



## GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

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### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2016–2021 **SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

BENTLEIGH  
BENTLEIGH EAST  
BRIGHTON EAST  
CARNEGIE  
CAULFIELD  
ELSTERNWICK  
GARDENVALE  
GLEN HUNTLY  
MCKINNON  
MURRUMBEENA  
ORMOND  
ST KILDA EAST



# SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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## INTRODUCTION

In 2015 and 2016, Glen Eira City Council undertook a significant review of its *Environmental Sustainability Strategy* to develop a strategy for the next five years to meet community aspirations and address key risks. The *2016–2021 Strategy* was adopted by Council in 2016.

Community consultation reinforced the importance of sustainability to the community of Glen Eira. This document summarises the main themes from community feedback as well as the specific changes that were made to the *Draft Strategy* and *Action Plan* following stage two of the consultation. Many of the key themes of the feedback were already included in the *Strategy*. This summary covers strategic issues and does not include feedback on detailed operational issues, grammar or formatting.

Community consultation was an important part of the review of the *Strategy* and was done in two stages:

**Stage one** — research to develop the *Draft Strategy*, included:

- holding a community environment forum;
- running a representative survey of 300 residents on community values on sustainability;
- reviewing results from Council's annual *Community Satisfaction Survey*; and
- reviewing results of waste audits and a survey of residents on recycling.

**Stage two** — consultation on proposed strategic approaches and the *Draft Strategy* document itself, included:

- release of the draft *Strategy* and draft *Action Plan* for written comment;
- a consultation workshop with the community;
- engagement with youth organisations and schools; and
- a special meeting of the Environment Advisory Committee.

## FEEDBACK SNAPSHOT

In summary, the following outcomes came out of the feedback process:

- Generally there was support for the draft *Sustainability Strategy*.
- Aspirational goals, advocacy and education work were welcomed.
- A number of suggestions received during consultation resulted in new actions.
- Many community priorities are already reflected in the *Strategy*.
- Climate change is a priority and some residents called for a faster response.



## FEEDBACK DETAILS

The following tables outline feedback in specific key categories and how it was considered or incorporated into the *Strategy* or *Action Plan*.

### CHANGES TO RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS

Community comment	Changes made
<b>Climate change</b>	
Join the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA).	New action for 2016–17 to investigate joining EAGA.
<b>Recycling and waste</b>	
Better recycling solutions are needed for larger businesses and multi-unit apartments.	Existing recommendation edited to include this feedback: <i>‘Investigate and if feasible, offer Council run waste and recycling services specifically designed for higher density areas and larger businesses.’</i>  Corresponding action is recommended for future years rather than 2016–17.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
Ensure replanting after level crossing removals has a biodiversity emphasis.	New action included for 2016–17: <i>‘Council will advocate for the planting of suitable native and indigenous vegetation in appropriate locations following level crossing removals.’</i>
Complete a City wide biodiversity survey.	New action included for 2016–17: a report on biodiversity in Glen Eira will be published on Council’s website during 2016–17.
Allow nature strip planting with indigenous plants.	New action planned for 2017–18: <i>Review nature strip planting guidelines for low-level plantings, not including street trees.’</i>
Planting of local seed stock, particularly trees.	New action planned for 2017–18: <i>‘explore options with local indigenous nurseries for the seed from remnant River Red Gum stands to be collected and propagated to make sure that local seed contributes to the genetic diversity of the species in the region.’</i>  Expert advice however has suggested that in most cases, it would be preferable to use plants from other parts of the sandbelt region to ensure genetic variety.
<b>Water</b>	
Monitor progress on water capture and storage.	Council’s sustainability indicators will be reviewed in 2016–17. Council intends to measure water capture and reuse. This <i>Strategy</i> will increase water capture, storage and treatment over time.

## COMMUNITY PRIORITIES ALREADY REFLECTED IN THE STRATEGY

Community comment	How is this included?
<b>Climate change</b>	
Need a citywide target and practical solutions for residents.	As well as Council short-term goals and a long-term aspirational goal for zero net emissions by 2030, this <i>Strategy</i> includes a citywide long-term aspirational goal for zero net emissions by 2050.  A baseline for community emissions will be set during the course of this <i>Strategy</i> .
Focus on energy efficiency and work progressively to reduce energy demand.	This is a priority in the <i>Strategy</i> . The <i>Strategy</i> includes a focus on energy efficiency both within Council operations and in supporting and mobilising the community.
Advocate for better Ecologically Sustainable Design (ESD) in developments and better public transport.	Advocacy on ESD in buildings is a priority in this <i>Strategy</i> as well as the recent <i>Planning Scheme Review</i> . Advocacy for better public transport is also a priority of this <i>Strategy</i> .
Address the urban heat island effect by planting more trees and gardens, including in developments.	This is a priority of the <i>Strategy</i> and is also supported by actions from recent <i>Planning Scheme Review</i> and by the <i>Open Space Strategy</i> .
<b>Recycling and waste</b>	
More options and information about recycling of small e-waste, chemicals and other specialist disposal items.	This is a priority in the <i>Strategy</i> . An action to implement this recommendation is included in the <i>2016–17 Action Plan</i> .
Advocate to state government for better options for recycling more waste, including e-waste.	This is a priority in the <i>Strategy</i> .
Food waste recycling a priority.	This is high priority in the <i>Strategy</i> .
Minimise waste overall especially plastic.	This is included in the <i>Strategy</i> and is part of ongoing education activities.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
Put more emphasis on planting local indigenous trees and plants on Council land.	As new masterplans and park redevelopments are completed in line with the <i>Open Space Strategy</i> , it is expected to result in more emphasis on planting local indigenous trees and plants.
Promote and encourage planting local indigenous plants in new (private) developments. Protecting existing remnant trees on private property.	Council plans to develop a tree protection policy and explore requiring a higher level of ESD for significant developments as a result of its recent review of the <i>Planning Scheme</i> .
<b>Other</b>	
Promote volunteerism.	Promoting volunteerism is an important part of the <i>strategy</i> .

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK NOT INCLUDED IN THE STRATEGY

Community comment	Why it is not included in the strategy?
<b>Climate change</b>	
Targets should be for greater cuts sooner; stronger Green Power Target.	<p>Council has expressed a preference for putting funds towards energy efficiency and renewable energy investment in its own facilities rather than into purchase of Green Power.</p> <p>In future, an action will be considered to review Green Power and alternative carbon offsetting.</p>
Support electric vehicles.	<p>The strategy prioritises emissions from waste and buildings, because these are much larger sources of emissions for Council and because vehicle technologies are changing so fast. The strategy keeps the door open for new options and continued education.</p>
<b>Water</b>	
Aspire to being 'water neutral' and supplying own water from treated stormwater.	<p>The strategy proposes increasing capture and treatment of stormwater.</p> <p>No change is proposed — a regional approach to water is important and not consistent with the idea of being 'water neutral'.</p>
Return Elster Canal to a natural creek.	<p>Council has no current plans to explore this.</p>