bin collection services across the municipality.

To improve community recycling, Council enhanced its green waste services to residents in 2014, at no extra cost, as part of its standard waste services. To implement this change, Council conducted a major rollout of green waste bins and across 2014–15, a total of 15,122 additional green waste bins were distributed to residential properties.

The amount of green waste recycled has increased by 16 per cent (to 10,533 tonnes) compared to 2013–14 (see Figure 3). This has helped reduce emissions from waste disposal.

The overall recycling rate in the community has increased by more than 10 per cent since 2009. The recycling rate was approximately 44 per cent in 2015–16 compared to 34 per cent in 2009 (see Figure 4). E-waste recycling has increased by 130 per cent since 2010 through improvements in sorting of hard rubbish.

**FIG. 3 HOUSEHOLD GREEN WASTE COLLECTED (TONNES)**

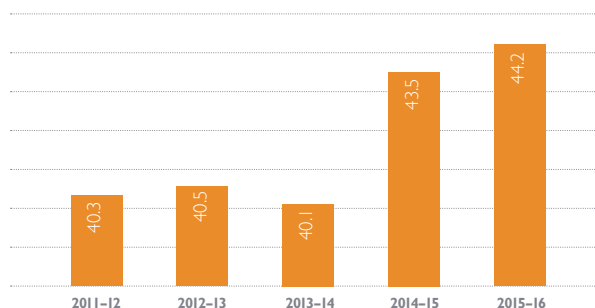


### FOOTNOTES

<sup>15</sup> Glen Eira City Council Annual Report 2014–15, p.210.



**FIG. 4 ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLED (%)**



#### 5.4 BACKGROUND

The effective management of waste is, and will remain, a key issue for local communities and governments across Victoria. As Victoria's population is growing, the amount of waste being generated and requiring management is also increasing. At the current rate of increase, total waste generation will rise from 12.2 million tonnes in 2011-12 to 20.6 million tonnes per year in 2043-44.<sup>16</sup>

These state-wide trends in waste and recycling have been reflected in Glen Eira.<sup>17</sup> As the population has grown, the total amount of waste collected by Council has increased from 52,920 in 2010-11 to 55,046 tonnes in 2014-5. Costs of sending waste to landfill have also significantly increased during this time due to the Victorian Government's landfill levy.

Effective waste management can have a substantial impact in key areas of sustainability, including resource efficiency, greenhouse gas emission reduction, environmental amenity and the community's overall quality of life.

Sustainability Victoria has identified that over the next 30 years, the Victorian waste and resource recovery system must balance the need to provide economically viable and sustainable waste management services, with the need to minimise the impact of waste and materials on communities and the environment.<sup>18</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>16</sup> Sustainability Victoria 2015 *Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan*, p.11.

<sup>17</sup> Glen Eira City Council *Annual Report 2014-15*, p.111.

<sup>18</sup> Sustainability Victoria 2015 *Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan*, p.30.








5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS





Council infrastructure and operations

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
R1 — Objective: Increase the recycling rate at Council buildings by at least 10 per cent.		
R1.1	Continue to provide and improve recycling services at Council events and most community use buildings and align signage and systems with waste and recycling services for the community.	High
R1.2	 Extend education for staff and community users of Council buildings on how to recycle.	Medium
R1.3	Integrate recycling services in new buildings and facilities.	High
R2 — Objective: Reduce use of new materials in Council operations.		
R2.1	Continue to require recycling of building and road construction waste in Council construction projects, continue to use recycled paper products and explore opportunities to increase use of recycled products as technology and products improve.	High
R2.2	Identify standard recycled products for common procurement categories and establish as standard in procurement procedures.	Medium
R2.3	Review options to reduce and reuse materials, furniture and supplies used by Council.	Medium





### Supporting the community

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
<b>R3 — Objective: Increase the community recycling rate by at least 30 per cent by 2021.</b>		
<b>R3.1</b> 	Introduce food waste recycling for the community as part of the existing organic waste recycling service by end of 2017.	High
<b>R3.2</b>	Investigate whether changes to frequency of kerbside bin collections could reduce garbage and increase recycling.	High
<b>R3.3</b> 	Work with <i>Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group</i> and other local governments to secure access to new generation garbage disposal facilities that minimise greenhouse gas emissions from waste.	High
<b>R3.4</b>	Investigate and if feasible, offer Council run waste and recycling services specifically designed for higher density areas and larger businesses.	Medium
<b>R3.5</b>	Increase recycling from hard rubbish and street sweeping.	Medium
<b>R4 — Objective: Support the community to minimise and correctly sort waste and recycling in homes and businesses.</b>		
<b>R4.1</b> 	Run a long-term and ongoing recycling and waste education program for residents including encouraging volunteer litter collection.	High
<b>R4.2</b> 	Encourage use of specialist disposal options, including those available to the community but not run by Council (for example, for batteries or clothes).	Medium
<b>R4.3</b> 	Continue to advocate for policy settings and services at state and federal levels that improve options for disposal of special items (such as batteries, light bulbs, chemicals and small e-waste).	High

Each year an action plan is developed for the year ahead that outlines how each recommendation will be implemented.



Advocacy and education recommendations





6

Biodiversity





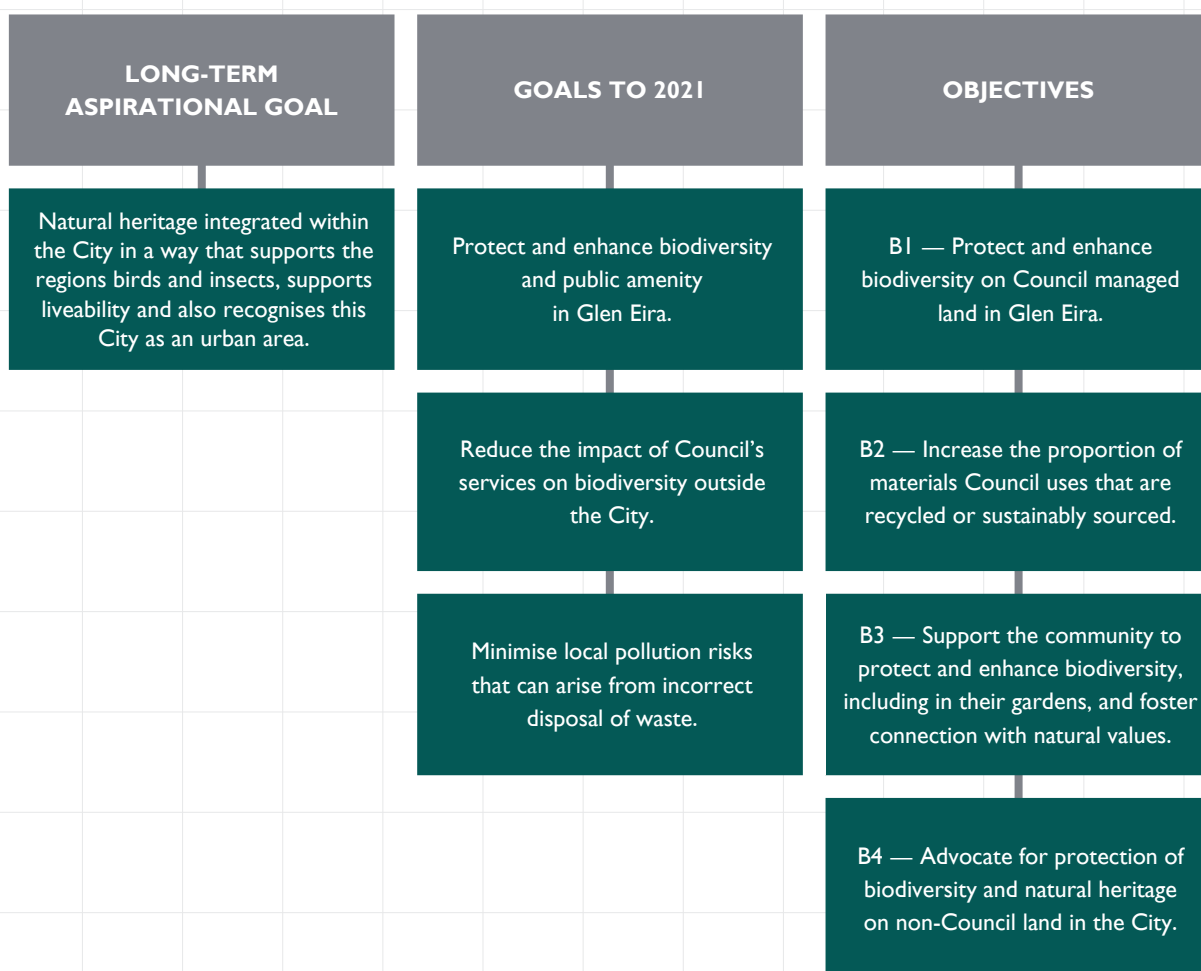
BIODIVERSITY



# 6

## Biodiversity

### 6.1 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES





## 6.2 OUR APPROACH

Our focus for the next five years will be managing and enhancing remnant and other native vegetation on Council managed land in line with our *Open Space Strategy*. We will concentrate efforts on protecting and enhancing biodiversity in areas where some remnant vegetation already exists.

In the next five years, the Victorian Government is constructing large infrastructure projects in Glen Eira including level crossing removals. Advocating for vegetation to be protected and reinstated will be an important priority.

We will explore options to build resilience, enhance biodiversity and celebrate natural heritage when we design and plan open spaces, parks and streetscapes.

Buying sustainably sourced products can protect biodiversity in other regions.

Through information and education, we will support the community to enhance biodiversity and habitat in their own gardens. We will promote opportunities for the community to contribute their skills and energy by volunteering in the region.

## 6.3 PROGRESS TO DATE

Council is protecting local biodiversity and the natural environment in a number of ways.

- > Important areas of natural habitat are conserved at Hopetoun Gardens in Elsternwick, Bentleigh Hodgson Reserve in Bentleigh, Boyd Park, Aviary Garden in Caulfield Park and Mallanbool Reserve in Murrumbeena. These parks contribute to biodiversity in Glen Eira by providing habitat for native animals and maintaining local plant diversity.
- > Council's *Open Space Strategy* was adopted in April 2014 and guides the future planning, provision, design and management of public open space in Glen Eira from 2013 to 2026. The *Strategy* targets protection and retention

of all remnant indigenous trees (recommendation 5.2R) and planting of indigenous species in open spaces where remnant indigenous vegetation is present (recommendation 5.2S).<sup>19</sup>

- > Council uses indigenous and native plants in many of its parks. In 2014–15, for example, approximately 10 per cent of the plants that Council's Park Services planted were local indigenous plants from the sand belt region of Melbourne (south of the Yarra extending to Frankston), with the balance being mostly native Australian species.
- > Council has more than 50,000 street trees, which is up from around 30,000 in the 1980s. In 2014–15, an additional 1,000 street trees were planted as part of a long-term commitment to increase the number of street trees.
- > We provide information and education to improve the community's awareness of Glen Eira's biodiversity and local environment.

To protect biodiversity in the region and wider world, Council has focused on where it sources products it purchases:

- > Council encourages staff to purchase environmentally friendly products and regularly reports on this expenditure. For example, recycled plastic benches are used in streetscapes and recycled wood and concrete has been used in new building and infrastructure projects.
- > In 2013–14 Council's total green purchasing expenditure was \$3,582,908. This represented an increase of nine per cent from the 2012–13 expenditure of \$3,284,374.
- > For many years Council has used Forest Stewardship Certified paper for its publications and sources copy paper from a mix of recycled and sustainably managed sources.

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>19</sup> Glen Eira City Council 2014 *Open Space Strategy*, p.83.





#### 6.4 BACKGROUND

Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms, the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they form a part.<sup>20</sup> Biodiversity provides many values to society including environmental, social, aesthetic, cultural, recreational, productive and economic values.

Australia is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world and has many high value areas. Glen Eira, like most highly urbanised areas has lost much of its local biodiversity. Glen Eira has been extensively modified by land development and urban growth from the 1830s onwards with a significant loss of indigenous vegetation. There is one significant remnant River Red Gum Woodland Community at Boyd Park in Murrumbeena. There are other individual remnant Red Gums in the open space system and some open space areas have been replanted with indigenous species to reflect the original natural character, such as at Mallanbool Reserve and Packer Park.<sup>21</sup>

These remnant areas are valuable to Glen Eira as an important part of its natural heritage.

As the urban area develops further, there is likely to be pressure on these areas.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>20</sup> Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council 2010, *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030*, p.7.

<sup>21</sup> Glen Eira City Council 2014 *Open Space Strategy*, p.20.





BIODIVERSITY







6.5 RECOMMENDATIONS




Council infrastructure and operations

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
<b>B1 — Objective: Protect and enhance biodiversity and environmental heritage on Council managed land in Glen Eira.</b>		
<b>B1.1</b>	In line with the <i>Open Space Strategy</i> , protect and over time enhance areas of remnant vegetation and other native plant communities and trees.	High
<b>B1.2</b>	Ensure sufficient seed stock is available to replant remnant indigenous vegetation in the event of its loss (ie. a result of wind, fire, pest).	High
<b>B1.3</b>	Explore practical management options to improve biodiversity, such as increasing diversity of insects and habitats within some open spaces and streetscapes with nesting boxes and retaining woody debris in some cases.	Medium
<b>B1.4</b>	Incorporate natural features and natural heritage during design of buildings, urban areas and masterplans.	High
<b>B1.5</b>	Manage Council's tree population of more than 60,000 to keep it healthy and long lived and fill all appropriate vacant street tree spots on nature strips in the City (around 4,000).	High
<b>B2 — Objective: Increase the proportion of materials Council uses that are recycled or sustainably sourced.</b>		
<b>B2.1</b>	Investigate options to further reduce impacts on biodiversity through procurement, including reviewing the source of products containing wood to ensure products are recycled or sustainably sourced.	High





## Supporting the community

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
<b>B3 — Objective: Support the community to protect and enhance biodiversity including in their gardens, and foster connection with natural values.</b>		
<b>B3.1</b> 	Support residents with education and information to protect and enhance biodiversity in the local area and introduce and maintain habitat in their own property.	Medium
<b>B3.2</b> 	Encourage community volunteerism and community research in the local area to further understand current populations of birds, insects and plants and to also to provide practical support in conserving natural areas.	Medium
<b>B4 — Objective: Advocate for protection of biodiversity and natural heritage on non-Council land in the City.</b>		
<b>B4.1</b> 	Advocate for protection of natural heritage in major development projects in the City including level crossing removals.	High

Each year an action plan is developed for the year ahead that outlines how each recommendation will be implemented.

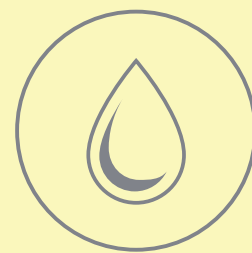




7

Water





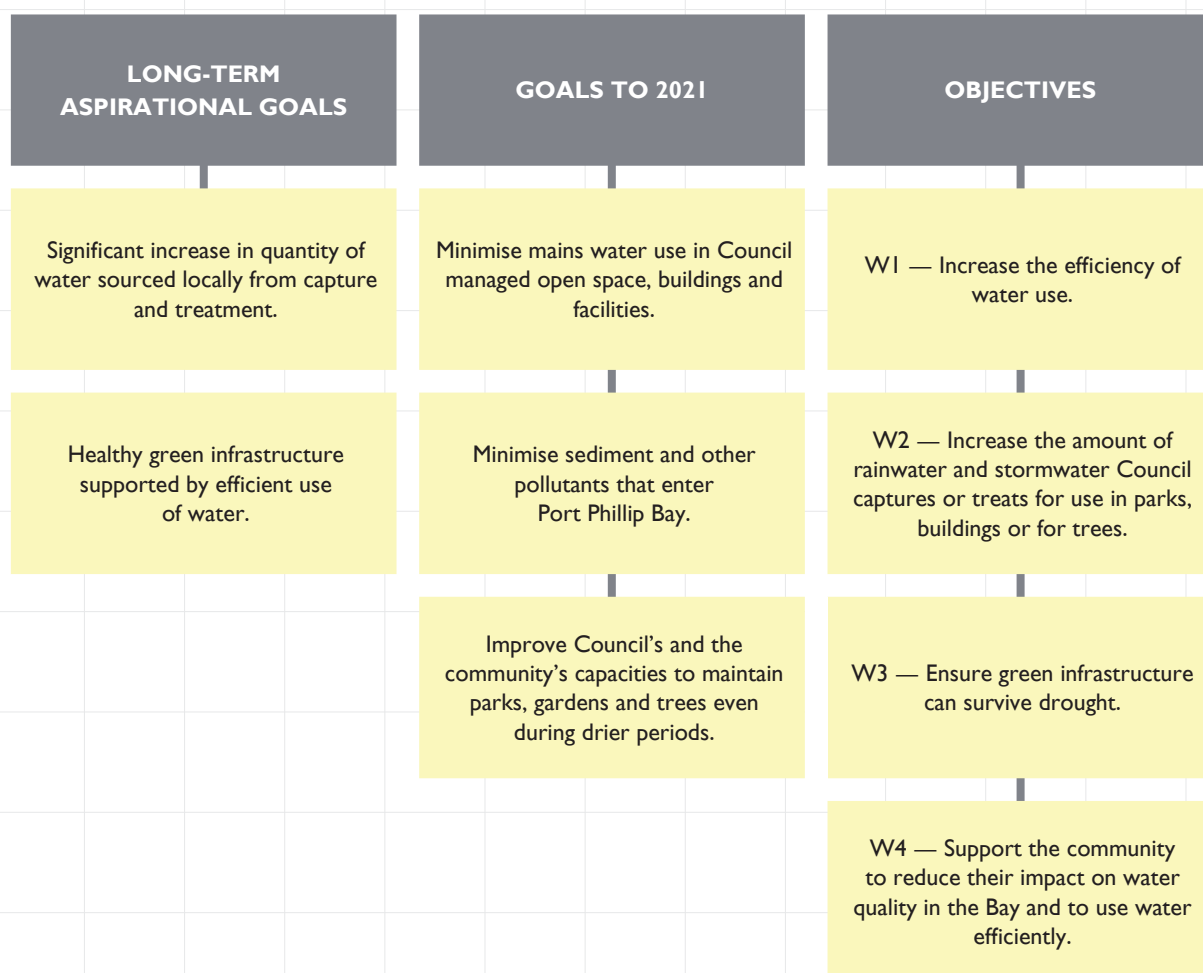
WATER

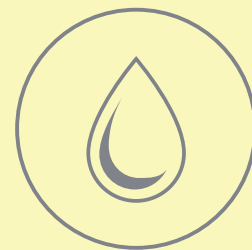




# Water

## 7.1 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES





## 7.2 OUR APPROACH

Over the next five years, as part of its infrastructure and maintenance activities, Council will continue to improve its water use efficiency and where possible undertake stormwater harvesting and re-use. Over time, Council expects to be able to significantly increase water capture and treatment when new infrastructure is designed and developed. Council will also take these opportunities to integrate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and contribute to reducing waterborne pollution entering Port Phillip Bay.

In addition, Council will undertake targeted work to reduce waterborne pollution through its street sweeping services and building development site enforcement activities.

Council will encourage the community to reduce water use and minimise pollution, support and leverage programs established by other agencies and water utilities, and encourage residents to actively implement litter management (including leaf litter) in their local areas. Council will administer *Planning Scheme* requirements relating to managing stormwater quality and quantity where applicable.



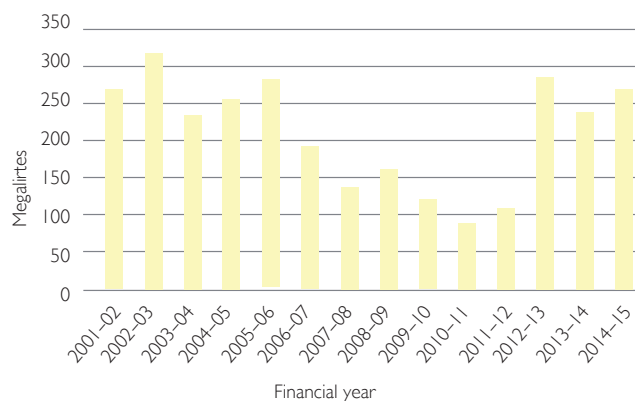


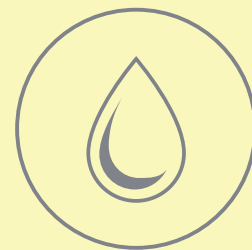
### 7.3 PROGRESS TO DATE

Council is an industry leader in minimising potable water usage in facilities and on sportsgrounds (see Figure 4). Highlights from the last decade are below:

- > GESAC was completed in 2012 with highly efficient water use technology. Recycled rainwater is captured and used to help reduce reliance on mains water. The recycled water is used for toilet flushing and irrigation in various locations around the Centre and in Bailey Reserve in Bentleigh East. In 2014–15 the volume of water recycled and re-used by GESAC was estimated at 8.904 megalitres (20.6 per cent of GESAC's total water use).
- > Council endorsed a *Sustainable Water Use Plan* in 2009 with the aim to reduce its annual mains water consumption to no more than 75 per cent of the amount Council used in 2000. During the drought Council reduced water use substantially and well beyond its target.
- > Council uses a large amount of water to maintain its parks and gardens. To help minimise water use in Council's parks, Council installed a state-of-the art centrally controlled irrigation system in 2014 at its Park Services Depot office in Caulfield Park. The new user-friendly system controls irrigation in sportsgrounds, parks and garden beds across the City and allows for improved monitoring and water use performance.
- > WSUD features have been incorporated into the construction of new open spaces, including Booran Reserve in Glen Huntly, which will incorporate a 500,000 litre stormwater harvesting system for recapturing rainwater for irrigation and toilet flushing. This is expected to minimise Council's water use by 3.6 megalitres.
- > More than 70 per cent of Council ovals have been converted to warm season grasses over more than a decade. Warm season grasses require approximately 25 per cent less watering than standard grasses once established.
- > Installation of water efficient fixtures and appliances is common practice in Council's building maintenance activities.
- > Council's stormwater systems drain in to Elwood Canal and the Yarra River to Port Phillip Bay. Council uses WSUD and drain cleaning techniques that reduces pollution washing down the system.
- > The new Duncan Mackinnon Reserve Pavilion and Community Room (officially opened in October 2015) also incorporates a number of environmentally sustainable design features, including the use of rainwater collection and storage for toilet flushing and use on garden beds, water efficient taps, showerheads and other plumbing fixtures, energy efficient light fittings and the use of natural light and ventilation to further reduce energy use.
- > Council promotes a range of information and offers to the Glen Eira community to help them with water use.
- > Community members are asked to help with watering trees during dry periods and when they are young.

FIG. 4 ANNUAL POTABLE WATER CONSUMPTION





#### 7.4 BACKGROUND

Water is essential to life and supports a healthy environment, green parks and open space and a flourishing community. Water is a valuable resource and we need to continue to improve how we manage water use to ensure we meet the long-term needs of the environment and our community.

CSIRO and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) projections show that over time, rain fall is projected to decrease in spring in all models and in winter in most models.<sup>22</sup> Melbourne currently has good water supply, but in the long-term, as the population grows and with a drier climate, water is expected to again become scarce. There are lots of ways to reduce the risk of drought impacting on our parks, reserves and suburbs such as capturing rainwater and stormwater locally and planting drought tolerant species.

It will also be important to reduce the impacts of water-born pollution on Port Phillip Bay. Most stormwater that runs off from land in the City of Glen Eira enters Port Phillip Bay via Elster Creek and canal at Elwood. This stormwater carries pollutants, including sedimentation and litter, which may affect water quality for both recreation and habitat in the Bay and along the Elster Creek and canal area.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>22</sup> Grose, M. et al., 2015, *Southern Slopes Cluster Report, Climate Change in Australia Projections for Australia's Natural Resource Management Regions: Cluster Reports*, Eds. Ekström, M. et al., CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, p.5.



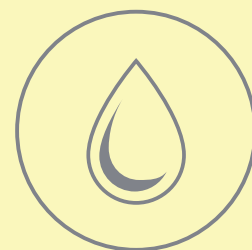


## 7.5 RECOMMENDATIONS



### Council infrastructure and operations

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
<b>W1 — Objective: Increase efficiency of Council's water use.</b>		
<b>W1.1</b>	Continue to optimise Council's irrigation systems to ensure they are efficient and effective and that leaks are identified and rectified quickly if they occur. Annually review options and continually improve.	High
<b>W1.2</b>	Continue the changeover to warm season grasses in sportsgrounds in line with the <i>Open Space Strategy</i> .	High
<b>W1.3</b>	When updating irrigation systems and sportsgrounds, consider cost-effective opportunities to reduce potable water use.	High
<b>W2 — Objective: Increase the amount of rainwater and stormwater Council captures or treats for use in parks, buildings or for trees.</b>		
<b>W2.1</b>	During infrastructure planning and design, introduce features to reduce water use and reduce pollution that flows to Port Phillip Bay and seek appropriate partnerships and grants to support projects.	High
<b>W2.2</b>	Model locations of sources of water-borne pollution in Glen Eira to help inform priority locations for water saving, capture and treatment options in Council works and for education.	Medium
<b>W2.3</b>	To reduce pollutants that enter the stormwater system, review street sweeping schedules to identify opportunities to adjust schedules in target areas to account for differing times that leaves fall.	Medium
<b>W3 — Objective: Ensure green infrastructure can survive drought.</b>		
<b>W3.1</b>	Use drought tolerant trees and plants in the majority of plantings.	High
<b>W3.2</b>	Explore options for the community to assist with tree watering during times of drought.	Medium





## Supporting the community

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
<b>W4 — Objective: Support the community to reduce their impact on water quality in the Port Phillip Bay and to use water efficiently.</b>		
<b>W4.1</b> 	Develop and implement an education and enforcement program to ensure compliance at building sites in regards to sediment control and stormwater runoff.	High
<b>W4.2</b> 	As part of Council's communication and education activities, encourage water saving and pollution reduction initiatives in the community including promoting and leveraging government; utility and community water saving; and pollution reduction initiatives.	Medium

Each year an action plan is developed for the year ahead that outlines how each recommendation will be implemented.







Advocacy and education





ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION





# Advocacy and education

## 8.1 LONG-TERM ASPIRATIONAL GOALS

Zero net emissions from  
community by 2050.

Network of indigenous and  
native habitat in community  
gardens across the City.

Significant contribution of private  
water capture to water supply  
and water management  
in the City.

Vast majority of garbage recycled  
and/or treated.

In practice our education program and advocacy activities are delivered in an integrated way and cover all the themes. This section summarises the main elements of Council's advocacy and education programs.

Council recognises that the community has an important role in helping achieve our collective vision for environmental sustainability. We will support the community with a range of education, advocacy and partnership activities to help the community reduce its environmental impact and to seek better collective outcomes.

Advocacy and education are key strategies for achieving our goals in all four themes: climate change, recycling and waste, biodiversity and water.



## 8.2 ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY

It can be difficult for local communities to reduce their environmental impact on their own and Local Government has limited options to solve these problems. We will advocate to State and Federal Governments for protection of vegetation and biodiversity, better public transport, for new generation recycling facilities, and higher standards for buildings to help reduce energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions.

In recent years Council has advocated on a range of issues:

- > Protection of native vegetation during the level crossing removal works.
- > Food waste recycling facilities for the south east region of Melbourne.
- > Better public transport and bicycle facilities.
- > Better e-waste recycling and chemical disposal services.

## 8.3 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

- > Vegetation protection in State Government projects (recommendation B4.1).
- > New generation garbage processing facilities (recommendation R3.3).
- > Higher energy efficiency standards for buildings (objective C.5).
- > Better public transport (objective C.5).
- > More renewable energy (objective C.5).
- > Better recycling of e-waste and chemicals (recommendation R4.3).

## 8.4 SUPPORTING AND MOBILISING THE COMMUNITY

Communities are important stewards in their own homes and gardens and can help with regional efforts such as protecting the bay. Council will support the community with a range of education activities and promote volunteering opportunities. We aim to support the community in their aspirations for environmental sustainability and to tap into their skills and energy.

We have expanded and developed our community education over the last six years. Highlights are below:

- > Schools, kindergartens and early learning centres across the City contribute to a local Sustainable Educators Network, which Council hosts as part of its support for schools and early learning in the City. Council also runs sessions in classrooms and at community events for kids.
- > Council ran a series of free community presentations for many years. In 2014–15, for example, Council delivered 16 presentations to 742 community members on topics including solar power; sustainable gardening; and sustainable house design.
- > Council established a *Neighbourhood Sustainable Gardening Program* which has 839 participants and is designed to help residents share ideas and knowledge and to tap into their energy and skills.
- > Establishment of a partnership in 2013 with energy efficiency specialist Energy Makeovers, to run the *Glen Eira Energy Saving Program*, which offers households free installations of small energy saving products at no charge. Since starting the *Program*, greenhouse gas emissions in the community have reduced by almost 5000 t CO<sub>2</sub>-e over 10 years.





# Advocacy and education

## 8.5 EDUCATION PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

In the next five years, Council will build on its education program and the strong foundation that exists. Five priorities have been identified as opportunities to extend the program:

- > Tap into the sustainability features of Council's buildings, facilities and open spaces as demonstration sites that can be used for community engagement and education activities (recommendations C7.1, R1.1, R1.2, R1.3, B1.4 and W2.1).
- > Encourage opportunities for volunteerism in the region such as promoting citizen science opportunities, or regional efforts like rural tree planting or foreshore conservation activities (recommendations B3.2)
- > Focus its recycling education program on introducing food waste recycling and improving recycling of paper, cardboard and other products that are still put in the garbage bin by mistake (recommendations R3.1, R3.2, R3.4, R4.1 and R4.2).
- > Explore how to further extend the practical support Council offers through the *Energy Saving Program* or similar, to help with energy efficiency improvements in homes throughout the City (recommendations C7.2 and 7.3).
- > Explore options to build on the *Neighbourhood Sustainable Gardening Program* to support community and individual initiatives (recommendations B3.1 and W4.2).







GLEN EIRA  
CITY COUNCIL

**GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL**

Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield  
PO Box 42, Caulfield South, 3162  
Telephone: 9524 3333  
Facsimile: 9523 0339

[www.gleneira.vic.gov.au](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au)