

# Climate Emergency Action Plan

2024 – 2027



## Transformation 1: In Yarra every choice we make and every action we take responds to the climate emergency

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1.1.1	<p><b>Support the community to make individual and collective choices to reduce personal and household emissions.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the Take Climate Action campaign, including promoting plant-based diets, ethical investment/divestment and other lifestyle choices which have positive climate impacts.</li> <li>• Expand the Take Climate Action campaign to include businesses and others who work and play in Yarra, so that the reach and impact of the campaign is amplified.</li> <li>• Deliver programs/resources to acknowledge eco-anxiety and support wellbeing in the context of the climate emergency.</li> </ul>	●	●	●
1.1.2	<p><b>Ensure Council and community are collaborating to deliver a strong, measurable, Climate Emergency response that brings everyone along.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring together Council, community and delivery partners to inform the mid-term review (in 2027), through a reflection on progress against the CEP and opportunities for further action.</li> <li>• Create opportunities to ensure cross-organisation responsibility for delivery, collaboration on, and monitoring of the CEP.</li> <li>• Report on the CEP through the Quarterly Community Report and other appropriate channels.</li> </ul>	★	★	★

● Action is funded (either as part of ongoing operational budgets or 24/25 budget)

▲ Action subject to budget approvals in years 2 and 3

★ No additional funding needed for delivery (action may be part of Council core business, or delivered in partnership with another action)

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1.1.3	<p><b>Deliver brave, honest, and hopeful climate emergency communications and engagement that reaches all corners of the Yarra community and encourages participation in the local response.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply a climate lens to all Council communications and community engagement outputs to ensure they support the climate emergency response.</li> <li>• Establish and extend trusted communication networks so Council, directly or via partners, can effectively communicate with all of our community, in particular marginalised, multicultural and at-risk communities.</li> <li>• Ensure communications with at-risk communities are delivered in the style and via the channels through which these communities source information.</li> <li>• Showcase community members and groups taking climate action to recognise achievement and build momentum.</li> <li>• Review Council's emergency activation and response protocol for communicating with community in times of crisis, with particular consideration to marginalised, multicultural and at-risk communities.</li> <li>• Connect the climate emergency narrative to broader council projects, notably Infrastructure, Open Space and Building Assets, in order to communicate environmental considerations in the design, construction and delivery of Council assets.</li> </ul>	●	●	●
1.1.4	<p><b>Support the uptake of plant-based eating across the organisation and municipality.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage local businesses to increase their provision of plant-based products.</li> <li>• Continue to deliver programs and communications which encourage more plant-based eating.</li> <li>• Update the Council catering policy to be exclusively plant-based on expiry of the current policy. Until then, support staff to choose plant-based options from the existing panel.</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to monitor, measure and reduce emissions embodied in the food purchased by Council for catering purposes.</li> </ul>	★	★	★

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1.1.5	<p><b>Advocate to State Government for policy changes to enable Yarra community members to access climate-safe, accessible and affordable public transport and associated infrastructure (i.e. sheltered transit stops).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for increased availability and accessibility of public transport infrastructure, including sheltered bus and tram stops, wheelchair-accessible stops, etc.</li> </ul>	★	★	★
1.1.6	<p><b>Work to achieve Yarra’s 2050 transport vision where our transport network is robust, highly functional and multi-modal, and allows people and goods to move efficiently on its network of historic streets, trails and paths.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to implement and evaluate Moving Forward: Yarra's Transport Strategy 2022-32 and the associated Transport Action Plan to support reduced car trips and increase public transport, walking and cycling.</li> <li>• Use available policy tools, such as user-pays models, in transparent and data-driven ways to manage demand for cars and provide funding to achieve Council’s transport outcoms.</li> <li>• Work with the State Government to explore the potential of future trials or permanent 30km/hr speed zones.</li> </ul>	●	●	●



Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1.2.1	<p><b>Develop data and systems within Council to enable decision-making that appropriately considers climate risk and resilience, and the rights of nature.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider emerging best practice in climate risk and resilience, and incorporate into Council processes as appropriate.</li> <li>• Participate in counterpart networks and peer working groups exploring climate risk in local government and community contexts.</li> <li>• Undertake ongoing reporting on Council's climate risk to Council's Audit and Risk Committee.</li> <li>• Develop approaches for considering and valuing climate risk, resilience, and the rights of nature in strategy, policy, investment, program and project decisions.</li> <li>• Develop the Climate Emergency Indicators Database to monitor and record climate and nature risk and resilience information across the city, and inform decision making. The database will include socioeconomic data, at-risk communities, urban heat, flood mapping, extreme temperatures, extreme rainfall, canopy cover, access to nature, tree equity data, etc.</li> <li>• Acquire data to understand the extent and severity of heat in Yarra (seasonally and over time), alongside community vulnerability data and flood mapping, enabling localised, multi-hazard climate risk analysis and targeted action.</li> <li>• Develop localised data on socioeconomic characteristics and vulnerabilities across the community (through a Social Indicators Survey, or data purchase arrangement), mapped alongside climate hazards and natural spaces, to understand concentrations of climate risk across Yarra.</li> <li>• Work to understand the segments that make up the Yarra population, their characteristics, how and where they get their information (channels), trusted sources of information, key barriers/drivers, and message testing to inform climate emergency communications.</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to monitor, measure and reduce emissions related to the consumption of goods and services across the municipality, including construction and food-related emissions.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1.2.2	<p><b>Strengthen strategic documents and local laws to align with Yarra’s climate emergency vision.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all new and updated strategies, plans, policies, and local laws, will strengthen Yarra’s climate emergency response. This includes strengthening Council’s procurement to explicitly consider the climate and biodiversity impacts of goods and services, and address circularity.</li> <li>• Integrate climate emergency considerations into policy, strategy and guideline development processes.</li> <li>• Review emergency management planning documents and processes to ensure that climate risk considerations and any additional requirements for people with a disability, older adults, and other community members at greater risk are accounted for.</li> <li>• Integrate climate resilience into the asset management planning processes to ensure Council assets meet future community needs under climate change, and are appropriate to climate conditions over their planned service life.</li> <li>• Consider emerging best practice in climate risk management and incorporate into our processes as appropriate.</li> </ul>	★	★	★
1.2.3	<p><b>Drive Yarra’s climate emergency response through Council’s role as a rental provider and public space licensing authority.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and, where required, strengthen and support green lease requirements of tenants</li> <li>• Review and, where required, update hire agreement conditions to align with climate emergency objectives.</li> <li>• Review and, where required, strengthen policies/guidelines for Council events and users of Council facilities to improve climate emergency response, including circularity and nature outcomes.</li> <li>• Include circular principles in waste collection for events in new waste contract (commencing 2026).</li> </ul>	★	★	★



Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1.2.4	<p><b>Deliver Council’s commitment to every job at Council being a ‘climate job’.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with all teams across Council so that they respond to the climate emergency through the work they do.</li> <li>• Align branch and team work plans with the climate emergency plan/response, so that responding to the climate emergency is considered as part of Council’s core business.</li> <li>• Update organisational processes, templates and other tools so that the climate emergency is suitably considered as part of Council’s core business.</li> </ul>	★	★	★



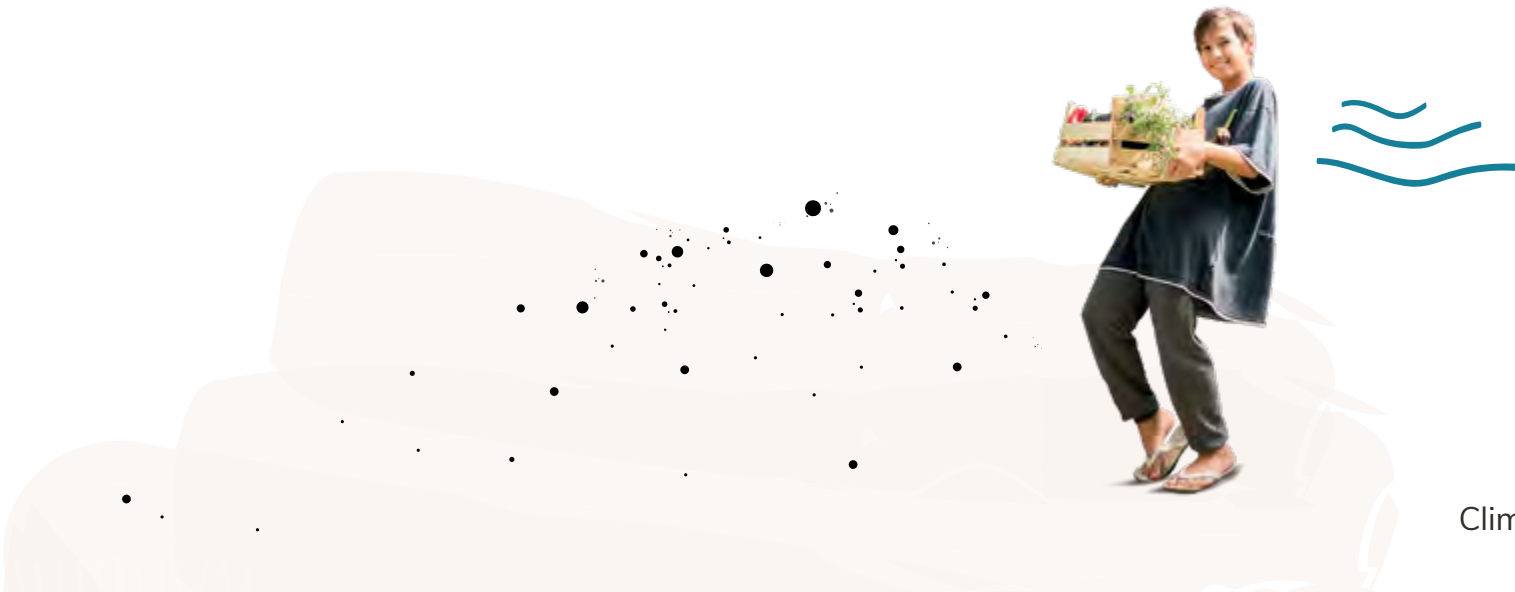
**Transformation 2:** In Yarra, community members at greater risk from climate impacts are connected, supported, and empowered to build resilience

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
2.1.1	<p><b>Support self-determination for the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and other First Peoples in Yarra.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the identification, co-design, and implementation of initiatives to further develop climate resilience among the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and other First Peoples in Yarra.</li> </ul>	★	▲	▲
2.1.2	<p><b>Support communities to understand and prepare for the climate risks relevant to their neighbourhood.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute information and resources, including heat health equipment, to community members at greater risk to increase resilience to extreme weather, including maps of locally specific climate risks and key community locations.</li> <li>• Determine the effectiveness of resources distributed to community members at greater risk, including evaluation of communication methods, advice and information provided, translation quality, and additional accessibility considerations.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for education about climate change, local impacts, and opportunities for mitigating risk and building resilience.</li> <li>• Continue to support bicultural liaison officers so that climate risk and resilience information can be shared across the community.</li> <li>• Undertake direct outreach to community members at greater risk – particularly from linguistically diverse communities – to raise awareness of tenants’ rights, energy and housing related policies and programs, and support access to rebates and incentives.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲



Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
2.1.3	<p><b>Increase food security through promoting equitable and healthy food systems and local food networks.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support residents to grow food by identifying and delivering innovative food growing sites, including accessible community gardens, across the municipality.</li> <li>• Strengthen requirements for developers to consider inclusion of food gardens.</li> <li>• Facilitate collaboration and resource sharing among local food security agencies and programs.</li> <li>• Provide information about food security providers and opportunities to the community.</li> <li>• Create opportunities to facilitate local food relief by connecting food relief providers to the community through social programs and Council spaces.</li> <li>• Support the tracking of food relief demand and provision across the municipality and include this in the Climate Emergency Indicators Database.</li> </ul>	★	★	★
2.1.4	<p><b>Implement initiatives to mitigate climate impacts on outdoor workers, including delivery riders.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate businesses on climate risks to outdoor workers and strategies to mitigate risk.</li> <li>• Educate businesses on climate risks to delivery riders and encourage the provision of water and access to facilities such as bathrooms and sheltered areas to wait.</li> <li>• Provide and communicate climate-safe spaces for delivery riders to rest and seek shelter during extreme weather (e.g. Council facilities, neighbourhood houses).</li> </ul>		▲	▲
2.1.5	<p><b>Foster grassroots climate action and resilience through community grants.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate climate resilience into the Council Annual Grants: Climate Action and Environment stream, with the aim to support community groups or organisations with programs or projects that build resilience.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
2.2.1	<p><b>Work with the Yarra community to create and promote a network of cool spaces and informal places of refuge from extreme weather events.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate opportunities for Council to provide accessible cool spaces to community members during periods of extreme heat.</li> <li>• Actively engage and work with neighbouring councils, local businesses, organisations, and community who can provide climate-safe spaces during periods of extreme weather and make these available to our diverse community.</li> <li>• Promote awareness of climate-safe spaces that community can access during extreme events, ensuring this reaches culturally and linguistically diverse community members.</li> <li>• Investigate partnership opportunities to support community members experiencing homelessness to access cool spaces during extreme heat events, for example accessing a mobile cooling hub.</li> </ul>		▲	▲
2.2.2	<p><b>Support the Yarra Neighbourhood House Network with the implementation of their 2023 Climate Action &amp; Resilience Plan and the individual implementation plans.</b></p>	●	▲	▲

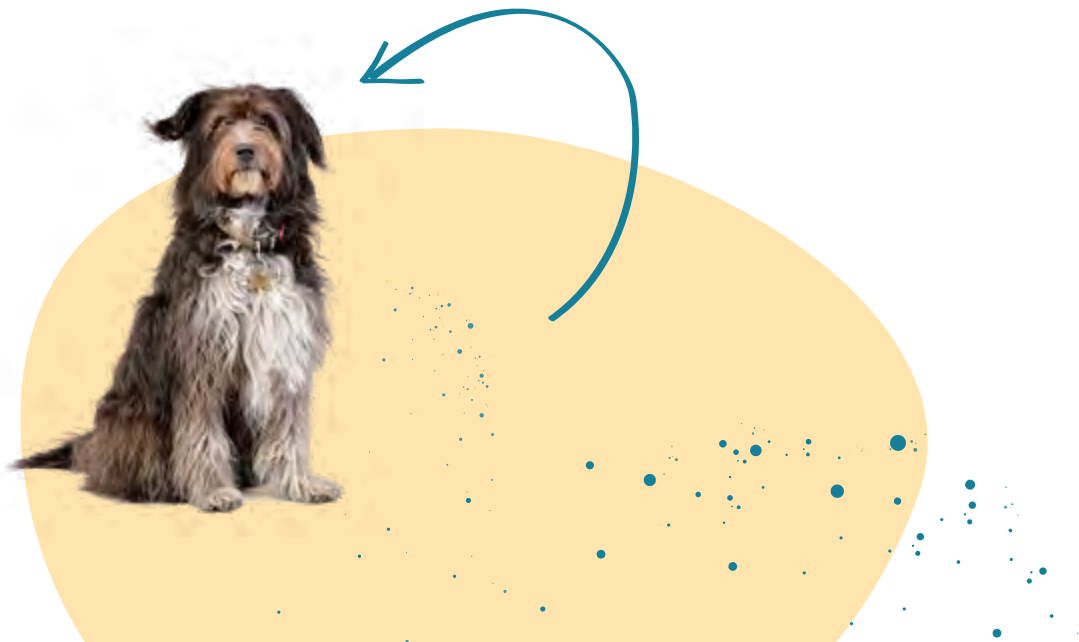


Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
2.2.3	<p><b>Collaborate with a diverse range of community organisations across Yarra to develop the ‘Yarra Community Roadmap to Climate Resilience’</b></p> <p>Partner with organisations such as Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, community health organisations, aged care, disability and social services organisations, neighbourhood houses, and food, education, and housing providers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a shared understanding of the climate risks in Yarra and opportunities to build climate resilience.</li> <li>• Develop and implement climate resilience plans to bolster the resilience of service delivery and improve outcomes for community.</li> <li>• Establish a cross-organisational network to facilitate ongoing learning, collaboration and support.</li> <li>• Deliver the Yarra Climate Adaptation Inter-Organisation Compact (YCAIC), an annual forum that brings together local health and social service agencies to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on at-risk communities.</li> </ul>	●	●	●
2.2.4	<p><b>Build social resilience through facilitating and bolstering connection among and between community members and community organisations.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a program to connect community members at greater risk during climate impacts with community organisations or neighbour volunteers who can provide wellbeing checks.</li> <li>• Deliver a ‘Resilient Streets’ program, for example hosting street-based activities to facilitate connection between neighbours, learning about local climate risk, and establish grassroots resilience-building initiatives.</li> <li>• Pilot a community leaders training program to increase social connectivity and resilience within their hyper-local community (for example, their block, street or apartment building).</li> <li>• Promote Neighbours Day and associated events and resources.</li> </ul>		▲	▲







Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
2.3.1	<p><b>Develop the climate resilience of Council services, such that critical services underpinning community resilience are not disrupted by climate change, and are able to meet diverse and changing community needs.</b></p> <p>Priority areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aged and Disability</li> <li>• Arts and Culture</li> <li>• Equity and Community Development</li> <li>• Family Youth and Children (Maternal and Child Health)</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Recreation and Leisure</li> <li>• Waste Collection and Cleansing</li> <li>• Open Space Services</li> </ul>	★	★	★



Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
2.4.1	<p><b>Implement advocacy actions regarding community wellbeing and public and social housing, including as outlined in Yarra’s Advocacy Action Plan (Nov 2023).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate to State Government through Council and as a participating member of the M9, to improve energy efficiency and thermal comfort for the residents of existing high-rise public housing.</li> <li>• Advocate to State Government through Council and as a participating member of the M9 to ensure current residents of public housing are not dislocated from their homes and communities as a result of the demolition and redevelopment of the public housing towers.</li> <li>• Advocate to State Government through Council and as a participating member of the M9 and the Municipal Association of Victoria to grow the stock of public and social housing.</li> <li>• Advocate to State Government through Council and as a participating member of the M9 to retain and increase open space, including in the context of public housing redevelopments.</li> <li>• Advocate to and work with State Government to support the transition of community members experiencing homelessness into stable housing.</li> </ul>	★	★	★



### Transformation 3: Yarra is active, empowered and raising our voice together for a stronger climate emergency response

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
3.1.1	<p><b>Build a movement of people taking climate action across Yarra, raising their voices and pushing for the urgent change we need.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate, support and encourage community-led climate action campaigns that amplify climate emergency messaging in the community.</li> <li>• Encourage and support community members to join local climate and environmental groups and campaigns, and share stories of their impact.</li> <li>• Communicate stories of community members taking climate action in order to amplify and normalise climate action.</li> <li>• Increase readership of Yarra Environment News.</li> <li>• Support the community to become more effective advocates for strong climate action and policies (to know what to advocate for, who to advocate to, and how to advocate).</li> </ul>			
3.2.1	<p><b>Empower underrepresented communities to participate in decision making and advocate around issues relevant to them.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish programs in partnership with community organisations to support and empower underrepresented communities to understand and participate in democratic processes and advocate on issues relevant to them.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for underrepresented communities – including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, multicultural communities, people living on low incomes, young people, and the voice of nature – to provide input into strategic decision making and co-design solutions which impact them.</li> <li>• Support underrepresented communities to learn about climate change, and develop collective action skills so as to increase climate action within their networks and communities.</li> </ul>			



Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
3.2.2	<p><b>Support advocacy through community organisations.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting our community partners and organisation to advocate more effectively.</li> <li>• Work with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to identify climate emergency advocacy priorities, integrate these into Council's advocacy approach, and build support for these across the community.</li> </ul>		▲	▲
3.2.3	<p><b>Prioritise Council's climate emergency 'key asks' and embed climate emergency advocacy across all aspects of the organisation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and prioritise 'key asks' and modes of advocacy – using a matrix of the Plan's 'Transformations Areas' and 'Key Perspectives', and the advocacy tools.</li> <li>• Develop an advocacy strategy in parallel with the review and refresh of the Advocacy Action Plan and development of the new Council Plan.</li> <li>• Foreground the disproportionate impacts of climate change on underrepresented groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people living on low incomes, multicultural communities, young people and future generations, and the voice of nature, when developing advocacy priorities.</li> </ul>	★	★	★
3.3.1	<p><b>Support young people to develop climate advocacy and collective action skills.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver programs tailored to diverse cohorts of young people to develop their skills and knowledge of climate change, advocacy, community organising, civics and democratic rights so they can actively shape, influence and share power.</li> <li>• Share information, resources and opportunities related to climate action and resilience through school networks.</li> <li>• Develop processes to provide young people with opportunities to participate in democratic processes and utilise advocacy skills.</li> </ul>	●	●	●

## Transformation 4: Yarra is a leading and prosperous zero emissions city

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
4.1.1	<p><b>Investigate and deliver smart, innovative community-scale energy solutions.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate, develop and support opportunities to deliver innovative smart energy solutions to accelerate the installation of local renewable energy and batteries for households and businesses (for example, virtual power plants). Seek to incorporate programs to share the benefits with those who experience barriers in benefitting in the renewable energy transition (for example, peer to peer trading or alike).</li> <li>• Continue to lead programs and support actions and advocacy towards smart electrification of precincts and the entire City of Yarra, building on the 2023/24 Wired for Tomorrow project.</li> <li>• Partner with other Councils, other levels of government, industry, and academia to deliver innovative energy solutions and learn through action research.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲



Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
4.1.2	<p><b>Develop and deliver programs to provide targeted, coordinated support for the transition to efficient, electric and zero-emissions homes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and deliver a coordinated program to directly support low-income, at-risk, and rental households with financial incentives toward solar, electrification and energy efficiency measures. Seek to deliver as a coordinated program together with a Climate Safe Rooms program (see Action 6.1.2) and with financial incentives available for programs delivered through Action 4.1.1.</li> <li>• Deliver an Electrify Everything engagement campaign to accelerate electrification powered by renewable energy, building on prior work such as Wired for Tomorrow, and resources and partnerships with other councils, to maximise reach and impact.</li> <li>• Deliver programs to make it easier for Yarra residents to transition to efficient, all-electric homes powered by renewable energy. Increase awareness of and access to rebates, incentives, tools and mechanisms, for all Yarra residents, including apartments and multi-unit dwellings, renters and landlords.</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to leverage Council funding, build on established partnerships, advocate for government support and/or seek private investment to scale up programs and reach.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲












Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
4.1.3	<p><b>Advocate to State and Federal Government to ramp up vision, support and targets for system-wide, home and businesses electrification.</b></p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant and direct support and rebates for households on a low income.</li> <li>• Mandatory energy ratings and disclosure including products (for example, heat pumps) and built form (for example at point of lease and sale).</li> <li>• Ongoing improvement to minimum rental standards for private and public housing, regarding energy efficiency, electrification and thermal comfort.</li> <li>• Regulatory changes, investment and initiatives to enable electrification and maximisation of renewable energy in the grid.</li> </ul>	★	★	★
4.2.1	<p><b>Make Yarra the place to be for sustainable business.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with key influential businesses, we will develop, deliver and market initiatives that position Yarra to attract, retain and support sustainable, climate focused and circular businesses. Including building a vibrant and connected sustainable business network who are benefiting from the transition to net zero and advocating for a better stronger climate resilient Yarra.</li> <li>• Develop a Sustainable Business Yarra business charter to formalise support of key influential businesses towards key transformations within the climate emergency plan, promote sustainability initiatives, networking and have strong actionable targets. These businesses will play a role in the transformation of Yarra to a low carbon, circular and climate safe city.</li> <li>• Advocate and promote, in partnership with education institutions, the required skill sets for a net zero transition and the businesses investing in the skills to support the transition to greater circularity and net zero.</li> <li>• All work to be delivered alongside and to incorporate the work in action 7.3.1.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
4.2.2	<p><b>Support businesses to transition towards net zero emissions.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support businesses to transition to renewable energy through affordable mechanisms including group buys, investing in rooftop solar and/or battery storage.</li> <li>• Encourage businesses to upgrade properties to improve thermal comfort, reduce energy use and transition to all-electric.</li> <li>• Investigate and support opportunities for investment in large-scale renewables and efficiency opportunities such as significant rooftop solar and/or the installation of 'neighbourhood scale' batteries.</li> <li>• Support businesses to reduce emissions across their supply chain.</li> <li>• Encourage businesses to reduce carbon emissions of their products, including through integrating circular economy principles, particularly those in hard-to-abate sectors.</li> <li>• Assist businesses to better understand, evaluate, and make investment decisions around carbon offsets and look to facilitate partnerships and innovation.</li> <li>• Investigate mechanisms and incentives to support the development and operation of net zero properties, including through establishing green leases.</li> <li>• All work to be delivered alongside and to incorporate the work in action 7.3.1.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
4.3.1	<p><b>Reduce transport emissions and accelerate the community transition to zero emissions transportation in a way which is fair, accessible and equitable.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively support the uptake of walking, cycling, eBikes and public transport as a mechanism to further reduce car trips and car ownership, including investigating opportunities to provide the community a rebate for eBike procurement.</li> <li>• Develop clear guidance and support for Yarra residents who don't have off-street parking to charge locally.</li> <li>• Design and deliver localised electric vehicle (EV) charging pilots and evaluate outcomes for potential city-wide EV charger rollout.</li> <li>• Review opportunities and mechanisms to support third parties to install public chargers in Yarra, including consideration of accessibility needs and avoiding locking in long-term usage of public infrastructure.</li> <li>• Work with business that have car parks in Yarra to install public EV charging.</li> <li>• Review ways to unlock barriers to charging in apartment buildings.</li> <li>• Continue to expand car share in Yarra, including work with car share providers to provide zero emissions car share vehicles.</li> <li>• Advocate to other levels of government for increased EV charging infrastructure and incentives (funding, support, and policies) to increase the affordability of electric vehicles, especially for low-income residents.</li> <li>• Advocate to other levels of government to accelerate the broader metropolitan transition to zero emissions vehicles to reduce carbon emissions, air and noise pollution from vehicles travelling through but originating from outside of Yarra.</li> </ul>	★	▲	▲



Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
4.4.1	<p><b>Transition Council buildings off fossil gas.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to transition Council assets off fossil gas by 2035 (ideally part of other works and/or utilising co-funding from other levels of government where available), aiming for at least one aquatic centre off gas by 2030.</li> <li>• All Council building works (including for sites not operated by Council) to follow Sustainable Building Design Policy (including no new fossil-gas appliances).</li> </ul>			
4.4.2	<p><b>Reduce Council's transport emissions.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the transition of Council fleet to zero emissions vehicles, aiming for an all zero emissions fleet by 2030 where practicable.</li> <li>• Develop a fleet transition plan, including potential reduction in fleet vehicles.</li> <li>• Support mechanisms to increase staff sustainable transport uptake.</li> </ul>			
4.4.3	<p><b>Efficient, smart, zero carbon buildings.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Council-owned and operated buildings demonstrate best practice energy efficiency and emissions management. Examples include improved building envelope, higher efficiency and zero emissions equipment, maximised renewable energy and storage (where appropriate), smart automated control and integrated management, and potential energy market participation of our solar and battery resources.</li> <li>• Apply, review and update (as required) Council's Sustainable Building Design Policy to all building works.</li> </ul>			







Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
4.4.4	<p><b>Best practice net zero emissions organisation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain council’s status as a net zero emissions organisation, subject to continued confidence and value for money in the system to achieve this.</li> <li>• Continue to review and improve our carbon offset procurement processes and opportunities for drawdown, in partnership with other Councils and Greenhouse Alliances</li> <li>• Use our purchasing power to green our supply chain, including review of mechanisms and implementation, and working closely with key suppliers to reduce the climate impact of their organisation and products.</li> </ul>	●	●	●
4.4.5	<p><b>Energy and biodiversity friendly streetlighting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess opportunities to enhance streetlighting in Yarra, to increase energy efficiency and light quality of Yarra streetlights to reduce energy use, improve active transport and economic development benefits, and optimise light-spillage/night lighting to reduce biodiversity impacts.</li> <li>• Advocate to State and Federal Governments to fund the up-front costs of a bulk main road street lighting upgrade.</li> </ul>	★	★	★



**Transformation 5: Yarra is Caring for Country.** Our landscapes and waterways are healthier, greener, and more biodiverse, and our communities feel at one with nature

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
5.1.1	<p><b>Work towards decolonising Yarra’s landscape so that our city increasingly reflects Wurundjeri land.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with experts to revise Council decision making processes and guidelines around land management and open space to ensure that our municipality increasingly reflects Wurundjeri land, inviting involvement from Wurundjeri, and recognising the intrinsic rights of nature.</li> <li>• Continue to select vegetation in accordance with Ecological Vegetation Classes benchmarks (including grasses, ground covers, and trees), prioritising climate-resilient indigenous and native plants, guided by the Department Energy, Environment and Climate Action’s (DEECA) biodiversity revegetation guidelines and welcoming input from Wurundjeri.</li> <li>• Explore how open space can be maintained differently with less intervention i.e. reduced mowing, fertilising, spraying, water, etc.</li> <li>• Continue to learn about, and support, Wurundjeri cultural land management strategies.</li> </ul>	★	★	★

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
5.1.2	<p><b>Partner with, invest in, and support the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to plan and deliver Caring for Country initiatives.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in a program with Wurundjeri to offer all residents the opportunity to connect with and care for Country, including community education and engagement that increases our residents' connection to and responsibility for Country.</li> <li>• Partner with other Councils to fund a climate change liaison position (or similar) within the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Establish a system for sharing climate and biodiversity data between Council and Wurundjeri to build the knowledge and capacity of both organisations, as well as the community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Work with Wurundjeri and land management experts to identify culturally relevant indicators for the health and wellbeing of Wurundjeri Country, including the Birrarung (Yarra River).</li> <li>• Support Wurundjeri in our implementation of Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo (Yarra Strategic Plan) 2022-32.</li> <li>• Work with Wurrundjeri to create community education on the significant indigenous spaces along the Birrarung.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
5.2.1	<p><b>Accelerate planting of climate-resilient indigenous and native plants including canopy trees.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the amount of open space managed for biodiversity and commit to 100,000 plantings annually, with a target survivorship of 70-90%.</li> <li>• Apply DEECA’s biodiversity revegetation guidelines and the National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia to select and care for local provenance and native species with consideration of their climate resilience and ability to further support our local fauna, in particular our vulnerable species.</li> <li>• Prioritise and focus our efforts on the recommended habitat corridor enhancement paths to provide greater connectivity for wildlife and support plantings in identified hotspots and areas with limited natural landscapes. This includes local indigenous tree ‘stepping stones’ along streetscapes to enhance connectivity.</li> </ul>			
5.2.2	<p><b>A healthy, swimmable Birrarung for all and recognition of the river as a living and integrated natural entity.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen our advocacy to State Government, and our partnerships with Melbourne Water, Wurundjeri, and other stakeholders, to support and better implement Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo (Yarra Strategic Plan 2022-2032) and improve water quality in the river.</li> <li>• Work with Wurundjeri to identify culturally relevant indicators for the health and wellbeing of the Birrarung (and for all of Wurundjeri Country).</li> <li>• Work to reverse the damage of the past and bring the Birrarung back to environmental health (Melbourne Water Corporation).</li> <li>• Work towards a swimmable Birrarung, striving to make the Birrarung a place where our residents are able to connect with nature, cool down, and experience the mental and physical benefits of nature- and water-based immersion.</li> <li>• Ensure accessibility to the water for our diverse community with the recognition that everyone deserves, and has the right to, spend time in nature and enjoy healthy waterways.</li> </ul>			

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
5.2.3	<p><b>Increase our community’s connection to nature and their rights to enjoy the health benefits of nature.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better understand the needs of our diverse community when it comes to accessing and spending time in nature, so that we can ensure that everyone (all ages, genders, bodies and backgrounds) can access and feel safe in at least some, if not all, biodiverse-rich natural spaces including water-based spaces such as the Birrarung (Yarra).</li> <li>• Deliver and support programs that increase our community’s understanding and engagement with nature in order to increase people’s value, care and protection of biodiversity in the public and private realm.</li> <li>• Develop a plan to promote tree equity across Yarra and systematically create biodiverse space in the places we live and work. This can be a park, bushland, or even a pocket park so long as it has undergone a “Bringing Nature Back” or decolonisation treatment in order to maximise the use of space for human wellbeing and for biodiversity.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲





Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
5.3.1	<p><b>Improve our city’s connection with nature.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document Council work areas that can contribute to our nature transformation (e.g. engineering services, new community infrastructure, storm water, street refurbishment) with a view to increasing biodiversity outcomes.</li> <li>• Bring representatives together to plan interventions that will embed nature and biodiversity, and urban greening/cooling outcomes into everyday practices.</li> <li>• Use existing relevant guidelines or create new decision making processes for all Open Space, Infrastructure, etc., that carefully consider nature’s rights, how native flora and fauna can be positively impacted in each decision, and how nature can positively impact residents’ health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Review and strengthen the targets, timelines and resources required to deliver the Integrated Water Management Plan 2020-2030. On review, update the Plan to align with Council's increasingly ambitious position on the climate emergency, including increased WSUD and improved stormwater quality.</li> </ul>	★	★	★

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
5.3.2	<p><b>Expand climate-adaptive urban greening, biodiversity and urban agriculture on public land, thus reducing habitat fragmentation and providing greater connectivity for wildlife.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For street and park plantings (where feasible), apply DEECA's biodiversity revegetation guidelines and prioritise plantings along the recommended habitat corridor enhancement paths, ensuring that we don't plant any species rated as a moderate risk or above according to the advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria.</li> <li>• Review the targets, timelines and resources allocated to delivering the Urban Forest Strategy to maximise greening on public land, to help cool the City, increase biodiversity, provide habitat and foraging (for example, for the vulnerable Grey Headed Flying Foxes), support reconciliation (plant the Wurundjeri totem tree species, Manna Gum), enhance carbon drawdown potential, and ensure locals reap the health and wellbeing benefits of nature.</li> <li>• Support plantings in identified hotspots and areas with limited natural landscapes.</li> <li>• Continue feasibility studies and implementation of the Roads to Parks program.</li> <li>• Pilot opportunities to improve circularity of food and green waste locally (including buying compost made from Yarra's FOGO collection and used in Yarra).</li> </ul>	★	★	★




Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
5.3.3	<p><b>Utilise nature to mitigate urban heat island (UHI) effects.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate water-based cooling options that are accessible for those at the greatest risk of exposure to heat-related impacts, that connect residents with nature, and that promote and support a healthy Birrarung.</li> <li>• Develop with the community, and implement, a nature-based urban cooling and resilience program targeting communities of higher disadvantage.</li> <li>• Identify streets in higher density neighbourhoods that would most benefit from being converted to a one-way street lined with trees to mitigate some of the UHI effects.</li> <li>• Research models of best practice and trial the removal of asphalt to improve permeability, create space for greening, and test circular economy opportunities for the removed asphalt. Use the trial of the findings to update policy and practices related to the future use of asphalt with the aim of it no longer being the default.</li> <li>• Update Council’s standard designs to maximise the impact of all plantings for the benefit of urban cooling, reduced impacts of flash flooding, and climate-resilient indigenous and native biodiversity (e.g. infiltration kerbs for trees by default, planting understory in tree plots, WSUD, increasing the level of biodiversity).</li> </ul>	★	★	★

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
5.4.1	<p><b>Advocate for policies and programs which improve outcomes for nature, within and beyond Yarra.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make submissions to relevant government enquiries which are aimed at improving biodiversity outcomes.</li> <li>• Support the community to advocate on behalf of nature – for example, to strengthen national biodiversity laws.</li> <li>• Support the community to be more actively involved in local nature groups, campaigns and projects.</li> <li>• Advocate to State Government to improve nature outcomes in new developments and in social and public housing, supporting the residents to have genuine involvement in decision making around the design.</li> </ul>	★	★	★
5.4.2	<p><b>Recognise the intrinsic rights of nature and ensure it is represented in decision-making.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give a voice to nature by enabling experts and passionate community members, including youth, to scrutinise and positively influence Council in the interests of Birrarung, flora, and fauna.</li> <li>• Including nature as a party to all funding and legal agreements and a stakeholder in decision-making processes that directly impact it.</li> <li>• Update the Biodiversity Health Survey and educate our community on the health and rights of nature.</li> </ul>		▲	▲

**Transformation 6:** In Yarra, everyone lives and works in comfortable and climate-safe homes and buildings, supported by climate resilient public spaces and infrastructure

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
6.1.1	<p><b>Facilitate and support the accelerated transition of existing dwellings to climate resilient, energy efficient homes, with targeted support for low-income households and those who are least able to act.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver information and support to make it easier for residents to increase climate resilience at home, such as by installing insulation, window shading, double glazing, draught proofing, drainage improvements and other measures.</li> <li>• Develop and deliver a ‘Climate Safe Rooms’-style pilot project which includes undertaking thermal comfort and energy efficiency upgrades to create one climate-resilient room for at-risk households where at least one resident receives support services for an existing chronic health condition that puts them at risk from heatwaves and extreme cold, and identifying opportunities to leverage Council funding, build on partnerships, advocate for government support and/or seek private investment to scale up the pilot project.</li> <li>• Ensure information reaches marginalised and at-risk communities.</li> <li>• Support awareness of and access to all relevant rebates, incentives and programs delivered by other levels of government.</li> <li>• Provide direct support to at-risk households to improve climate resilience in their homes by providing financial incentives such as direct rebates, no-interest loans, rates reductions or other incentives.</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to leverage Council funding, build on partnerships, advocate for government support and/or seek private investment to scale up programs and reach.</li> <li>• Engage with residential tenancy and landlords groups to build the climate-safety and resilience of the residential rental stock.</li> <li>• Advocate on behalf of renters to residential landlords to improve the climate-safety and resilience of rental properties.</li> </ul>	★	★	★

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
6.1.2	<p><b>Deliver a coordinated and compassionate response to people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for swift transition into secure housing to reduce exposure to extreme weather.</li> </ul>	★	★	★
6.1.3	<p><b>Facilitate and encourage climate-resilient renovations, including for homes in the Heritage Overlay.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support individual planning permit applicants to deliver enhanced climate adaptation measures and climate resilience.</li> <li>• Continue to develop sustainability retrofit advice and guidance for homes in the Heritage Overlay.</li> </ul>	★	▲	▲
6.1.4	<p><b>Avoid creating climate risk through new developments and retrofits in the built environment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to integrate climate resilience into local area planning projects.</li> <li>• Strengthen Yarra as a close network of places with a mix of uses to support local living and working and active transport modes.</li> <li>• Support building designs and planning scheme provisions that increase the adaptability of buildings for different uses over time.</li> <li>• Continue integrating climate resilience into local Planning Scheme provisions for new developments to avoid locking-in climate risks.</li> <li>• Support individual planning permit applicants to deliver enhanced climate resilience responses.</li> <li>• Continue work with CASBE and other councils to seek elevated ESD provisions in the planning scheme, including zero carbon buildings.</li> <li>• Continue to engage with industry to build support for the CASBE zero carbon elevated targets planning scheme amendment, and to integrate appropriate climate resilience measures into new developments.</li> </ul>	★	★	★

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
6.1.5	<p><b>Support local businesses in developing their climate resilience.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in partnership with other inner urban Councils to build the climate resilience of our local businesses by advocating, empowering, promoting, enabling, educating and sharing.</li> <li>• Support local businesses in exploring and understanding their physical climate risks, and develop approaches to addressing and managing critical risks to business viability and employee safety.</li> <li>• Advocate and work with businesses and commercial landlords to reduce climate risk and support climate resilience with climate-safe buildings.</li> </ul>		▲	▲
6.1.6	<p><b>Advocate to State and Federal Government for legislative changes and resources to be deployed towards climate resilient, heatwave safe homes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of the Elevating ESD Targets so that it is gazetted in the Planning Scheme.</li> <li>• Advocate for particular policies and resources to support households likely to be most exposed to climate risk, including renters, low income households, elderly people, people with a disability, public housing residents and people living in apartments.</li> <li>• Advocate for an increase in the stock of thermally comfortable and climate resilient public, social and affordable housing.</li> <li>• Leverage existing campaigns, community voices, and industry partnerships such as Sweltering Cities, Victorian Council of Social Services, Renters &amp; Housing Union, Tenants Victoria, and Strata Community Association.</li> </ul>	★	★	★ 

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
6.2.1	<p><b>Prepare, upgrade, and manage Council facilities and public infrastructure to enable the climate resilient delivery of services to meet the community’s changing needs, support community climate resilience, and protect the organisations financial sustainability.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate climate risk and resilience into Council buildings, assets, infrastructure and open space strategy, planning and management, in line with emerging best practice, to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Council holds the right assets and infrastructure to meet changing community needs in a climate-affected future.</li> <li>◦ Assets and infrastructure are appropriately prepared for climate conditions over their planned service life, through strategic renewal, upgrades, and maintenance works.</li> <li>◦ The acquisition, renewal and upgrading of facilities necessary to deliver core Council services underlying community resilience are prioritised, particularly in areas of concentrated vulnerability and hazard exposure (e.g. maternal and child health clinics in areas with low-income families with young children, old drainage systems and high flood risk areas).</li> <li>◦ The renewal and upgrading of open spaces are prioritised where they deliver multiple benefits (e.g. community amenity, urban heat reduction, increasing biodiversity and access to nature, increasing permeability).</li> <li>◦ Council workplaces are safe for staff during chronic and extreme weather events.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Where appropriate, ensure building renovations and upgrades provide additional Emergency Relief Centres for use during climate-related extreme events.</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable design into Council asset, infrastructure and open space developments and renewals (e.g. permeable pavements, climate resilient flora).</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲



Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
6.3.1	<p><b>Ensure cool routes support active transport and walkability of Yarra in a changing climate, and residents have access to safe, cool green spaces.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to create efficient cool routes between/around community services frequently used by community members.</li> <li>• Increase integration between transport planning, biodiversity, and street tree planting to support delivery, including priority planting plans.</li> <li>• Investigate how best to map and communicate cool, shady corridors to increase active transport and walkability.</li> <li>• Review how Council can provide cool spaces to community members during extreme heat (including residents of public housing, unhoused community members, delivery riders, and older adults and children) such as pop-up splash parks, water misting areas and the like.</li> <li>• Implement the New Deal programs for Schools, Walking and Cycling to provide a consistently safe and attractive active transport network for the community.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲



**Transformation 7:** Yarra is transitioning to a circular economy by consuming less, repairing, sharing, and repurposing more, and sending less waste to landfill

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
7.1.1	<p><b>Deliver innovative circular services and encourage recycling that keeps materials circulating at their highest value.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition the Council Recycling Centre to a ‘circular centre’ which reuses, re-purposes, repairs, and recycles materials.</li> <li>• Undertake feasibility for the Council Recycling Centre to recycle and resell furniture, homewares and kitchenwares (noting that construction and operation of a trial would be subject to future budget process).</li> <li>• Extend the ‘lending library of things’ program at the libraries.</li> <li>• Deliver programs and education campaigns that support all residents and businesses to make best use of Council’s circular economy and waste services.</li> <li>• Deliver education and behaviour change programs to increase community knowledge around how to correctly sort waste and utilise recycling bins to reduce contamination.</li> <li>• Develop and pilot a new program that supports the community to implement circular economy behaviours.</li> <li>• Trial ‘carry in carry out’ policy in Council managed parks.</li> <li>• Deliver programs which support repair, reuse and sharing (and so reducing the need for hard rubbish collection services).</li> <li>• Investigate and support ways in which the community can reuse and recycle cement, steel, plastic and aluminium.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
7.1.2	<p><b>Embed circular economy principles in all Council's operations and demonstrate circularity to the community.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research, develop and implement options for material minimisation, leasing products and/or services, buying second hand, repair, refurbishment and reuse across Council's operations (e.g. review the design process for circular planter boxes and develop a replicable model).</li> <li>• Integrate circular economy principles into the Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy and Sustainable Building Policy.</li> <li>• Complete a material flow analysis of Council purchasing (including buildings, services, products, materials).</li> <li>• Integrate the circular economy into all Council's economic development strategies and plans.</li> </ul>	●	▲	▲
7.2.1	<p><b>Deliver a best practice, circular food and garden organics (FOGO) service.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver an expanded food waste avoidance program to residents (including home composting).</li> <li>• Deliver and/or support programs to accelerate local circular food systems.</li> <li>• Pilot opportunities to improve circularity of food and green waste locally (including buying compost made from Yarra's FOGO collection and used in Yarra).</li> </ul>	●	●	●

Action Number	Action	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
7.3.1	<p><b>Develop, support and promote Yarra as a circular economy hub for businesses.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build and deliver a circular economy education program to support development of Yarra as the place to be for sustainable and circular businesses.</li> <li>• Work with businesses and manufacturers to facilitate circularity in the design and lifecycle of products.</li> <li>• Work with the building industry to facilitate circularity, including better design, understanding of embedded carbon, low carbon building products and de-construction techniques.</li> <li>• Work with businesses to eliminate single-use packaging across the municipality.</li> </ul>	★	▲	▲
7.4.1	<p><b>Implement advocacy actions to support the circular economy.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate to the Federal Government for stronger National Packaging Targets, including a pathway to supply chain circular packaging.</li> <li>• Advocate to the Federal Government for a 'Right to Repair' policy, stricter product durability standards and product steward schemes.</li> <li>• Advocate and facilitate working with Federal and Victorian Government to implement extended product stewardship and producer responsibility.</li> <li>• Work with State Government to mandate clearer &amp; easy to understand recycling labelling on all packaging.</li> <li>• Ensure new waste contract specifications embed circular economy principles.</li> </ul>	★	★	★