

Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan review

Executive Summary

Council has reviewed its current Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25 and Action Plan to see what has been achieved and what needs to happen next.

The review shows that Council has made good progress, but the next strategy needs to be simpler, clearer and shaped with the community, focusing on actions that make a real difference and progress that can be tracked and shared.

The review process

Council looked at a range of information to understand the impact of the current strategy, including action progress, emissions data, feedback from staff and the community, examples from other councils, and any gaps in the current approach.

This helped show what has worked well, what has been harder to deliver, and what needs to be improved so the next strategy is practical, clear and useful for the community.



The key findings

Key finding	Implication for the next Strategy
Council has completed, or is completing, 76% of the actions. This shows good progress. However, some actions were too broad or did not clearly track progress.	The next action plan should have fewer actions that are easier to understand. Each action should clearly show who is responsible, who will help, when it will happen, and how Council will know if it has worked.
Community involvement has been a strong part of the work. People took part in workshops, advisory groups and feedback activities. The community continues to support climate action and shared practical ideas for greener places, safer homes, sustainable transport, waste reduction, preparing for climate impacts, and working together locally.	The next strategy should keep involving the community. It should support local action, use clear language, and report progress in ways people can easily understand.
It has been hard to show the impact of some actions because Council did not have clear ways to track progress, report results, or show who was responsible from the start.	The next strategy should clearly explain how Council will track progress, who is responsible for each action, and how results will be shared with the community.
Climate action is not yet built into all everyday Council decisions, budgets, services and projects.	The next strategy should make climate risk part of normal Council planning, spending, purchasing, asset management and reporting.
The current strategy does not focus enough on preparing for climate impacts that are already happening or expected, such as heat, flooding, storms and pressures on communities most at risk.	The next strategy should do more to help people, places and services prepare for and respond to climate impacts, especially those most at risk.

What this means for the new strategy?

For the community, this means the next strategy should be simple to read and easy to follow. It should clearly show what Council will do, where Council will work with others, and how this work will help make Maribyrnong safer, cooler, fairer and better prepared for climate change.

This includes cutting emissions, getting ready for heat and flooding, helping households most at risk, supporting community-led action, and making climate change part of everyday Council decisions.

Community insight



Visible partnership

“To know that council's working with the groups as well, I think would make people feel like council's doing more, council's more connected, council understands, council's doing grassroots [engagement].”

Community insight



Social connection as resilience

“Community building now is going to be critical as the climate disaster continues... building those connections between the groups so we can complement each other, so we can work together, we can collaborate.”

Recommendations

The review recommends that the next strategy be practical, measurable and people-centred.

It should:

- 1 Make climate part of every day decisions**
from planning new buildings to looking after roads, buildings, parks and public spaces.
- 2 Choose actions that have the biggest impact**
and explain clearly how they will help our community.
- 3 Prepare for hotter days and extreme weather**
especially for people and places most at risk.
- 4 Report progress in a simple way**
so the community can see what is happening and what difference it is making.
- 5 Keep working together**
with community, First Nations people, government, businesses and local groups.



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