

Climate Emergency Plan Progress report

2023-24



**MORNINGTON
PENINSULA**
Shire

Climate Emergency Plan Progress Report 2023/24



Acknowledgement of Country

Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges the Bunurong people, who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years; and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal; and that the Bunurong people's living culture continues to have a unique role in the life of this region.

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Executive summary

The Climate Emergency Plan Progress Report 2023/2024 is Mornington Peninsula Shire's (the Shire) fourth annual report since adoption of the Climate Emergency Plan (the Plan) on 25 August 2020. The Plan is an ambitious 10-year plan outlining the Shire's response to climate change and includes a broad range of actions, requiring collaboration by the community, the Shire and other levels of government to achieve. The Plan is divided into seven key summits with associated targets and a range of tasks that sit under 21 action areas. This report provides a summary of progress against each summit target and all tasks in the Plan.

It is estimated that in 2023/2024, Shire climate action projects provided annual ratepayer savings of approximately \$1.78m, with community energy savings equal to \$4.82m. Greenhouse gas emissions have reduced 29% since the declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019 (Figure 1). At a minimum, directly quantifiable community and Mornington Peninsula Shire achievements have resulted in a reduction of over 28,616 tonnes of CO₂-e in the last 12 months.

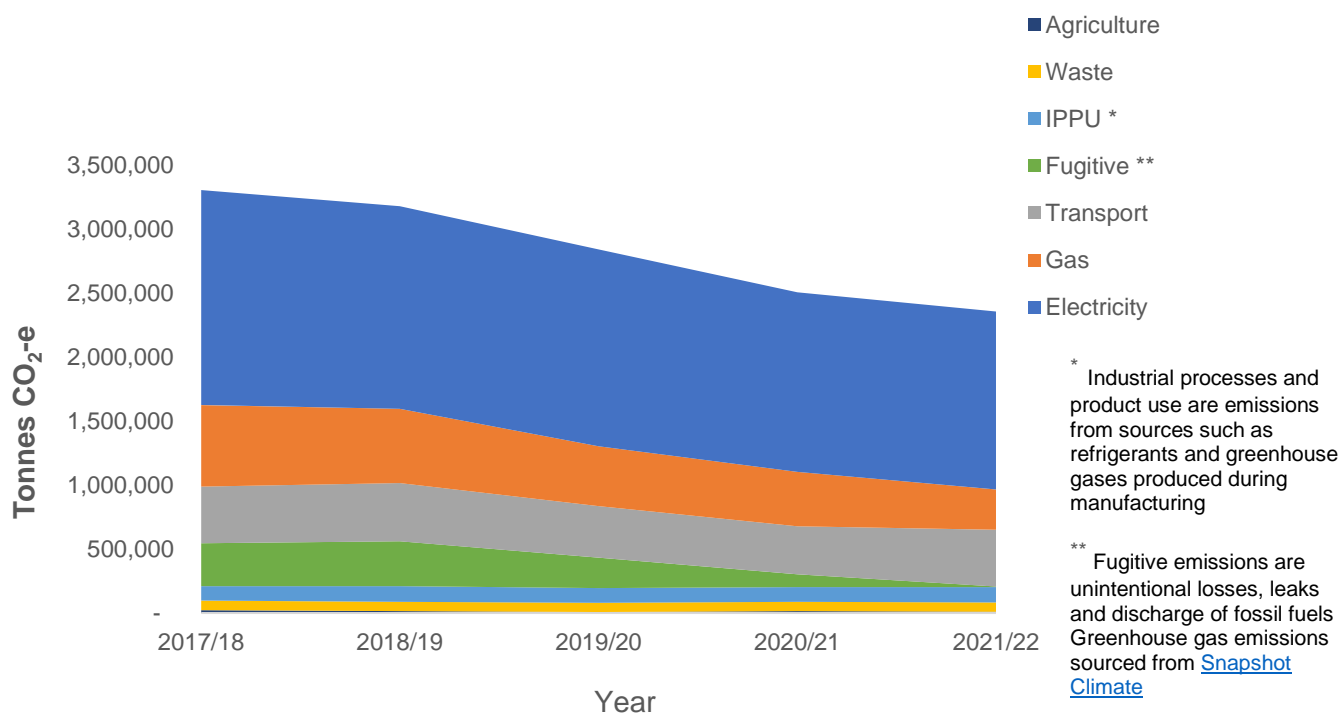


Figure 1: Mornington Peninsula Shire Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

Where are we now?

Since adoption of the Plan, the Shire has been embedding climate action in our planning and activities through policies, strategies, projects, services and decision making. Targets and actions in the Plan have been addressed by the relevant business units within the Shire, embedding climate emergency action across the whole organisation.

The Shire has made significant progress since the last progress report in 2022/23 (Figure 2). To date, 90% of tasks have commenced or been completed.

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Of the 172 tasks of our Plan:

- 12 (7%) tasks have been completed
- 142 (83%) tasks have commenced (In progress or ongoing)
- 2 (1%) task is not due to start
- 16 (9%) were delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

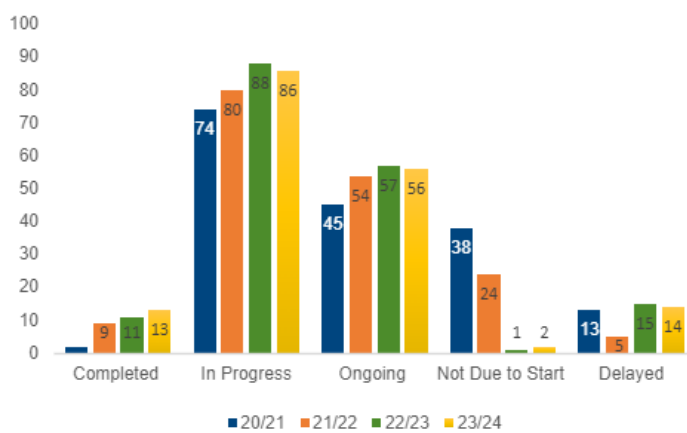


Figure 2: Progress of Mornington Peninsula Shire Climate Emergency Plan Actions

Detailed reporting against each target and task can be found in Tables 1 - 8.

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Key achievements from the last 12 months:

- Reduced community and Shire energy costs by at least \$6.6m
- Reduced over 28,915 tonnes of CO₂-e of community and Shire annual emissions
- Established the Community Climate Group
- Progressed the Flinders Community Battery project, funded by the Federal Government Battery Initiative. Launch planned for October 2024
- 25.4% of buildings on the Mornington Peninsula have installed solar panels. 1433 solar PV systems were installed in 2023/24, adding 14MW of renewable energy generation capacity
- Installed an additional 40kW of battery storage capacity at Shire buildings
- Awarded a total of \$103,490 Climate Action Grants for 19 community-led initiatives now totalling \$342,291 across 59 projects
- 738 free, Shire-funded Sunspot solar assessments completed
- Continued advocacy to all levels of government and industry-see the Shire's Climate Emergency Advocacy Report 2023/24
- 30 new street coordinators leading community resilience
- 58 farmers have enrolled in the regenerative farming course over the past 3 years. The area of land farmed by course participants is 3,020 hectares
- Progressed the Shire's virtual energy network feasibility trial across 24 different Shire sites
- Commenced development of the Our Coast, Our Future (OCOF) Strategy
- Fully electrified five Shire assets, bringing the total to 23. Partially electrified an additional four. Installed solar on six Shire facilities (148kW)
- Upgraded 11 tenanted Shire facilities (142kW) using the Solar for Tenants program
- 982 primary students from thirteen schools in the Tootgarook Wetland and Western Port regions participated in our free 'Artist in Schools' program
- Our 'School Sustainability Education Program' educated 2295 students through from 41 schools
- 693 residents attended community sustainability workshops
- Established the new harvest exchange program at the Eco Living Display Centre
- 65 free consultations were delivered to residents by trained volunteer 'Energy Heroes'.
- Developed of our Urban Forest Strategy
- 96 hectares of biolinks created and 52,234 trees and shrubs planted. Total of 278 Ha of biolinks created to date
- Our Save Energy: Save Money trial installed 21 free hot water heat pumps to low-income households
- Completed the Briars Recycled Water Scheme, providing 2.6 ML/day of Class A recycled water to the Briars

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- Facilitated the installation of an additional public vehicle charger in Mornington
- Adopted the Shire Pedestrian Access Strategy 2024-2034
- Extended the FlexRide bus trial between Safety Beach and Rosebud
- 2,309,390 pieces of single use plastic eliminated. An additional 25 businesses committed to no single use plastic (96 businesses to date) and an additional 6 are certified plastic free, bringing the total to 15
- Our Energy Resilience Project (funded through DEECA) created three energy relief hubs at Balharring, Red Hill and Flinders
- Collected and diverted from landfill 22,069 tonnes of mixed FOGO material and introduced 2,844 new green waste bins to homes, now totalling 55,943 households
- Developed three new [case studies](#) to highlight climate change action: Solar for Tenants, Two Bays Podcast and Flinders General Store
- Reduced general waste collected by 2% (1,471 tonnes), including a reduction in household general waste of 1.7% and a 6.6% reduction in recycling collected
- Commenced investigating the feasibility of turning agricultural waste into bioenergy through a \$30,000 Sustainability Victoria grant
- Repower have increased their social media following by 80%, hosted 14 events across the Peninsula and established 10 industry partnerships.

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Introduction

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council adopted Ensuring Future: Our Climate Emergency Response on 25 August 2020. Our [Climate Emergency Plan](#) provides clear priorities across seven summits and 21 actions to guide the Peninsula towards net zero carbon emissions by 2040. It is a collaborative plan that can only be achieved by the community, the Shire and other levels of government working together. The Mornington Peninsula Shire recognises that the climate emergency presents an unprecedented challenge and we are proud to be part of an international movement taking urgent action to reduce emissions and to address climate change impacts. This report details progress on all targets, actions and tasks in our Plan and will be updated annually.

Reporting

The Shire has developed reporting tools to provide the community and external stakeholders with updates on our progress with the Climate Emergency Plan and our ultimate goal of net zero emissions by 2040. The Online Progress Portal and the Interactive Solar Upgrade Map will be updated quarterly. Find these tools and follow the Shire's progress on climate action and other useful news and information [here](#).

IPCC Report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released its sixth assessment with updates on climate change projections. The report emphasised that we have only a narrow window of action to prevent catastrophic impacts of climate change. Global warming is now expected to increase to 1.5°C by about 2030, based on our current trajectory with every additional 0.5°C increase having significant impact. Fires, droughts, storms, sea level rise and other impacts are expected to worsen. The full report can be found [here](#) and a summary prepared by the Climate Council can be found [here](#).

State of the Environment Report

The most recent State of the Environment Report (2023) has described the status of the majority of indicators is poor, and that the majority of trend assessments are 'deteriorating'. The report highlights the role climate change has had and will have on the future of Australia's environment. Emissions that have already occurred will continue to have profound impacts on our ecosystems, but future emissions will determine the trajectory of these climate impacts in the second half of the 21st century. The report reiterates the importance of immediate and decisive action on carbon emissions. The full report can be found [here](#).

Council and Wellbeing Plan

The [Council and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025](#) was adopted in November 2021. This plan was informed by the Community Vision, the Climate Emergency Plan and other key documents and provides the framework for all the decisions and operations of the Shire. The first principle of our Community Vision that guided the strategic objectives of the Council and Wellbeing Plan was 'Addressing Climate Change'. This will support our future climate goals. Our community want climate action and this Progress Report provides a transparent overview of our progress.

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Government Initiatives

Our Plan needs everyone to work together, including all levels of government, businesses, communities and individuals. State and Federal Government have improved planning, funding and regulation over recent years supporting the Mornington Peninsula to reach our targets. Notably:

- A Federal Government commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2040.
- The Federal Government renewable energy targets are 82% renewables in the grid by 2030 with a minimum of 33,000GWh of new renewables generated annually to 2030
- Victorian Government Emissions Reduction targets published May 2023, which legislated emissions reductions targets of 75-80% by 2035 and net zero by 2045
- The Victorian Government renewable energy target, published in October 2022, set a target of 65% by 2030 (up from 50%), 95% renewable energy by 2035. This includes a battery storage target of at least 2.6GW by 2030 and 6.3 GW by 2035
- State Government offshore wind targets of 4 GW by 2035 and 9 GW by 2040 as the state works towards net zero by 2045
- Following the launch of the Gas Substitution Roadmap in 2023 the Victorian Government's Gas Substitution Roadmap annual report has been issued requiring new homes to be all-electric from January 2024 and to be built to a 7-star efficiency housing standard from May 2024
- Victorian Energy Upgrades Program with increased electrification funding up to \$3600 per dwelling.
- The Victorian Governments Solar Victoria rebate scheme for solar panels and hot water systems.
- Federal Funding for Community batteries of \$143 million
- Victorian Government 100 Neighbourhood batteries grants of \$15 million in total funding.
- The Federal Government's National Electric Vehicle Strategy released in 2023 includes new Australian vehicle Fuel Efficiency Standards which have been adopted and will be effective from December 2025.
- The Federal Government's Driving the Nation Program, providing \$500 million to invest in cheaper and cleaner transport supported by legislation through the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard Act 2024 (the Act) adopted on 16 May 2024
- The Victorian Government's Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap, published in May 2021, set a target of 50% of light vehicle sales to be zero emissions by 2030
- Victoria's container deposit scheme, CDS Vic, launched on 1 November 2023. The scheme promotes recycling with a 10-cent refund for eligible cans, cartons and bottles returned.
- Following the Recycling Victoria Policy released in 2020, the Victorian Government has released a large number of grants aimed at building capacity, reducing waste to landfill and transitioning to a circular economy

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- [Victorian waste to energy framework with funding commitment](#) up to \$10 million
- [National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy](#) 2021-2025
- [Victorian Adaptation Action Plan](#) across 7 systems 2022-2026
- The Federal Budget 2023-24 set out \$4.6 billion in new [climate-related spending commitments](#) for climate action out to 30 June 2030. This is further to the \$24.9 billion of climate-related spending committed in the October 2022–23 Budget.
- Federal Government providing \$200m per year via the [Disaster Ready Fund](#)
- Federal government launched the [Powering Australia Plan](#) showing leadership through commitment.
- [Critical Minerals Strategy 2023-2030](#) launched protecting key minerals required for the clean energy transition.
- [Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme Review](#) released.
- Updated [National Electricity and Gas Objectives](#) integrating emissions reduction and energy policy into the **national energy** laws to guide better decisions.
- Investing \$15.2 million up until 2026 in developing the [National Energy Performance Strategy](#) which was released in April 2024
- [Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity -2037](#) plan for a 20-year biodiversity protection plan.

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Target

The targets represent our goals in each summit and are critical to direct our response. In the last 12 months, delivery of actions to achieve these targets has been our primary focus noting a fine tuning of our metrics and targets will continue next year.

In this annual report, we have updated data on achieving the peak goal of net zero emissions by 2040 in Table 2, demonstrating our trajectory since the FY 2017/18 baseline until the most recent data which is FY 2021/22.

Progress against each target has been detailed where possible but data is not available for all targets or for this specific reporting period due to either a lag in availability of datasets or complexity of the data. Detailed reporting on the progress of all targets is in **Tables 1-8**.

Actions and Tasks

Each of the 21 actions within the Climate Emergency Plan contribute to achieving the targets outlined in our seven summits, which ultimately guide us to our peak goal of net zero emissions by 2040. Detailed tasks sit underneath each action. The implementation of these tasks is the shared responsibility of all Shire teams, who engage with key stakeholders including our community, businesses, organisations, schools and other government bodies in their delivery.

Some tasks do not have a defined end date and are required to be continually implemented to reach our goal and are therefore considered ongoing. This plan is designed to be implemented across a 10-year time frame and therefore some tasks are not yet due to begin. Actions and tasks will be initiated at different points across the decade and metrics will evolve to assess their development.

Many of the actions and targets are interlinked and complement each other. Some rely on other work to commence. Where possible, detail and examples have been provided.

Table 9 contains the detailed reporting on all tasks that sit under the 21 action steps. This is reported by relevant officers responsible for delivering or coordinating the delivery of the task. Indicative timelines have been provided where possible, based on best estimates.

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Progress update – targets

Table 1: Reporting on targets

		Peak Goal				
#	Target	Detail				
Peak Goal	Reach net zero-emissions Shire-wide by 2040	The estimated annual emissions reduction at the end of 2021/22, compared to a revised baseline, is 949,000 tonnes CO ₂ -e or 29%. The annual emission figures have been consistently decreasing since adoption of the Climate Emergency Plan.				
		2017/18*	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
		3,306,000 t CO ₂ -e	3,181,000 t CO ₂ -e	2,841,000 t CO ₂ -e	2,507,000 t CO ₂ -e	2,357,000 t CO ₂ -e
		*baseline adjusted using updated methodology				
		This emissions data is sourced from Snapshot Climate . There is a delay in the reporting of data, meaning we are always about two years ahead of the available data. The methodologies used to calculate these profiles are evolving and have changed since we set our baseline originally.				



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Leadership and Governance

Strong leadership and governance will be integral in guiding our climate action across the Mornington Peninsula, while helping us become a regional leader in this challenge.

We must act decisively against climate change, and robust leadership is essential in getting us there. We are uniquely positioned on the Mornington Peninsula to deliver meaningful climate action and influence all levels of government to do the same.

Shire strategies embedded with climate risk considerations

- Asset Management Strategy / Asset Plan 2022-2032
- Beyond Zero Waste Strategy
- Biodiversity Conservation Plan
- Briars Master Plan
- Council & Wellbeing Plan 2022
- Domestic Wastewater Management Plan
- Food Economy and Agroecology Strategy
- Flood and Stormwater Strategy
- Gender Equality Strategy
- Green Wedge Management Plan
- Integrated Water Management Plan
- Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- Pedestrian Access Strategy
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Road Management Plan
- Urban Forest Strategy

Shire policies embedded with climate risk considerations

- Carbon Neutral Policy
- Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Single Use Plastic Policy
- Universal Design Policy
- Waste Contamination Policy
- Wastewater Management Policy
- Asset Management Policy
- Social and Affordable Housing Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Economic Development and Tourism Strategy

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Table 2: Progress on Summit 1 ‘Leadership and Governance’

Leadership and Governance		
#	Target	Detail
Key target	By 2021, responsibility for climate emergency action will be shared across the entire organisation and our community, led by a Climate Oversight Group composed of Shire executive and key staff	The Climate Oversight Group was established in 2022 and has assisted the organisation to embed climate action in most of our decisions. An online module has been developed for all employees and each department has had a targeted workshop to embed climate change.
1.1	Each year the Shire will review and update our 21 action steps	A midterm update of the Climate Emergency Plan is planned to commence in 2025, looking at targets, actions and tasks to determine suitability and whether updates are needed. This will be based on achievements and work to date, new evidence and data available as well as broader industry and community trends.
1.2	By 2021, establish a deliberative panel of community representatives, including Traditional Owners, to inform and review Climate Emergency decisions with a clear ‘Terms of Reference’	A deliberative panel of community representatives has been set up, called the Community Climate Group. The group consists of 12 members with skills from across the community including working with youth and First Peoples, health, land management, industry, housing, transport and a representative from the community energy group Repower. An initial meeting was held on 26 June 2024, where a chair was selected.
1.3	From 2021, establish a reference group of suitable strategic partners and experts to guide solutions, as required	A reference group of strategic partners and experts was established in 2023, including representation from academia, industry, state government, research and the social sector. Three meetings have been held this calendar year. Insights and guidance have been provided on the Climate Emergency Plan strategic direction for Summits 3, 4 and 6.
1.4	By 2021, produce and publish the first ‘Climate Emergency Plan’ annual progress report	Climate Emergency Plan Annual Progress Reports are published annually.



Increased Climate Advocacy

The Shire has continued our strong advocacy at a federal, state and industry level to strengthen our community's voice for immediate climate action. Our advocacy is most effective when done as a collaborative effort with our key partners, other councils, community groups, businesses, and individuals. Climate advocacy is critical in persuading governments and stakeholders to take strong climate action so that we can achieve net zero emissions as soon as possible.

Key Advocacy Activities

- Submissions to:
 - The National Adaptation Plan
 - The Victorian Inquiry into Climate Resilience
 - The Victorian Inquiry into Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for rental properties and rooming houses
 - Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme Landfill Gas Methods Review
- Two coastal round table meetings with other Victorian councils – March and July
- Australian Coastal Councils Association meeting in May 2024
- Recycled water round table with Minister Harriett Shing
- Motion at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) asking for greater support for vulnerable community members to build climate resilience
- Support to the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) for the delivery of their Advocacy Plan and government submissions

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Table 3: Progress on Summit 2 'Increased Climate Advocacy'

Increased Climate Advocacy		
#	Target	Detail
Key target	Each year the Shire will work with the community towards shared advocacy goals and advocate powerfully with community and key partners to leverage leadership to all levels of government and business	The Shire has updated the climate change advocacy positions and these can be found on the Shire website here .
2.1	By 2021, develop and publish the 'Climate Emergency Advocacy Plan', advocate on the priority actions within the plan and review it every two years	Priority actions within the Advocacy plan have been developed into advocacy positions. These positions have been reviewed and utilised for advocacy opportunities. This year, the Shire will work collaboratively with SECCCA on the review and update of the regional climate change advocacy plan and will continue to review and update Shire-specific climate change advocacy positions as required. See the SECCCA advocacy plan here .
2.2	By 2021, develop and publish the first 'Annual Advocacy Report' for transparency and accountability	Key climate change advocacy positions have been developed from our advocacy plan and are available on the Shire's advocacy page . The advocacy actions undertaken are listed on the Shire website .
2.3	From 2023 onwards, the Shire will develop at least three case studies annually. These case studies will include measurable indicators, benefits and lessons learnt of projects and activities undertaken by the community and the Shire that have worked towards stopping climate change	Three new case studies have been developed this year to highlight climate change action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar for Tenants • Two Bays Podcast • Flinders General Store solar upgrade



Zero Carbon Energy

The Shire and the community have made significant progress to reduce our municipality's emissions through zero carbon energy.

Electricity and gas use currently represents roughly 71% (Is this figure correct? It's the same as last year) of the Mornington Peninsula's total carbon emissions, so this stationary energy is our biggest opportunity to mitigate emissions and reach our target of net zero emissions by 2040.

We must continue the transition to zero carbon energy sources for use in our buildings and homes.

Key achievements we have made in the past year to transition to zero-emissions energy

- 17% reduction in gas consumption from 2022/23 to 2023/24
- An additional 2,148 solar PV systems were installed on the Peninsula in 2023/24, adding an additional 21.5MW of renewable energy generation capacity
- Five additional Shire facilities fully electrified and a further four partially electrified
- Solar installed on an additional six Shire operated facilities (144kW) and 12 Shire-owned tenanted facilities (148kW) - including 11 systems delivered through Shire's innovative Solar Incentivisation for Tenants Program
- 738 solar assessments done by Peninsula residents in 34 towns through the Sunspot Solar Mapping tool provided free as a service by the Shire
- Progressed the Shire's Virtual Energy Network (VEN) Feasibility Pilot.

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Table 4: Progress on Summit 3 ‘Zero Carbon Energy’

Zero Carbon Energy		
#	Target	Detail
Key target	By 2030, 200MW of renewable electricity will be generated locally. That’s enough to power approximately 50,000 homes on the Peninsula	Target 76% complete. As of July 2024, 152 MW of known renewable energy generation capacity is installed on the Mornington Peninsula. 151 MW of the total capacity is comprised of residential, commercial and large-scale solar PV and 1 MW of the total capacity is comprised of electricity generation from biogas.
3.1	By 2021, Mornington Peninsula Shire will reduce emissions within its operational boundary to net zero, and achieve Carbon Neutral accreditation	The Shire successfully achieved Carbon Neutral certification under the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 period but has not pursued certification since due to a Council decision? not to fund carbon offsetting from the annual budget from 2022/23. The policy review has been deferred and will recommence in 2025.
3.2	By 2023, the Shire will source all electricity from renewable generation	The Shire has not met its target of 100% renewable power in 2024 due to significant cost increases for Renewable Energy Certificates. The Shire instead is relying on the ongoing transition to renewable generation in Victoria, which is driven by the State Government’s renewable energy targets (40% by 2025, 65% by 2030 and 95% by 2035). As of 2022/23, 37% of the electricity we consume from the grid is generated from renewable sources. Currently the Shire generates approximately 10% (1.75 GWh) of its power consumption is from renewable sources (1.4 MW rooftop solar).
3.3	By 2030, 50% of all buildings on the Peninsula will have solar panels installed	Target 50.8% complete as of July 2024. The Australian PV Institute estimates 25.4% of buildings on the Mornington Peninsula have solar PV installed.
3.4	By 2030, carbon emissions from all residential buildings and businesses will be reduced by 70% from 2018 levels	At the end of 2021/22 (latest available data), electricity and gas carbon emissions from residential buildings and businesses had decreased by 26% from 2018 levels. This target remains on track, as we see more renewable energy displacing fossil fuel electricity generation and gradual phase of gas through electrification. Residential and business gas use in the Shire decreased by almost 17% in 2023/24, following the introduction of the State Government’s Gas Substitution Roadmap and accompanying subsidies and an increase in gas costs.



Resilient and Adaptive Community

Climate change impacts are being felt across our community and significant changes to our climate and environment have already occurred.

Public infrastructure, emergency services and community health will continue to be impacted as floods, droughts and fires worsen. Emissions that have already occurred will continue to have profound impacts on our ecosystems for years to come, so we must ensure the resilience of our community and infrastructure is strengthened.

The Shire has taken numerous actions to ensure the community and our built environment will be resilient to climate change.

Key achievements in the past year to build a resilient and adaptive community

- The DEECA Energy Resilience Project funded the installation of solar, battery and generator back up at Balnarring and Red Hill sports pavilions and the Flinders Golf Club, to allow their use as energy relief hubs.
- The SECCCA Resilient Community Project has been completed this year and has developed datasets to inform our Community Disaster Resilience Strategy.
- There are now 30 street coordinators supporting their neighbours to prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters.
- Attended community-led events on climate action, including Peninsula Voice's community forum on climate change, Flinders Zero Carbon Community's 'All Electric Homes bulk buy launch event' and Repower Red Hill's heat pump information session.
- A localised version of [The Adaptation Game](#) has been developed.

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Table 5: Progress on Summit 4 'Resilient and Adaptive Communities'

Resilient and Adaptive Community (continued overleaf)		
#	Target	Detail
Key target	By 2025, the resilience of our community will be strengthened by maximising social connections and meaningful engagement to increase understanding of the local impacts and risks of climate change	<p>The SECCCA Resilient Community Project has been completed this year and has developed datasets to inform our Community Disaster Resilience Strategy and to build resilience in the community. As a next step, the Shire will develop easy to use maps, tables and reports to support ongoing planning and projects.</p> <p>The Community Resilience and Emergency Management Team have continued to monitor and ensure the assurance of the Bushfire Places of Last Resort (Neighbourhood Safer Places- NSP). This includes supporting the Red Hill CFA to get new NSP signage on Arthurs Seat Road and working with the Hill and Ridge Emergency Network to create an emergency plan for the Red Hill and Main Ridge Community. This includes the Red Hill Recreation Reserve and Sport Pavilion as a community relief hub. A community emergency planning day in Red Hill was run in late February where approximately 150 community members attended to learn about the local fire risk and how they can be part of local neighbourhood/street groups that ensure the whole community are supporting each other during fire and other natural hazard events.</p> <p>There are now 30 street coordinators who have agreed to play a leadership role for their neighbours in preparing for and responding to emergencies and disasters, and more activities planned to educate and prepare the community.</p>
	4.1 Each year the Shire will participate in at least 50% of the major community-led events on climate action	<p>Shire staff participated in and supported the following community-led events on climate actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peninsula Voice's 'Climate change' community forum - Flinders Zero Carbon Community's All Electric Homes bulk buy launch event - Repower Red Hill's Heat pump community info session
4.2	By 2025, Shire infrastructure and services planning will consider climate change impacts	<p>Climate resilience continues to be embedded across the organisations. Service plans reference the identified strategic and operational risks posed by climate change, including short-term impacts from extreme weather events, and long-term projections and scenario planning. Infrastructure continues to be delivered according to the ESD Policy for Shire buildings and civil works, as well as stand-alone projects to increase climate resilience, such as energy resilience systems (backup power) at Red Hill and Balnarring Recreation Reserves.</p> <p>Upgrading new buildings that can act as Relief Hubs has also been captured within the Community Facilities Strategy</p>

Resilient and Adaptive Community (continued)

#	Target	Detail
4.3	By 2025, increase community deliberative engagement in the Shire's 'Climate Emergency Action' decisions	<p>Community engagement has continued through quarterly meetings of a Resilience, Response and Recovery Network that was formed in 2023. It comprises around 90 members from local services, groups and Shire representatives.</p> <p>The Community Resilience and Emergency Management (CREM) Team have made a deliberate attempt to consult with the community over the 2023-24 summer period, seeking to understand how prepared they are for the different high risk emergency hazards that are within the Municipal Emergency Management Plan. This feedback will help shape the Disaster Resilience Strategy and, importantly, the delivery of emergency preparedness activities related to the MEMPC emergency hazards. Over the two-month consultation period, the CREM team attended approximately eight different community events and engaged and sought feedback from over 250 community members</p>
4.4	By 2025, renewable energy is easily accessible to all sectors of the community, including tenants	<p>In 2023/24, the Shire partnered with Want a Heat Pump, Energy Freedom Homes and the Shire's three Community Support Centres to deliver the Save Energy: Save Money trial program. The program offered tailored phone support and free highly efficient hot water heat pumps to 21 householders. By combining the Solar Victoria (SV) rebate and Shire funds, these products were free to these low-income households.</p>
4.5	By 2030, community and business awareness of the local impacts of climate change and ability to prepare for extreme weather events is improved by 20%	<p>The DEECA Energy Resilience Project funded installation of solar, battery and generator back up at Balnarring and Red Hill sports pavilions and the Flinders Golf Club. These locations will be able to provide basic relief for community if requested by Council, particularly following extreme weather events.</p> <p>A localised version of The Adaptation Game has been developed and will be ready to roll out in October. Seven volunteer community facilitators have been trained to lead games in community settings.</p>
4.6	By 2030, reduce the 'Annual Average Damage' (AAD) of flood prone areas on the Peninsula by 10%	<p>We have identified some of the areas with the highest AAD and proposed flood mitigation. One of these is currently at the detailed design phase. We are also in the process of completing flood mapping for the Peninsula, which will provide a complete assessment of AAD across our municipality. This will quantify the AAD and allow us to understand whether 10% by 2030 is a realistic target.</p>



Sustainable Travel and Transport

Transport is the second largest source of carbon emissions (19%) on the Mornington Peninsula and represents a huge opportunity to reduce our total emissions. Most of these emissions come from road transport, so making the switch to active transport like walking or cycling, zero emission vehicles and a zero-carbon public transport system are key solutions to reducing these emissions. The Shire has responsibilities for local roads and active transport infrastructure. The State Government oversees public transport and arterial roads.

Key actions to reduce transport emissions

- Adoption of New Vehicle Efficiency Standard by the Federal Government
- Adoption of the Shire's Pedestrian Access Strategy 2024-2034
- Increased the Shire's fleet to 13 electric vehicles
- Continued optimisation of Shire fleet vehicle numbers through increased use of pool vehicles and carpooling
- Commencement of Public EV Charger installation in Dromana by Evie Networks which will be powered by zero-emissions electricity

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Table 6: Progress on Summit 5 ‘Sustainable Travel and Transport’

Sustainable Travel and Transport (continued overleaf)		
#	Target	Detail
Key target	By 2030, transport emissions will be reduced by 50% from 2018 levels	The Shire and its community have not been able to progress towards this target. Annual transport emissions have slightly increased since the adoption of this plan, with emissions estimated to be 444,000 t CO ₂ -e in 2021/22, up 1,000 tonnes per annum from the adjusted 2017/18 baseline. It is estimated, based on Google Environmental Insights Explorer data, that transport emissions have further increased by 4-5% over the past two years. Whilst we see an increase in the number of zero emission vehicles on the roads, the total number of vehicles has also increased, impeding progress. The New Vehicle Efficiency Standard will be coming into effect from 1 January 2025 to assist the reduction of transport emissions.
5.1	By 2025, transition communities to active transport within townships by increasing pedestrian and cyclist traffic by 10% from 2019 levels	In 2023, there was an estimated 2% decrease in distance travelled on foot and bike from 2019 levels. The completion of the Pedestrian Access Strategy will guide investment into pedestrian infrastructure and the RideSafe and wider active transport network is to be incorporated into the Integrated Transport Strategy, which will be finalised in mid-2025.
5.2	By 2025, daily public transport usage will be doubled	Data is not yet available. Possible indicators being investigated for accuracy and relevance and further input from the Department of Transport and Planning. Baseline data and future reporting will be included in future reports. Development of the Shire’s Integrated Transport Strategy will guide efforts to increase uptake in public transport throughout the Peninsula
5.3	By 2025, electric vehicle charging infrastructure will be available at major activity centres to facilitate the use of zero-emissions vehicles	In response to Federal and State funding programs, the Shire has facilitated public EV charging infrastructure at four major activity hubs across the Peninsula, with the fifth scheduled for completion in August 2024. In addition to these Government programs, private industry has continued to drive expansion of the public charging network. We are well placed to meet this target. Existing charging infrastructure can be tracked on Plug Share .
5.4	By 2030, all Shire fleet vehicles will be zero-emissions	Target 11% complete. Mornington Peninsula Shire now has a total of 13 Electric Vehicles (EVs). The Shire is still working on transitioning passenger vehicles to EVs and plans to purchase zero-emissions vans and utes post-2026, or when fit for purpose vehicles enter the Australian market.

Sustainable Travel and Transport (continued)

#	Target	Detail
5.5	By 2030, major economic hubs and schools will be more accessible by a network of footpaths, school walking bus lanes, bike lanes or public transport	<p>Work on the Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) has begun, which is expected to be finalised in mid-2025. This will incorporate the RideSafe Strategy and wider active transport network. The Pedestrian Access Strategy has been completed and adopted by Council, outlining, and prioritising the missing links on the Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN). The PPN prioritises pedestrian links to schools, public transport, employment and shopping hubs and other day to day services and activities. The PPN prioritises pedestrian links to schools, public transport, employment and shopping hubs, recreation reserves and other day to day services and activities.</p> <p>The Shire continues to advocate for improvements to the public transport network on the Mornington Peninsula and has continued discussing improvements with both the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and neighbouring councils. The FlexiRide trial between Safety Beach and Rosebud has been extended, and a semi express service between Frankston and Rosebud is still performing well. Funding for planning a Cross-Peninsula bus route was announced in the 2023 State Government budget and further funding for planning was allocated in 2024.</p>
5.6	By 2030, smart technology public transport solutions are introduced, such as 'Movement as a Service' (MaaS)	<p>In February 2022, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) commenced a 12-month trial for an on demand FlexiRide service between Safety Beach and Rosebud. This trial has been extended indefinitely. The FlexiRide has no fixed route, and passengers can book a trip from their nearest physical or virtual bus stop and travel to / from four designated FlexiRide bus hubs (Dromana Shopping Centre, Rosebud Plaza, Rosebud Hospital and Rosebud Village Shopping Centre). The Shire continues to advocate to DTP for improvements to the public transport network on the Mornington Peninsula.</p>



Sustainable Land Use and Environmental Restoration

Our land and natural areas are a significant asset to our community but are also particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

We must protect and improve the health of our natural assets including our waterways, bays, inland habitats and agricultural land. The Shire has been working to achieve this through our own operations, as well as facilitating business and the community to do the same.

Key achievements

- Development of the draft Our Urban Forest Strategy
- Planting of over 6,000 indigenous shrubs and trees creating thirty-one hectares of biolinks was achieved with assistance from the Shire's Biolink Grant
- Landcare groups on the Mornington Peninsula collectively planted 46,234 plants, covering approximately 65 hectares
- 17,002 volunteer hours in Landcare and 4,982 volunteer hours at Friends Group working bees
- 58 farmers, covering a farmed land area of 3,020 hectares, have enrolled in the regenerative farming course since its inception
- Design of the Briars Recycled Water Scheme completed and further funding secured to implement the works.

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Table 7: Progress on Summit 6 ‘Sustainable Land Use and Environmental Restoration’

Sustainable Land Use and Environmental Restoration (continued overleaf)		
#	Target	Detail
Key target	Between 2020 and 2030, 1 million tonnes of atmospheric carbon will be sequestered on the Peninsula through terrestrial and aquatic plantings and improved soil conditions	<p>The Southeast Councils Climate Change Alliance Carbon Sink Study has been completed and has identified Environmental Planting Pilot Projects as the most viable opportunity for carbon sequestration in Mornington Peninsula Shire.</p> <p>Soil carbon projects are complex, expensive and relatively unproven, with low farmer adoption rates. Peninsula farms are small and have not yet faced market pressure to become carbon neutral. The Shire has supported research with Melbourne University and AgVics Community of Practice and provided farmers opportunities through an On Farm Emissions Action Plan Pilot.</p> <p>Focus remains on soil improvement through regenerative farming and collaborations with Melbourne Water and Western Port Catchment Landcare Network. The Farmers Digging Deeper trial is benchmarking multi-pasture types across 14 farms to assess the impact on carbon sequestration.</p> <p>Western Port’s blue carbon assessment and habitat restoration projects, funded by the State Government, are underway following the Shire-funded Biosphere Blue Carbon Study. A Shire Climate Action Grant has helped Southern Seagreens establish seeded kelp trials, leading to their first kelp harvest from seeded lines in Western Port Bay.</p>
6.1	Each year there will be no new extinctions of indigenous species on the Peninsula	No local extinctions have been reported in the last year. Implementation of the Shire’s Biodiversity Conservation Plan is continuing to support and protect endangered and significant plant and animal species, including developing guidelines to protect key threatened species and monitoring programs for threatened flora species. Programs are in place to support biodiversity and habitat on private land and enhance the network of biolinks across the Shire and engaging our Friends and Landcare Groups to assist.
6.2	By 2025, existing established indigenous trees are protected	The Shire’s Tree Banding Program continued in 2023/24. This year’s work included monitoring and condition assessment of all trees banded under the program to date and maintenance of previously installed assets.
6.3	By 2030, 20% of local farms will adopt agroecological practices or transition to regenerative farming techniques	58 farmers have enrolled in the regenerative farming course over the past three years. The area of land farmed by course participants 3,020 hectares. Further verifiable data will be available once baselining is conducted as part of the Agroecology Strategy.

Sustainable land use and natural environment (continued)

#	Target	Detail
6.4	By 2025, increase human-nature connections by involving a total of 10,000 people in local terrestrial and marine based environmental care programs	Landcare have contributed 17,002 volunteer hours and 1,511 people in 2023-24. The Shire have also engaged 2,491 people through community environmental education programs in this period. There have been 512 friends group working bees contributing 4,982 volunteer hours and equating to an in-kind contribution of \$199,280. This takes the total number of people involved in environmental care programs to 4,002.
6.5	By 2030, vegetation will be in place to increase shade to 45% in urban public spaces	Over the past year, the Shire has developed a draft urban forest strategy <i>Our Urban Forest Strategy</i> . The draft strategy retains this target, but with an updated target date of 2034. The final strategy is up for adoption in September 2024. This strategy will guide us towards meeting this target. As of 2022 (the most recent data available), the average canopy cover of all urban areas was 37%, and canopy cover of urban public spaces (road reserves and open spaces) was 29%.
6.6	By 2030, recycled water will be available in strategic Peninsula regions for agriculture and other beneficial purposes	Design of the Briars Recycled Water Scheme has been completed and further funding secured to implement the works. This will provide 2.6 ML/ day of Class A recycled water to the Briars from the neighbouring Mt Martha treatment plant. This project has been experiencing significant delays and financial challenges that the project team is currently working through. The Tyabb-Somerville Recycled Water project is currently in the business case stage and there is ongoing advocacy to progress the project.
6.7	By 2030, increase ecosystem resilience to climate change and other threats on the Peninsula, e.g. through restoring connectivity of habitat across public and private land	31 hectares of biolinks, including planting of 6,000 indigenous species, were supported through the Shire's Biolink Support Grant Program in 2023/24. In addition, Mornington Peninsula Landcare groups, supported by the Shire's Landcare Facilitator, collectively planted 46,234 plants, covering an additional 65 hectares. Achievements delivered through the Shire's biodiversity works program this year includes the control of high threat environmental weeds and habitat restoration works across 850 hectares of bushland within 125 bushland and foreshore reserves across the Peninsula.
6.8	By 2030, improve waterway health by 10% from 2020 levels	The Shire's Integrated Water Management Plan and Wastewater Management Plan with target to increase properties connected to sewer by 5-7% annually and reduce annual stormwater runoff volume by 817ML/y to help achieve this target.

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Circular Economy and Zero Waste

The Shire continues to tackle the unsustainable 'take-make-waste' model of consumption and aims for zero waste generation through a circular economy.

The Shire has been actively improving circular economy infrastructure and investigating the most efficient ways to divert waste to alternative treatments.

We have rolled out several key initiatives that are encouraging positive behaviour change within the community, as well as reduced waste from Shire operations.

Key achievements

Single Use Plastics

- An additional 25 businesses committed to eliminating single use plastic through Plastic free Mornington Peninsula program, bringing the total to 96. Six additional businesses have eliminated single use plastic altogether and are certified as 'Plastic Free Champions', bringing the total to 15. In total, 2,309,390 pieces of plastic have been eliminated.
- Constructed a Wash Against Waste Trailer to support event organisers and ensure they are single use plastic free and avoid generating waste.

Reusable nappies

- Residents are entitled to claim a 50% rebate when they purchase reusable nappies and/ or sanitary products. To date, we have processed 536 rebates. This rebate has supported residents to make a long-term switch to these products and therefore avoid generating waste.

Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO)

- 2,844 new FOGO bins delivered to homes, bringing the total to 55,943 since July 2021.
- 21,000 households have been provided kitchen caddies to support the recovery/diversion of food waste.
- 22,069 tonnes of mixed FOGO material collected in the past year.

Mobile recycling trailer

- 9,000 kg of recycling collected, saving 232 million litres of water and 511 tonnes of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere.
- 79% of these items were rehomed in communities that needed them most. The remaining items were either recycled into wiper rags or converted into biofuel.

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Table 8: Progress on Summit 7 'Circular Economy and Zero Waste'

Circular Economy and Zero Waste (continued overleaf)		
#	Target	Detail
Key target	By 2030, zero waste will go to landfill and 100% of resources will be recovered and reused	The Shire remains committed to achieving our ambitious target of sending zero waste to landfill by 2030. With the Shire's current operating landfill closing in the next 18 months. The Shire has recently completed a tender process for an alternative waste treatment facility (Waste to Energy) as an alternative to landfilling and to manage the Shire's residual waste stream (materials that we are unable to find an appropriate recovery option).
		Community uptake of our Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) recycling service continues to gain momentum, diverting food and other organic waste from landfill; and trials such as the collection and recycling of expanded polystyrene (EPS) at our recovery centres are providing additional opportunity for increased diversion.
7.1	By 2021, implement a FOGO service for residences	A review has commenced of our resource recovery centres to identify opportunities for improved infrastructure and opportunities to assist the community to recover/recycling more and additional materials.
		The Shire's FOGO service was introduced as an opt-in model in July 2021, and rollout has continued with very positive uptake from community. We estimate that approximately 50% of eligible households now have a green waste bin at home, which can be used to dispose of food scraps and other organic material to be recycled. In just the last 12 months, our service provider has delivered another 2,844 new green waste bins to homes. 21,000 properties have now been provided kitchen caddies to support the recovery/diversion of food waste.
7.2	By 2030, cut the total waste generated per premises in households by 20% (including plastic waste).	In the last 12 months, total kerbside collection volumes were reported by our provider as: General Waste – 29,934 tonnes Commingled Recycling – 19,336 tonnes FOGO Recycling – 22,069 tonnes
		We have seen an overall 2% drop (1,471 tonne) in waste generated through the kerbside collection services. With a positive reduction in both household general waste of 1.7% and recycling of 6.6%. The FOGO recycling service continues to gain momentum with high volumes of both green waste and food waste recovered and recycled.
		The Shire remains committed to ongoing community engagement and education around eligible items for recycling and what 'can' and cannot' go into each bin, for the purpose of encouraging maximum resource recovery. Ultimately, the avoidance of waste, and minimising waste generation is at the heart of our Beyond Zero Waste Strategy and our transition to a circular economy for the Shire. A greater emphasis over the next 12 months will be placed on addressing the issue of contamination within the kerbside bin system.

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Circular Economy and Zero Waste (continued)

#	Target	Detail
7.3	By 2030, cut the total waste generated by businesses by 20% (including plastic waste).	Data is not yet available. Reporting channels and actions are being investigated and will be reported on when available.
7.4	By 2030, 22,829 tonnes of recycled content will be used in Shire civil or construction works.	Approximately 180 tonnes of recycled content was used in Shire capital projects from 2020 – 2022. Currently data is not available to track additional recycled content used in FY23/24 as systems are being developed to record data for all maintenance contracts and capital projects. It is expected that for FY24/25, we will be able to provide a more thorough tracking against this target.

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Progress update – actions and tasks

Table 9: Reporting on actions and tasks

Action 1 - Lead in the Climate Emergency				
#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Form an executive-led Climate Oversight Group (COG) to implement this Plan and embed climate emergency priorities into all Shire decisions, programs, policies and strategies			
1.1	Form an executive-led Climate Oversight Group (COG), immediately following the adoption of this Climate Emergency Plan, to oversee the Plan's implementation and ensure that the Shire's values of Integrity, Courage, Openness, Respect and Excellence are upheld	Completed	The Climate Oversight Group (COG) was formed in March 2022.	2022
1.2	By 2021, establish appropriate community representation to provide recommendations to Council and Executive on community climate change issues, climate emergency priorities and relevant scientific advice. The format may be a deliberative panel, an expert reference group or any model suitable for genuine collaboration	Completed	On request from councillors on 17 July, the Community Climate Group was set up. This is a deliberative panel, with representation across broad sectors of the community that meets four times annually. The inaugural meeting was held in June 2024. In addition, the Citizens' Panel open session this year focussed on the Urban Forest Strategy and FOGO waste services.	
1.3	Representatives from Registered Aboriginal Party and other Traditional Owner Groups are involved in decision making impacting the region, especially regarding protecting the natural environment	In progress	Over the 2023/2024 period, the Shire entered into an MOU with the Bunurong Land Council, recognising the importance of joint decision-making and partnerships when it comes to the natural environment. The Shire continues to support the Warren Beek Cultural Rangers program, and in 2024 received funding from the National Indigenous Australian Agency (NIAA) to develop and deliver a Junior Rangers Program, co-designed with Bunurong Land Council and Trust for Nature, to compliment the Warren Beek program. The Junior Rangers program will deliver First Nations-led On-Country learning to secondary and primary school students, improving intergenerational transmission of First Nations knowledge, and developing an early interest in conservation and ecologies. The program will roll out in 2025.	Ongoing

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1.4	From 2021 onwards, establish a panel of strategic industry partners and experts to deliberate solutions and approaches as required	Completed	The strategic panel of industry partners and experts was established in 2023. Meetings were held in August and December 2023 to discuss solutions to Summit 3 - Zero Carbon Energy and Summit 4 - Resilient and Adaptive Communities.	2022-23
1.5	Embed the Climate Emergency in all future Shire plans, decisions, programs, actions, policies, strategies and contracts	Ongoing	<p>A series of online training and internal workshops have been completed this year to embed the Climate Emergency in all future Shire plans. To date, 649 Shire staff have completed the online voluntary training and 13 business unit workshops have been held this year. The full list of reports is continually growing and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Climate Emergency Plan • Climate Change Community Engagement Strategy • The Organisational Plan • The Council and Wellbeing Plan • Smoke Free Environment Policy • ESD Policy for Council Buildings and Civil Works • Asset Management Strategy / Asset Plan 2022-2032 • Carbon Neutral Policy (2016 version/2023 draft version) • Procurement Policy • Beyond Zero Waste Strategy • Single Use Plastic Policy • The Food Economy & Agroecology Strategy • Biodiversity Conservation Plan • Integrated Water Management Plan • Flood & Stormwater Strategy • Coastal Strategy 	Ongoing
1.6	Identify and coordinate a systematic review of relevant existing Shire strategies, plans and policies and related resources to incorporate climate emergency principles	Delayed	The Shire has embedded climate considerations in all internal policy making processes to ensure the climate emergency principles are incorporated in all new policies developed. Planning for a systematic review of all existing strategies, plans and policies has begun and will be implemented in 2025.	2023

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1.7	Seek funding for climate emergency responses, including partnerships, grants and sustainable loans	Ongoing	The Shire, in collaboration with the Yarra Energy Foundation, was successful in a funding application to develop a business case for a Mornington Peninsula Community Battery. The now completed business case will inform a secondary funding application with the State Government next year for construction of the battery.	Ongoing
1.8	Empower the Shire's Learning and Development Program and change management channels to strengthen the organisation's resilience and foster climate change leadership	Ongoing	<p>A Climate Emergency Training program has been developed for all Shire staff.</p> <p>A Climate Emergency online e-Learning training module was launched in June 2022 and was designed to introduce embedding into onboarding and to develop a common understanding of climate change and its impacts to the Shire.</p> <p>In 2022, targeted workshops were introduced to educate and empower staff across the organisation to embed sustainability and climate change considerations and action into all projects, programs, services, policies, plans, contracts and strategies. Following on from the success of the 2022 and 2023 Climate Emergency workshop programs, a 2024 program has been developed and commenced in December 2023.</p> <p>Alongside the targeted workshops, longer Climate Emergency Workshops are offered to Shire staff through the Learning and Development program. These workshops are more focused on informing and educating officers who are interested in the topic and build towards larger collaborative solutions and actions. This program is ongoing with workshops scheduled at the Shire's Mornington, Rosebud and Hastings offices in 2024.</p>	Ongoing
1.9	Improve internal messaging and communications regarding the Shire's role, programs and achievements related to the Climate Emergency	Completed	Internal communication of the Climate Emergency progress and achievements is delivered through CEO updates, the Climate Emergency newsletter, case studies and other internal avenues. The Shire's Climate Emergency Training program (online e-learning training module and targeted workshops) and Learning and Development program workshops have been designed to educate staff on the Climate Emergency and the Shire's role.	2021-2022

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1.10	Report to the public on a regular basis on climate change actions taken by the Shire	Ongoing	The Online Progress Portal was launched in July 2022 to communicate quarterly progress updates for the Climate Emergency Plan. A more detailed update for actions and tasks is provided in the Climate Emergency Plan Annual Progress Report. For more information, please visit our website .	Ongoing
1.11	Monitor and evaluate progress and amend the Climate Emergency tasks as required to ensure progress towards our targets is achieved	Ongoing	The Climate Emergency Plan 2023/24 Annual Progress Report has been published. The review of the Climate Emergency Plan is scheduled to commence in 2024/25 and will include necessary amendments and new opportunities.	Ongoing
1.12	Lead initiatives in cultural awareness and change, particularly regarding connectedness to land and waters, indigenous culture and practices	Ongoing	The Shire is in the final stages of developing the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2026 following thorough consultation with staff and community. In the last year, we've also seen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week events held for staff and community to attend Cultural Awareness Training provided to staff and volunteer groups • Workshops held at local gathering place, Willum Warrain, to connect staff with the local First Nation's community and organisation/s and • Staff have been provided opportunities to connect with country through cultural walks with Bunurong Land Council. 	Ongoing
1.13	Prioritise Climate Emergency projects on and/or affecting the peninsula ahead of climate-damaging projects. Seek climate-safe alternatives where available and feasible. Encourage innovation by seeking market-based options and alternate funding models	Ongoing	Climate impacts on the Shire is a key consideration as major projects are proposed in our location. We have recently developed an information page on the Shire's website for the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal . Victoria's Minister for Planning had determined that an EES is required for this Project. PoHC is currently working with the Impact Assessment Unit of the Department of Transport and Planning on the scoping requirement as part of the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process and has commenced some of the relevant impact assessments. The Shire continues to support positive climate outcomes in developmental projects and as part of the EES process. The Shire has been appointed as a TRG member and is participating in the regular TRG meetings and relevant focused workshop discussions. New funding models continue to be explored as relevant with a focus on partnerships and collaboration.	Ongoing

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1.14	Oversee advocacy activities with and by Councillors on behalf of the organisation, to ensure consistency in approach	Ongoing	Water recycling remains one of the Shire's top three priorities. A 'water-recycling' roundtable with Minister for Water, Harriet Shing took place in May 2024. Actions included development of a more detailed business case for the Tyabb-Somerville Water Recycling project.	Ongoing
1.15	Oversee all actions delivered by this Plan to ensure that they align with Shire values, and remain equitable and fair to all vulnerable and marginal people in the communities	Ongoing	Climate change was one of five successful Mornington Peninsula Shire motions discussed at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra in July. Councillor Sarah Race and several other coastal round table council colleagues met with Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy also at the ALGA NGA to continue to advocacy discussions. The Climate Emergency Plan actions are delivered in alignment with Shire values and the Shire Health and Wellbeing Plan and assessed for both climate impact and equity. Specific projects to support the vulnerable communities are also developed independently.	Ongoing
Action 2 - Advocate and innovate for climate emergency response				
#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Develop and begin to implement a Climate Emergency Advocacy Plan by 2021, to achieve social and economic change at state and federal levels			
2.1	Publish an annual Climate Emergency Advocacy Report, detailing collaborations and actions taken	Ongoing	The climate change advocacy undertaken in 2023/24 is listed in the Climate Change advocacy page .	Ongoing
2.2	Review the Climate Emergency Advocacy Plan every two years	Ongoing	The Climate Change Advocacy Plan was completed in July 2022. As a result of plan, a series of Change Advocacy Positions were developed. These advocacy positions have been reviewed and updated annually and can be found on the Shire's website .	Ongoing
2.3	Advocate immediately to the state and federal governments to ensure a 'Green Recovery' from COVID-19, prioritising sustainable projects that transition away from a fossil-fuel economy while generating jobs and economic prosperity	Completed	Advocacy has been undertaken for stronger emissions targets and a 'green recovery'.	2022

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2.4	Develop at least three 'climate action' case studies annually which include measurable indicators, benefits and lessons learnt of projects and activities undertaken by the community and the Shire	Ongoing	Three new case studies have been developed this year to highlight climate change action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar for Tenants • Two Bays Podcast • Flinders General Store 	2022 - 2030
2.5	Advocate to the Victorian Government to declare a Climate Emergency and to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Set a 100% renewable energy target for 2040 or earlier, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition rapidly to a renewable energy-based economy Improve transportation policy and infrastructure, including improving and incentivising public transport; and transition to zero-emission vehicles Support vulnerable communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change 	In progress	In July, Councillors, in collaboration with other coastal councils from across Victoria, have strongly advocated to the Victorian government for greater collaboration and alignment between all levels of government to urgently develop a national response to coastal climate risks and hazards, the need for a national coastal adaptation fund established in partnership with states and territories, administered by a national coastal adaptation working group and the appointment of a federal Minister for coasts. The Shire has also led discussions with State Government to advocate for recycled water project to supply high-quality alternative water supply for our agricultural and nursery garden industries. In addition, at the Australian Local Government Association Conference in July, the Shire advocated to State and Federal government for increased support for vulnerable community members to build resilience to climate change.	Ongoing
2.6	Advocate to the Federal Government to declare a Climate Emergency and to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and care for people displaced due to climate change, both nationally and internationally Develop a 'National Economic Transition Plan' Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement a renewable energy-based economy Fund and deliver effective and scalable methods to draw down carbon from the atmosphere Improve ecosystem and species protections under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Improving sustainability in the transport, water management and agriculture sectors, including setting ambitious targets and identifying project opportunities Improve minimum standards for residential homes in the National Construction Code Develop a 'National Zero Waste and Circular Economy' policy 	In progress	These actions are incorporated into the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Climate Change Advocacy Plan and have formed part of the Shire's Climate Change Policy positions., which can be found here .	Ongoing

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2.7	<p>i. Develop a simple scheme for small businesses to measure and reduce emissions to net zero</p> <p>Advocate to other councils and local government collective organisations such as ABM, MAV, SECCCA to:</p> <p>a. Declare a Climate Emergency and develop an appropriate response</p> <p>b. Promote membership in effective climate action alliances</p>	In progress	<p>The Shire continues to advocate along with other SECCCA Councils to strengthen and influence other alliances. The Shire was involved with the development of the Regional Climate Change Advocacy Plan and supported the delivery of this plan. We remain an active member of SECCCA and support their advocacy in climate action.</p>	Ongoing
2.8	<p>Advocate to business and industry operating within the Peninsula, and beyond to:</p> <p>a. Declare a Climate Emergency</p> <p>b. Actively reduce their emissions in line with the Shire's Climate Emergency targets</p> <p>c. Reduce their waste, including plastic, food and construction materials</p> <p>d. Support manufacturing, services, and sourcing of local and sustainable products.</p> <p>e. Prioritise the manufacturing and purchasing of recycled products where possible</p>	In progress	<p>Mornington Peninsula Shire actively support and promote programs supporting businesses to reduce emissions. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing support through our Climate Action Grants program have been actively promoted across the Peninsula • Hosting two webinars to promote energy efficiency opportunities to business • The Best Bites program, which recognises the commitment of local businesses to best practice in food safety, health and wellbeing and sustainability. This program also encourages and support businesses to improve in these areas and links to available resources and learning opportunities • Case Studies and information on the Shire and MP Business websites. 	2022-2024

Action 3 – Reach beyond carbon neutral

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Develop a Beyond Carbon Neutral Plan (BCNP) to set out how the Shire will continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its own business operations, and to source locally generated carbon offsets	Delayed	<p>The Beyond Carbon Neutral Plan has been delayed until the Carbon Neutral Policy has been reviewed. The Policy review was deferred by Council in July 2023, pending establishment of a community reference group. This group has been established as of June 2024 and the policy review is expected to be addressed again in 2025.</p> <p>Meanwhile, implementation of the existing policy, in terms of the commitment to continue to reduce emissions, continues.</p>	2021-2023

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3.1	Achieve zero net emissions for Shire operations and be accredited as carbon neutral under the 'Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard'	Delayed	The Shire successfully achieved Carbon Neutral certification under the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 periods but has not pursued certification since due to a Council decision to not allocate funding for carbon offsetting. The policy is currently under review.	2021-2023
3.2	Identify and deliver projects to minimise residual emissions and reduce the subsequent offsets required to maintain carbon neutral accreditation. The plan will consider emissions from Shire energy and water use, Shire and staff travel and transport (including accommodation), refrigerants, leased facilities and the supply chain. Some projects already proposed include: -Solar farm next to Rye Landfill -Energy efficiency initiatives and solar PV for community buildings -LED main road and decorative streetlights	Ongoing	In 2023/24, the Mornington Peninsula Shire completed or commenced the following projects to reduce emissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenanted solar program (12 sites) • Virtual Energy Network trial • Major Road Streetlighting LED Upgrade • Electrification of six facilities • Four batteries installed at Shire facilities • Procurement of several carbon neutral maintenance service contracts 	Ongoing
3.3	By 2023, the Shire will source all electricity from renewable generation	Delayed	The Shire has not met its target of 100% renewable power in 2024 due to significant cost increases for Renewable Energy Certificates.	2023
3.4	Develop, adopt and implement a 'Carbon Offsetting Strategy', seeking to maximise carbon offsets from emissions reduction projects on the Mornington Peninsula through facilitation, collaboration and support with potential partners	Delayed	The completion of the Biosphere Blue Carbon and SECCCA Carbon Sink Studies has identified limited opportunities for carbon projects on the Mornington Peninsula. The best opportunity - A Vegetation Pilot Project - will be undertaken with private landowners over the next 12 months to inform policy for a local Carbon Offsetting Strategy.	2022-2023
3.5	Restrict new natural gas connections for Shire facilities, and develop a 'Natural Gas Phaseout Strategy' with clear targets	In progress	No new Shire facilities have been connected to gas and 21 Shire facilities have been disconnected from gas since adoption of the Plan. Development of an electrification/gas phase out strategy and action plan has commenced and is expected to be completed in 2024/25.	2020-2022
3.6	Invest in innovative technology to accelerate activities that go beyond carbon neutral, especially those that support local industries and businesses	Ongoing	The Flinders Community battery project has improved the connection process to the network for this new technology by working with DCCEEW and UE to share learnings and improve the timelines and cost for the Network Connection. Process improvements continue to be discussed with key providers, with the Virtual Energy Network an ongoing opportunity.	Ongoing

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Action 4 – Create a resilient built environment

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Develop programs for Peninsula homes and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and increase climate resilience			Ongoing
4.1	Increase the uptake of Environmental Upgrade Finance (EUF) to enable eligible parties to access low risk finance for environmental building upgrades to improve energy, water and waste efficiencies	Delayed	Since December 2023, Upgrade Finance is no longer available as a low-cost loan option for businesses. The Shire continues to seek out opportunities for businesses to improve business energy efficiency. This has included promoting the Victorian Energy Upgrade Program to businesses, updating energy saving information on our website and sharing information with businesses through our Best Bites program.	Ongoing
4.2	Support, promote and advocate for programs to sustainably retrofit homes to build resilience to the impacts of climate change, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged households	Ongoing	Following the development of the Flinders community battery a Flinders Bulk Buy was launched with 12 solar systems installed, 8 heat pumps and ongoing quotes for induction cooktops, car charger, pool heat pumps and a home battery. In 2023/24 the Shire partnered with Want a Heat Pump, Energy Freedom Homes and the Shire's three Community Support Centres to deliver the Save Energy: Save Money trial program. The program offered tailored phone support and free highly efficient hot water heat pumps to 21 householders. By combining the Solar Victoria (SV) rebate and Shire funds, these products were free to these low-income households. Support for low-income earners has occurred through the Save Energy Save Money trial program.	2021-2024
4.3	Facilitate competitive offers to encourage the community to uptake for sustainable options such as solar panels, batteries and/or electric vehicle charging infrastructure, e.g. bulk buys and power purchase agreements	Ongoing	In addition, the Energy Support Grants have been finalised and will offer low-income earners 50% (up to \$1,000) off the out of pocket expenses for reverse cycle air conditioning, insulation and draught proofing.	2022-2025
4.4	Provide advice to support community owned renewable energy programs, such as solar farms and micro-grids	Ongoing	The Shire is advising Repower Mornington Peninsula on opportunities for community ownership of solar and energy storage assets outside of the Shire's own assets.	Ongoing
4.5	Seek partnerships and/or services to enable residents and businesses to easily access expert advice on energy efficiency, solar and other products	Ongoing	The Shire has partnered with Enviroflex and Want a Heat Pump to assist with the delivery of the on the Energy Support Grants.	Ongoing

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4.6	Run sustainability workshops and information sessions to encourage residents to sustainably retrofit or design their homes, install renewables and build resilience to climate change	Ongoing	<p>The Shire has delivered the following community workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainably retrofit your home • Transition to an Electric Vehicle (EV) • Get better prepared for fire and storms • Energy efficiency upgrades for your home or business • Low carbon concrete • Composting masterclass • Draught-proof your home and save money • How to have a healthier home • No waste cooking on an induction cooktop • Electrify everything • Low cost & DIY upgrades for renters and homeowners <p>Repower Red Hill, in partnership with the Shire, held its inaugural 'Repower Your Lives' Expo at the 2024 Red Hill Show. The Expo showcased electric vehicles, electric farm machinery and home appliances to help the community on their electrification journey. The Shire also sponsored free Bike n' Blend pedal-powered smoothies and induction cooktop demonstrations delivered by Open Table.</p> <p>Sustainable House Day was hosted at the Eco Living Display Centre in late April, where residents could discover how to create a comfortable and sustainable home and receive a free energy consultation with an Energy Hero or chat with a Repower volunteer.</p>	Ongoing
4.7	Undertake planning scheme amendments to protect buildings against the impacts of climate change, including 'Land Subject to Inundation Overlay' (LSIO), 'Special Building Overlay' (SBO), Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) and Erosion Management Overlay (EMO)	In progress	<p>Planning scheme amendment C271morn has now been adopted by Council and is awaiting ministerial decision. The amendment introduces new planning controls that address erosion and inundation hazards from predicted sea level rise as well as new design controls to protect township character in coastal villages and inland areas. The new sea level rise controls provide a risk-based assessment approach to ensure new development in coastal areas responds to erosion and inundation hazards in a safe and appropriate way that avoids serious damage to coastal environments and processes.</p>	

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4.8	Evaluate, and implement if appropriate, a scheme to incentivise land rates rebates for higher environmental standards in building performance and renewable energy supply	In progress	The Shire continues to investigate mechanisms to support higher environmental standards in building performance and renewable energy supply. In 2023/24, the Shire consulted community on a solar differential rates mechanism that would support households to access solar through reduced rates. This was not supported by the community and not pursued further.	2020-2023
4.9	Support demand response programs to manage peak energy usage to minimise blackouts and brownouts (e.g. United Energy's demand response program 'Summer Savers')	Ongoing	The Shire continues to support demand response programs to help minimise power outages where possible and is working to reduce its own demand. Examples of this are trialling load shifting using battery storage (using power from the battery rather than the electricity grid during peak demand events) and through energy efficiency measures.	Ongoing
4.10	Provide educational programs and displays to assist residents to sustainably retrofit their homes and prepare for the impacts of climate change	Ongoing	United Energy Summer Savers program continues to run with no assistance required from the Shire. Community workshops that were delivered include: 'Sustainably retrofit your home', 'Energy efficiency upgrades for your home or business' as well as 'Get prepared for storms and fire' which was delivered in conjunction with the SES and CFA. Sustainable House Day was hosted at the Eco Living Display Centre in late April, where residents could discover how to create a comfortable and sustainable home and receive a free energy consultation with an Energy Hero or chat with a Repower volunteer.	Ongoing

Action 5 – Mobilise and strengthen community action

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Strengthen relationships among the Shire and local groups to amplify community voices and enhance action and leverage stakeholder connections to improve Shire decision-making			

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5.1	<p>Provide direct support for community and youth groups to pursue climate action. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assistance for planning actions and projects which deliver the goals of this Plan and meet the community's needs and interests b. Publicly communicating Shire climate activities c. Providing and receiving feedback on climate action initiatives d. Provide advice on funding and grants e. Facilitating training to cope with an increasing anxiety relating to the impacts of climate change 	Ongoing	<p>The Shire supports community climate action group, Repower. Repower launched a new brand and marketing campaign increasing their social media following by 60-80% and increasing their enews subscriptions and they have hosted 14 events across the Peninsula and established 10 industry partnerships.</p> <p>Since 2021, the Shire has supported community action on climate change through our Climate Action Grants program. This program is ongoing and to date 59 Grants totalling \$342,291 have been awarded to local businesses and community groups.</p> <p>In 2022, we partnered with 'Climate 4 Change' to run climate conversation facilitator training for our community.</p> <p>In 2023, we trained 28 community members to give free energy advice through our 'Free Energy Consultations' program, which is ongoing. We also teamed with CERES School of Nature and Climate to deliver the 'Student Environmental Leadership Summits' for 185 Mornington Peninsula students from 14 primary and five secondary schools. Students came together for a unique day of leadership skill development, active hope and collaboration where they developed plans to improve sustainability at their school.</p> <p>In March 2024, we held our second round of 'Student Environmental Leadership Summits' with 130 primary school students and 35 secondary school students from across the Mornington Peninsula. Organised by the Shire, and facilitated by CERES School of Nature and Climate, students were supported to work with their teacher and each other to create a project that will improve the sustainability of their school.</p>	Ongoing
5.2	Support community volunteers with access to training and networks to build skills in communication, leadership and advocacy	In progress	<p>In April - May 2023, the Shire trained 23 community members to give free energy advice through our 'Energy Heroes' training program. This program is ongoing and between January - March 2024 we trained four more Energy Hero volunteers that are now able to provide free energy advice to our community. With some Energy Heroes moving on, this brings the total number of active Energy Heroes to 22.</p>	2023-2025

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5.3	Establish a 'Climate Change Community Action Grants' program to fund community groups, youth groups and businesses to reach our climate emergency goals	Completed	Since 2021, the Shire has supported community action on climate change through our Climate Action Grants program. This program is ongoing and to date 59 grants totalling \$342,291 have been awarded to local businesses and community groups.	2021-2022
5.4	Collaborate with businesses, farmers and other organisations to support climate action and positive behaviour change, in relation to food security, ecosystem resilience, water, energy, waste and resource reduction and future-impact resilience	In progress	The actions being implemented with the Food Economy & Agroecology Strategy will guide landholders and businesses on sustainable land management practices and local food chain systems that reduce agriculture industry emissions. The Shire is also a member of AgVic's On Farm Emissions Community of Practice which shares tools and grant opportunities. The Sustainable Food Economy and Agroecology Taskforce has been established to promote cross-sector collaboration and dissemination of information relating to food security, ecosystem resilience and resource use.	2021-2030
5.5	Identify, act and amplify shared advocacy goals between the Shire and the community (groups and businesses), by facilitating networking opportunities and providing information and education sessions on key topics	In progress	Mornington Peninsula Shire hosted a business sustainability event which showcased sustainability initiatives and provided a networking opportunity for local businesses.	2023
5.6	Incentivise activities that reduce energy emissions, through rates, rebates or other mechanisms, especially where the return on investment is long	In progress	The Shire has published the list of climate change advocacy initiatives undertaken over the last year and has updated climate change advocacy positions. Since December 2023, Environmental Upgrade Finance (EUF) is no longer available as a low cost loan option for businesses. The Shire continues to seek out opportunities for businesses to improve business energy efficiency. This has included promoting the Victorian Energy Upgrade Program to businesses, updating energy saving information on our website and sharing information with businesses through our Best Bites program.	2021-2030
5.7	Investigate mechanisms to increase renewable energy supply in short stay accommodation as part of the review of the Shire's 'Short Stay Rental Accommodation' Local Law	Delayed	The Shire is investigating mechanisms to support renewable energy uptake in short stay accommodation that can be included in the Shire's Short Stay Rental Accommodation Local Law, however the review has been delayed following the State Government announcement of related tax changes from 1 January 2025.	2023

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Action 6 – Raise community awareness and foster behaviour change

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
6.1	<p>Expand and accelerate the Shire's existing program of community engagement, education and climate change awareness to highlight impacts, solutions and responses</p> <p>By 2021, review and update the 'Climate Change Community Engagement Strategy 2018' and expand key aspects of the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Build human and social adaptive capacities with community engagement programs that prepare residents and businesses for extreme weather events b. Introduce initiatives that minimise consumption, waste, water and energy use, and promote sustainable food and lifestyle choices c. Assist community groups to develop, support, lead and promote community-led education programs d. Host guest speakers on climate related topics in Libraries and Youth Centres e. Run training programs to equip community leaders to respond issues such as heat wave and heat stroke, climate change impacts on mental health, and sustainability leadership f. Run training programs to equip community leaders to advocate to governments for stronger climate policies and learn how to have effective climate conversations g. Regularly review and improve education programs to be fit for purpose 	In progress	<p>The Community Engagement Plan is now delivered via the Climate Change Communication Plan and includes a series of workshops, webinars, talks and incursions and excursions as well as other opportunities for the community to engage in climate change action (See Tasks 5.1, 5.2, 6.2, 6.3).</p> <p>In February 2024, the Shire supported the Peninsula Voice to host a Climate Change Forum at Peninsula Community Theatre. The event was attended by around 200 residents.</p>	2022
	Facilitate exhibitions and public art on climate change and our natural environment to generate community reflections	Ongoing	A 40-metre vibrant mural 'Painting our Future' was commissioned by Mornington Peninsula Shire as an innovative way to raise awareness and inspire community action on climate change. The mural, which is opposite the library on Salmon Street, Hastings, won Bronze in the '2022 Australian Street Art Awards' Best External Mural category. More information on the artwork and artist can be found on our Arts & Culture website.	2021-2022

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6.3	Develop activities and programs that nurture creativity and culture to showcase our unique environment, advocate for its protection and generate long-term behavioural change	Ongoing	<p>The Shire's Schools & Community Sustainability Education Programs and school holiday programs continue to establish long-term custodianship of our environment.</p> <p>In 2023-24, the Artist in Schools program was offered to all primary schools in the Tootgarook Wetland and Western Port regions, with a focus on the importance of these areas for climate change mitigation. Thirteen schools participated, with a total of 982 students educated.</p>	Ongoing
6.4	Demonstrate and highlight sustainable agricultural and horticultural best practice land management and ecological restoration techniques at the Briars test site and private properties, and use these test sites as an education tool	Ongoing	<p>The Shires Agribusiness and Agroecology team have held a range of farmer talks and training sessions to upskill the community on climate smart farming practices. This work has included working with regional partners on the delivery of Farmers Digging Deeper demonstration sites and regenerative agriculture training programs. Investigations into activating the Briars farm have commenced.</p>	2021-2025
6.5	Conduct an education campaign to raise awareness of the benefits and availability of sustainable food choices utilising resources such as Best Bites, Mornington Peninsula Produce and food rescue programs	Ongoing	<p>The Shire has delivered a number of workshops that promote self-sufficient growing of food including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing fruit and vegetables in small gardens • Natural backyard beekeeping • Keeping chooks • Children's homemade pizza making workshop • Beeswax wrap making workshop • You're your own sourdough workshop • Intro to organic vegetable gardening • Composting at home • Pruning and care of fruit trees • Olive preserving • No-waste cooking • Fermenting at home • no waste cooking on induction cooktops <p>We are also continuing education through The Community Plate, Best Bites and the Mornington Peninsula Produce programs.</p>	2023

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6.6	Collaborate with Mornington Peninsula Business to develop a long-term plan to implement far-reaching behaviour change programs and campaigns for businesses, community groups and individuals	In Progress	The Economic Development and Tourism Strategy was adopted in May 2024 with multiple reference to both sustainability and circular economy. Programs include Business for Good with strong circular economy motivation and sustainability information integration within business information and education	Ongoing
6.7	Expand on the existing educational programs and displays offered at the Shire's 'Eco Living Display Centre' to encourage sustainable living and build community capacity to respond to extreme weather events	Ongoing	<p>Recent upgrades to the Eco Living Display Centre include new displays and signage, the installation of an induction cooktop, as well as being able to view live solar and battery data.</p> <p>Educational programs include a range of sustainability workshops and training programs for the community as well as our Schools Environmental Education Program.</p> <p>Community workshops delivered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainably retrofit your home • Transition to an electric vehicle • Get better prepared for fire and storms • Energy efficiency upgrades for your home or business • Low carbon concrete • Composting masterclass • How to have a healthier home • DIY upgrades for renters and homeowners • Draught-proof your home and save money <p>From April - Dec 2023, the Shire trained 28 community members to give energy advice through our ongoing, free energy consultation program.</p> <p>In February 2024, a free clothes mending workshop was hosted at the Eco Living Display Centre as part of the Sustainable Living Festival.</p> <p>In April 2024, the Eco Living Display Centre was opened to the public for 'Sustainable House Day'. Volunteer Energy Heroes and Eco Centre tour guides as well as members of Repower Mornington Peninsula were present to provide information and assistance to around 45 community members.</p>	2021-2025

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Action 7 - Grow community resilience to enhanced natural disasters

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Review and expand emergency management plans to ensure that the emergency and recovery response to any future event is swift, effective and enabling		The Shire's Municipal Emergency Management Plan is regularly reviewed and updated, as required by State Government legislation. The Shire has also created a Community Resilience and Emergency Management team to drive development and implementation of key strategies and plans and capacity building activities. This will build the internal confidence of our organisation and resilience of our community when responding to and recovering from an emergency event.	Ongoing
	7.1 Develop tailored adaptation plans for coastal areas based on Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 considering existing infrastructure, cultural heritage and biodiversity values. This involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify sites at risk of coastal inundation and erosion, considering storm surge impacts b. Investigate most appropriate adaptation actions for at-risk sites, applying the 'pathway approach' detailed in the MCP c. Support citizen science projects that monitor coastlines and biodiversity d. Fund ongoing monitoring and assessment of coastal erosion and sand movement 	Ongoing	In February 2023, Council adopted the Hastings Foreshore Masterplan. The Masterplan covers the foreshore reserve stretching from the northern end of Fred Smith Reserve to the southern Hastings foreshore, and includes water and nature play, an events area, new toilet facilities, upgraded paths, upgraded boat ramp parking, a pump track, sensory gardens, native vegetation and much more. Three new Coastal and Marine Management Plans have been developed for Flinders, Mount Eliza and Portsea. The Shire has commenced development of the Our Coast, Our Future (OCOF) Strategy. The OCOF Strategy will be one of the first coastal adaptation plans in the state and has been in-part funded by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) as a pilot project to apply the Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting for 2100+ Guidelines. The OCOF Strategy will identify coastal adaptation priorities based on the most up-to-date data including the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment, which was released in January 2024. Community consultation has been undertaken to identify Values, Vision and Objectives for the OCOF Strategy, including a successful photo competition. The Shire is now assessing coastal hazard exposure and expect Stages 1 - 4 of the project to be completed in September 2024. For more information on the Our Coast, Our Future Strategy, please visit our website: https://shape.mornpen.vic.gov.au/our-coast-our-future	2021-2023

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7.2	Investigate planned retreat options from dangerous areas, especially those at extreme risk of frequent or intense bushfire	Ongoing	<p>The Community Resilience and Emergency Management Team has continued to explore how our important community assets that can operate as emergency relief hubs can operate independent of mains power supply. This has seen the Flinders Golf Club, Red Hill Recreation Reserve and Balnarring Recreation Reserve being upgraded with generator, solar and battery functionality. Additionally, Bittern Stadium can now run off a generator when it is stood up as an Emergency Relief Centre. These sites/assets provide immediate and long term support to community during and after an emergency event. Further investigation and consideration is also being given to other important key assets that accommodate critical relief services can operate independent of mains power.</p> <p>Emergency management functionality, specific to upgrading new buildings has been captured within the Community Facilities Strategy.</p>	Ongoing
7.3	Partner with Department of Transport and key emergency management organisations to evaluate and improve, road networks and communications infrastructure that facilitate emergency management coordination and access	Ongoing	<p>The Community Resilience and Emergency Management Team chair the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and have recently endorsed a senior representative from the Department of Transport and Planning to sit on the committee to ensure that this department can have a direct and act role in shaping and supporting our emergency management plans.</p>	Ongoing
7.4	Review the Victorian Heat Health Plan and develop an 'Extreme Weather Health Plan' that addresses heat waves and extreme cold	In progress	<p>Planning will soon commence on developing a Communications Plan for the summer period inclusive of Heat Health messaging. Additionally, investigation in to the generator functionality of the Mornington Shire Office is occurring to identify if the Library could operate independent of mains power which would mean that there are opportunities for it to be considered as a cool space during a heat wave.</p>	2022
7.5	Educate all sectors of the community on climate change risks and encourage preparedness	In progress	<p>Emergency preparedness workshops and forums have been held to build community resilience to the impacts of climate change. This has included working with the CFA and Community and other key stakeholders on the Hill and Ridge Emergency Network, the establishment of a Resilience, Relief and Recovery Network and a series of community education events at libraries and other community facilities.</p> <p>In addition, the Shire has supported community initiatives to raise awareness of climate change risks, such as supporting the Climate Change Forum run by the Peninsula Voice.</p>	2021-2025

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7.6	Raise community awareness of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan	Completed	The Shire's Community Resilience Officers have made significant progress in planning and developing several emergency preparedness sessions that align to our obligations within the Municipal Emergency Management Plan; notably around emergency preparedness. This includes working directly with the Red Hill Community through their CFA led Emergency Network in the development of a 'street leader' initiative that ensures all streets have a level of connection and are able to share information related to emergency management planning and support each other during and after an emergency. Additionally, several preparedness sessions have been arranged for Seniors Month in Oct including CFA Fire Planning workshops, Vic Emergency App competency building, Red Cross Redi Plan sessions and mental health awareness sessions. Additionally, several psychological first aid training sessions are being arranged for internal and external stakeholders that may provide support to community during and after an emergency event.	2022
7.7	Investigate and review the potential inappropriate use of bushfire risk reduction planning scheme exemptions (e.g. Clause 52.12) in low-risk urban settings	Completed	In August 2020, the Bushfire Protection exemptions changed. These exemptions previously applied to all Victorian land, however now the exemptions only apply to land that is within a designated bushfire prone area. More information is available on our website .	2021
7.8	Work with partner agencies to review and implement strategies to manage bushfire risk	Ongoing	Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee has been replaced with the Fire Management Working Group and the inaugural meeting took place in early 2024. Meetings occur quarterly and involve Mornington Peninsula Shire, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Parks Victoria, the CFA, Department of Transport and Planning and Victoria Police.	Ongoing
7.9	Collaborate with the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee to plan for local evacuations and relief during an emergency	Ongoing	The Shire is a member of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC). Other members include Ambulance Victoria, Australian Red Cross, Country Fire Authority and Department of Families, Fairness & Housing, Fire Rescue Victoria, Victoria Police and Victoria State Emergency Service. The group meet quarterly and undertake activities such as reviewing and updating the Municipal Emergency Management Plan. This identifies community risks and associated mitigations and treatments as well as the roles and responsibilities in relief and recovery.	Ongoing

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			<p>The Shire has also established the Mornington Peninsula Resilience, Relief and Recovery Network which involves agencies, non-government and not for profit organisations and groups to assist each other in relief activities, especially emergency activations.</p> <p>For more information, see the Mornington Peninsula Emergency Management Plan.</p>	
7.10	Investigate the need for expanded relief centres and associated infrastructure and equipment for residents and other climate displaced individuals, including as part of capital works planning	In progress	<p>The Bittern Stadium generator upgrades were officially handed over to the Emergency Management team in July which includes an operating procedure for use. Civic Reserve Recreation Centre is earmarked to have a generator installed to provide backup power. These upgrades means that each of our three emergency relief centres will be able to operate independently of mains power when there is a power disruption.</p>	2022
7.11	Incorporate emergency management planning in the Shire's maintenance works, capital works planning and all permitted public events	Ongoing	<p>The Shire includes Emergency Management clauses in all contracts where warranted and all public events now require an Emergency Management Plan.</p> <p>The Shire is working toward better integration of contractors in our emergency planning and response arrangements, including training of Shire staff as Emergency Management Liaison Officers and investigating a Natural Hazards Standard Operating Procedure. This is intended to formalise regular Emergency Management Team briefings for severe weather alerts all internal responding teams and contractors. In the public event space, the Shire is exploring opportunities to streamline processes pertained to emergency management considerations (e.g. heat health) and involving front line emergency services in the planning for events (e.g. the Harry Potter event).</p>	Ongoing
7.12	Assist disaster recovery management by mitigating social risks and harms arising from displacement of people	Ongoing	<p>The Community Resilience Team, in partnership with the Shire's Climate Change Team, have continued to progress the development of the Adaptation Game - a physical board game in which players look at how you and your community respond to the next ten years of climate change in your town. This has a particular focus on natural hazards and disaster mitigation. The Shire will look to engage different targeted community groups to test and pilot the game. By playing the game the community is able to identify what they need to consider in regard to managing their own risks and additionally ideas for collective mitigation.</p>	Ongoing

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7.13	Plan for potential increases in number and scale of emergencies indirectly resulting from climate change, especially those that affect multiple systems at once	Ongoing	<p>The Community Resilience and Emergency Management Team has started to put together a training and exercising calendar that will give both internal and external stakeholders an opportunity to participate in a scenario-based exercise that tests how we respond and importantly identifies any gaps and areas for service improvement. This includes the Crisis Works training and psychological first aid for internal and external stakeholders that may be required to support community that have been impacted by a traumatic event.</p> <p>Additionally, the team has started to put together the scope of works for the new Community Disaster Resilience Plan that will ensure there is a consistent and evidenced approach to how the Shire builds the disaster resilience of the community. Community will be able to clearly see what supports and opportunities are available to them over the strategy life cycle.</p>	Ongoing
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Action 8 – Plan for changing health and wellbeing impacts

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Review existing public health, social and financial service planning and identify significant gaps, risks and liabilities. Following this review, develop a long-term 'Climate Change Adaption Plan' (CCAP) to build resilience within these sectors			Ongoing
8.1	Develop a 'Climate Change Adaptation Plan' to address the full range of climate related health impacts, including risks to specific population cohorts, assessing any gaps in service provision and advocating for action	In progress	Mornington Peninsula Shire has continued to participate in the South East Council Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) Resilient Community Project. This has involved identifying the geographical areas that are at higher risk of the impacts of climate change and additionally, the priority population groups that are more susceptible to the impacts. Through this, we have contributed to the development of a spatial vision tool that will aid us in identifying and evidencing where we are best to invest our resourcing.	2021-2023

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8.2	Incorporate relevant parts of the 'Climate Emergency Plan' and the latest climate knowledge in the next 'Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan'	In progress	Mornington Peninsula Shire continues to incorporate climate change knowledge into health and wellbeing actions outlined in the Council and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 which incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. Additionally, research and planning has commenced for the next iteration, the Council and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029. The health and wellbeing components will be structured closely on State Government health priorities including 'Tackling climate change and it's impact on health'. The Community Wellbeing team will continue to work with the Climate Change to incorporate this within the plan.	2021-2022
8.3	Work with businesses to develop plans to cope with power shortages and blackouts, particularly where refrigeration, heating and cooling have direct impacts on public health	In progress	The Shire and community energy group Repower share opportunities for businesses to reduce emissions and become more energy resilient. Repower has made an approach to businesses with a renewable solution for the township of Balnarring to become carbon neutral.	2023
8.4	Conduct an education program on climate change health impacts and coping strategies for health practitioners, in collaboration with key stakeholders (e.g. Peninsula Health, Vic Health and DELWP)	In progress	A working group has been established between Shire teams, Peninsula Health and the Community Plate to raise community awareness of the impact of climate on health through events and increased communication. A Climate and Health Communications and Engagement Plan has been developed and is being delivered. This includes media releases, social media and inclusion of climate and health messaging at events.	2021-2022
8.5	Conduct township-specific community engagement to raise awareness of locational impacts, and assist preparedness	In progress	Education programs have been conducted to raise community awareness of the risk of extreme weather events with a range of age groups and social demographics. The Climate Resilience program, in collaboration with SECCCA, has identified geographical areas and populations most at risk from climate change. This information is being used to co-design a community engagement program that will assist communities prepare for climate change. Township specific planning for fire preparedness is underway within the Red Hill/Main Ridge area in collaboration with community stakeholders, CFA and the Shire.	2023

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8.6	Evaluate key biosecurity and disease risks, such as the Peninsula's vulnerability to new vector-borne diseases	In progress	<p>The Shire has provided information about mosquito-borne diseases on the website to reduce risk of transmission through our community. For more information visit our website.</p> <p>The Shire has also partnered with Doherty Institute, Victorian Government Department of Health and other agencies in the Beating Buruli in Victoria research project. More information is available on the Doherty Institute website.</p>	2023
8.7	Identify private industries and services at risk from climate-related social and economic pressures, and collaborate to develop appropriate responses	Delayed	Flood mapping in development will help inform businesses of risk. Also as part of the 'Our Coast Our Future' project, business and visitor related issues will be considered and should develop a range of actions to support businesses once progressed.	2023
8.8	Collaborate with public and private health professionals to advocate for a response to the mental health impacts from climate change	In Progress	The Shire has collaborated with Peninsula Health and emergency management organisations to provide opportunities for the community to actively participate in programs that reduce emissions, reduce the risks associated with climate change and benefit human health. Free energy advice is offered through the Energy Heroes program as well as via community workshops and tours at our Eco Living Display Centre. Our Save Energy: Save Money program offered free energy efficient hot water heating to low-income earners working through the Community Support Centres.	2023
8.9	By 2021, develop a robust and measurable 'Social Impact Assessment' report card to set a baseline for the Mornington Peninsula to measure social resilience to climate change.	Completed	Completed as part of the project to investigate climate change impact on health and wellbeing.	2021-2022
Action 9 – Transition to sustainable transport				
#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Develop an Integrated Transport Plan (ITS) to achieve best practice sustainable transport outcomes with the goal to reduce and then eliminate transport emissions		The Shire has begun development of the Integrated Transport Strategy, which is expected to be completed in June 2024/25.	2021-2022

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9.1	Design infrastructure that make active transport options (e.g. walking, cycling) accessible and preferred for movement within a town, particularly to and from schools and economic hubs, through implementation of the 'Pedestrian Access Strategy' and 'RideSafe Strategy'	Ongoing	An updated Pedestrian Access Strategy was adopted by Council in 2024 and sets out the Principal Pedestrian Network, a mapped network of integrated and connected routes encouraging pedestrian movement. This Strategy guides Council decisions in funding the construction of new footpaths.	Ongoing
9.2	Design safer, quieter and cooler streets that appeal to pedestrians and other active transport users through implementation of the 'Pedestrian Access Strategy' and 'RideSafe Strategy'	In progress	Recommencement of the new RideSafe Strategy will begin in 2024, which will direct future investment in active transport infrastructure.	2022
9.3	Collaborate with neighbouring councils across the South East region to advocate for reliable, attractive, convenient and sustainable public transport options between key activity hubs and Melbourne's CBD	In progress	Collaboration with neighbouring councils is ongoing and will be incorporated further into the Integrated Transport Strategy. Additionally, Peninsula Trail and other active transport routes are being considered to connect with Frankston.	2021-2025
9.4	Collaborate with the Victorian Government to improve connectivity and integration between local and state transport networks, e.g. sustainable and efficient on-demand public transport	In progress	FlexiRide Service continues to operate within Rosebud to Dromana providing on demand transport. Public Transport Victoria (PTV) have commenced planning a Cross Peninsula Bus service to increase coverage and connectivity.	2021-2025
9.5	Determine the most effective ways for the Shire to support and enable the transition from combustion engine to zero emission vehicles on the Mornington Peninsula	In progress	In response to Federal and State funding programs the Shire has facilitated public EV charging infrastructure at 5 major activity hubs across the Peninsula, with the fifth scheduled for completion in August 2024. In addition to these Government programs, private industry has continued to drive expansion of the public charging network. Existing charging infrastructure can be tracked at https://www.plugshare.com/map/australia	
9.6	Maximise the efficiency of existing transport infrastructure with the use of smart technology such as car park, traffic and pedestrian flow sensors management technology	In progress	Smart Parking trials have been undertaken in Rye and Mornington to test the effectiveness of technology options, and to see if this improves the car parking experience in these areas. A paid parking pilot incorporating the latest technologies and payment processes was implemented in Flinders, Mornington and Mount Eliza over the 2023/24 summer period and is now being evaluated.	2021-2025
9.7	Increase engagement to educate the community on the benefits of sustainable and active transport	In progress	In November 2023, the Shire participated in Ride to Work Day to raise awareness of the advantages of biking. Each year, the Shire runs bike education events with local primary schools to encourage safe bike riding.	

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9.8	Investigate and plan for semi-autonomous and autonomous vehicles and transport services to enable 'Movement as a Service' (MaaS)	In progress	FlexiRide Service continues to operate within Rosebud to Dromana providing on demand transport. Semi-autonomous and autonomous vehicles and transport are reliant on technology advancements and investigations will continue where possible.	2021-2030
9.9	Investigate the role for the Shire and the private sector to reduce work-related travel by developing telecommuting infrastructure and shared office spaces across the Peninsula and encouraging people to work from home	Ongoing	<p>In addition to our main offices at Mornington, Rosebud, and Hastings, we have expanded our face-to-face reach with smaller, localised hubs.</p> <p>These Connection Points, situated in smaller townships, are co-located with existing community or visitor services. They provide face-to-face assistance on a wide range of Shire services, from general enquiries and service advice to processing forms and EFTPOS payments. There are also plans for some Points to provide bookable small spaces for staff to hold meetings with community members on local issues, as well as setting up remote hot desks to support flexible working arrangements and spaces for planned community outreach sessions.</p> <p>The Local Connection Points are located at: Somerville Library, Dromana - Mornington Peninsula Visitor Information Centre and Sorrento Community Centre We plan to expand the Connection Point to more sites in the future, including Red Hill later this year.</p>	Ongoing
9.10	Facilitate the installation of storage facilities for active transport at all major activity centres, precincts and sports and recreational facilities	In progress	Investigations into secure bike storage and racks is ongoing, particularly near public transport stops to facilitate first and last mile journeys.	2021-2030
9.11	Facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at all major activity centres	In progress	The Shire has facilitated the installation of public Electric Vehicle (EV) fast chargers at four major activity hubs (Sorrento, Mornington, Flinders, and Hastings). These chargers help to promote the uptake of zero-emission vehicles by providing charging services around the community and have been fully funded by a mixture of State and Federal Government grants and private industry. All chargers are supplied by 100% green electricity.	

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Action 10 – Convert to a zero-emissions Shire fleet

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame	
Key focus	Transition the Shire fleet from internal combustion to zero-emission vehicles and develop infrastructure guidelines to guide future capital works and precinct scale plans				
	10.1	Decrease the size of the vehicle fleet where possible	In progress	Mornington Peninsula Shire is continuing to review and optimise fleet vehicle numbers. Teams are optimising the use of Team Pool Vehicles and Carpooling where possible.	2021-2025
	10.2	Encourage Shire staff to minimise vehicle use, and choose alternative options such as public transport, e-bikes and carpooling or local video conferencing	In progress	Hybrid working arrangements are in place to encourage working from home where appropriate, including digital technical support. The internal Eco Team will continue to promote reduced use of ICE (internal combustion engine) cars by Shire staff. Initial quotes have been sourced to install safe bike storage cages at all Shire offices.	2022
	10.3	By 2025, all Shire pool vehicles will emit zero-emissions from the tailpipe	In progress	Of the 50 pool vehicles, Mornington Peninsula Shire now has a total of 13 Electric Vehicles (EVs). The Shire is still working on transitioning passenger vehicles to EVs, however due to the delays in the EV market this is likely to be achieved in 2026/27. We plan to purchase zero-emissions vans and utes post-2026, or when fit for purpose vehicles enter the Australian market.	2021-2025
	10.4	By 2030, all Shire fleet vehicles will emit zero-emissions from the tailpipe, where fit for purpose options are available (including utility vehicles)	In progress	Mornington Peninsula Shire has installed Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure at all three main offices and replaced a total of 13 pool vehicles with Electric Vehicles (EVs). We have also developed a Fleet Transition Plan which will guide our fleet electrification where fit for purpose vehicles are available.	2021-2030
	10.5	Adopt a full life-cycle approach to fleet vehicle selection, i.e. capital and operational expenditure; material usage and waste produced at end-of-life	Completed	Mornington Peninsula Shire has developed an Electric Vehicle (EV) transition plan, which has been presented to the Shire's internal Climate Oversight Group (COG). This plan includes whole of life cycle implications.	2021-2023

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10.6	Support working from home and local shared work hubs	Ongoing	<p>In addition to our main offices at Mornington, Rosebud, and Hastings, we have expanded our face-to-face reach with smaller, localised hubs.</p> <p>These Connection Points, situated in smaller townships, are co-located with existing community or visitor services. They provide face-to-face assistance on a wide range of Shire services, from general enquiries and service advice to processing forms and EFTPOS payments. There are also plans for some Points to provide bookable small spaces for staff to hold meetings with community members on local issues, as well as setting up remote hot desks to support flexible working arrangements and spaces for planned community outreach sessions.</p> <p>The Local Connection Points are located at: Somerville Library Dromana - Mornington Peninsula Visitor Information Centre Sorrento Community Centre</p> <p>We plan to expand the Connection Point to more sites in the future, including Red Hill later this year.</p>	Ongoing
10.7	Incorporate electric charge stations in new Shire building developments where appropriate	Ongoing	<p>Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers will continue to be planned and included in new Shire buildings. Examples in progress are the Southern Peninsula Youth Hub, which will have chargers installed for staff and visitor use, and the Mornington Community Animal Shelter, which is futureproofed for long term need.</p>	Ongoing
10.8	Ensure adequate power supply and charging infrastructure at Shire facilities to accommodate the targeted increase in zero-emissions vehicles	In progress	<p>An Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Guidance Note has been developed to help ensure, where practical, Shire facilities are set up to accommodate both immediate and future charging needs. This includes the following instruction:</p> <p>EV chargers should be installed at all new and refurbished Shire buildings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chargers supplied to cater for 20% of the full-time staff that are expected to use the building • Switchboard capacity, conduit and other infrastructure should be provided to cater for 50% of the full-time staff, futureproofing for upgrades by 2025-2030. 	2021-2025

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Action 11 – Generate a thriving Peninsula-wide natural environment

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Restore and value our natural environment and biodiversity by enhancing land management strategies to support ecosystem resilience and healthy natural landscapes.			
11.1	<p>Fully fund and accelerate the Shire's Biodiversity Conservation Plan (BCP) in its entirety, especially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review the Conservation Land Rate to enable continual ecosystem restoration on private land b. Provide ongoing support to community conservation projects to build human-nature connections such as delivery of biolinks projects, Gardens for Wildlife and Friends Group working bees c. Continue to develop specific operational guidelines to improve biodiversity for maintenance activities e.g. guidelines for fuel reduction d. Increase investment in Shire biodiversity management programs e. Investigate the potential biodiversity impacts of vegetation removal for bushfire reduction purposes through planning scheme exemptions, particularly in low-risk urban settings. f. Develop an urban street tree protection and renewal program, in consultation with residents, that addresses tree canopy cover, and indigenous plant biodiversity and investigates options for a street tree adoption program g. Develop a biodiversity protection and management partnership with local Traditional Owners h. Build ecosystem resilience to a changing climate through implementation of Strategic Direction 6 i. Protect existing trees on private land through progressively reviewing and, where appropriate, updating the Planning Scheme 	In progress	<p>The Shire's Natural Systems Team continued implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Plan throughout 2023/24. Highlights include the Gardens for Wildlife Program, Nature Stewards Program, Working Bee Support Program, Biolinks Support Grant Program and Mornington Peninsula BioBlitz during Biodiversity Month in September. We continue to look to adapt and improve Conservation Land Rate and Biolinks Support Grant to ensure the programs objectives are being delivered.</p>	2020-2030

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11.2	By 2022, complete a Green Infrastructure Mapping project, to generate critical data to guide future projects, e.g. urban street tree program, bushfire fuel reduction, ecosystem protection	In progress	The Tree Ledger tool has been developed in 2022 to provide data on historical and current canopy cover across the peninsula. This tool is being updated with latest scans and data and is intended to be refreshed every 2 years. The data has been used in developing Our Urban Forest Strategy and will continue to be used to inform strategic planning, township planning and capital works.	2020-2022
11.3	Develop and implement a 'Carbon Bio-sequestration Implementation Plan', for local terrestrial revegetation, soil carbon and blue/teal carbon programs	In progress	Western Port Biosphere Blue Carbon Mapping and shoreline restoration project continues. The learnings from the SECCCA Carbon Sink Study will be tested with a Environmental Planting Pilot Project being scoped for launch this financial year.	2021-2023
11.4	Identify areas vulnerable to erosion, inundation, and storm surge and investigate monitoring and mitigation options: a. Identify vulnerable, priority sites at risk of environmental degradation. Incorporate current research and data e.g. Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment b. Work with relevant partners and stakeholders to protect coastal and marine ecosystems	In progress	Mornington Peninsula Shire has commenced development of the Our Coast, Our Future (OCOF) Strategy. The OCOF Strategy will be one of the first coastal adaptation plans in the State and has been partly funded by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) as a pilot project to apply the Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting for 2100+ Guidelines. The OCOF Strategy will identify coastal adaptation priorities based on the most up-to-date data, including the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment.	2021-2023
11.5	Investigate the viability of natural asset valuation tools to influence financial and strategic decision making	In progress	The Shire partnered with Melbourne Water and Ozfish to plant mangroves adjacent the Hastings foreshore landfill to establish a natural buffer between the landfill and Western Port Bay. Planting of approximately 850 mangroves was completed in February 2023. Additional funding has been secured to continue mangrove establishment in this area over the 2023/24 summer in partnership with Ozfish and St Marys Primary School. The Habitat Hectare Assessment methodology and biodiversity offsetting process developed by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) as part of the native vegetation regulations remains the most viable and robust valuation tool for accounting for biodiversity and habitat protection within Victoria. Mornington Peninsula Shire and Melbourne Water (Formerly the PPWCMA) have conducted demonstration trials with farmers on the Mornington Peninsula to investigate practical application of the Accounting For Nature method which uses the FULLCAM Soil Carbon methodology as well as methods rewarded under the Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Scheme.	2021-2023

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11.6	Benchmark environmental management plans against best practise to identify the most sustainable pest and weed control methods to reduce the need for chemical control	In progress	The 2023/24 maintenance round for existing tree bands have been placed on large indigenous trees in bushland and roadside reserves to ensure these significant trees can thrive. The Tootgarook Wetland EVC and Fauna Habitat Study is now complete and will assist in best practice management in this significant and environmentally sensitive.	2021-2025
11.7	Use existing and new resources at the Briars to research and develop knowledge on ecological restoration, recycled water for conservation, causes of local dieback, species conservation and reintroduction practices	In progress	Update on recycled water: The Briars Recycled Water scheme has now been successfully designed in detail. This project is a significant project for the region as it will deliver 80ML annually to trial new agricultural crops and regenerative farming techniques. This project has been experiencing significant delays and financial challenges that the project team is currently working through. The Briars 'Green Dreaming Innovation Precinct' will showcase the application of Class A recycled water usage for agriculture across the south-east region of the state, developing the skills and knowledge in horticulture and support initiatives benefitting the disadvantaged like 'Food for Change'. Partnerships with Deakin and Melbourne Universities have been established to progress research into the impact of reintroductions and initiatives which will prevent dieback.	2021-2025
Action 12 – Connect communities and nature in precinct planning				
#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Connect townships and urban environments with essential community services and natural local ecology, so that we can thrive alongside our environment			
12.1	Set canopy cover targets for specific urban areas vulnerable to the urban heat island effect or those that offer opportunities to promote walking and cycling. These localised targets will align with the Peninsula-wide canopy cover target	In progress	The draft Our Urban Forest Strategy, to be presented to Council for adoption in 2024, validates and updates the overall Shire canopy cover target of 45% canopy cover in place in public open spaces by 2034. The Strategy includes detailed analysis of each township, and also provides a prioritisation of townships that are in highest need of canopy for urban cooling and greening.	2022

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12.2	Implement localised stormwater diversion programs that operate alongside the street tree program and the greening of public spaces	In progress	As an action from the Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Asset Audit report, we are improving the functionality of our WSUD assets, including tree pits. We are building our capacity to incorporate WSUD and urban design solutions into capital works projects and the next generation of maintenance contracts and will explore further opportunities as part of the development of the Urban Forest Strategy in 2024. Mosaic Insights has been appointed to develop the Urban Forest Strategy and have completed background research and analysis. A draft strategy is currently being prepared and will be presented to Council for community engagement in late May. Following consultation, the strategy will be updated to incorporate feedback and then presented to Council for adoption in September 2024.	2021-2023
12.3	Strengthen and improve township plans and neighbourhood character studies by prioritising climate emergency objectives; including mitigation, adaptation, reversal and sustainable behaviour change; without compromising protection of human life	Ongoing	Climate emergency objectives are being embedded in all strategies and plans as they are developed, including township plans and neighbourhood character studies.	Ongoing
12.4	By 2022, prepare and adopt a Placemaking Framework that incorporates the environment and climate emergency principles in the quadruple bottom line benefits	Delayed	The placemaking function has been integrated into Community Capital projects. This will be reviewed as part of the Community Capital policy work.	2021-2022
12.5	Incorporate the 'Principal Pedestrian Network' and other active transportation routes within all masterplans, urban and township plans, and other high level strategic decisions	In progress	The Principal Pedestrian Network and other active transport routes are considered in the development of masterplans, township plans and other strategic documents.	2022-2025
12.6	By 2022, investigate sustainable business opportunities within key commercial and industrial areas which would provide residents and visitors with access to sustainable goods and services	In progress	Five suburbs on the Peninsula have now received a combination of State and Federal funding for the subsidised installation of paid public electric vehicle charging infrastructure. These will be supplied by 100% green energy and will help improve access to sustainable transport options for the community. A commercial organic waste collection feasibility study is about to commence on the Mornington Peninsula, led by South East Water and the Shire to investigate feedstocks for a potential bioenergy facility at Boneo. It is hoped a by-product of this facility will be organic fertiliser product for local landholders. The Shire's Food Economy and Agroecology Strategy details pathways to promote and improve access to sustainable goods and services within our local Agriculture sector.	2022-2023

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12.7	Incorporate 'Integrated Water Management' principles into strategic decision making and town planning, especially relating to alternative water use and waterway, wetland and coastal health	Ongoing	The Council adopted the Integrated Water Management Plan in December 2021, and the Water Sensitive Asset Masterplan was completed in early 2022. Ongoing works to embed IWM principles into Shire works continue, including the update of the Open Space Strategy.	Ongoing
12.8	Consider, and incorporate where possible, blue (marine and coastal) and teal (wetlands) carbon management opportunities on private or public land in urban planning design	Delayed	Sustainability is currently considered in all urban planning projects. Significant work is required to understand blue/teal carbon management opportunities Environmental Effect Statement processes are developed for major development (such as the Victorian Renewable Energy Targets (VRET) or the Hydrogen development project The teal carbon management opportunities will be incorporated in a future review of the Tootgarook Wetland Management Plan	2022-2023

Action 13 – Grow nature-based infrastructure

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Prioritise the use of nature-based solutions and infrastructure to adapt to climate change			
13.1	Continue to research and implement innovative approaches to green-blue infrastructure for all Shire capital projects, especially relating to coastal defence systems, e.g. mangrove establishment, artificial reefs, biodiversity enhancing seawalls	In progress	Mornington Peninsula Shire has partnered with Melbourne Water and OzFish to plant mangroves adjacent the Hastings foreshore landfill to establish a natural buffer between the landfill and Western Port Bay. Planting of approximately 850 mangroves was completed in February 2023. Additional funding has been secured to continue mangrove establishment in this area over the 2023/24 summer in partnership with OzFish and St Marys Primary School. The Shire has partnered with OzFish to establish a shell recycling program which will divert shellfish waste from landfill and use the shell to restore shellfish reefs. Partnership is underway with OzFish to establish oyster reefs in Port Phillip Bay using oyster/clam shells diverted from landfill.	2021-2025

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13.2	Develop a sustainable infrastructure investment and valuation framework for green-blue infrastructure which considers the low maintenance costs, comparative amenity values, benefits for fisheries, sequestration potential, indefinite future functionality, and ecosystem benefits	In progress	Nature-based solutions (green/blue infrastructure) have been identified as the communities preferred coastal adaptation approach via the Our Coast Our Future Coastal Strategy engagement. This project is seeking to establish a pathway approach to adapt to a changing coastline at targeted Mornington Peninsula coastal townships. To develop these pathways, a range of criteria will be assessed along with community consultation, to determine the most appropriate adaption action or sequence of actions. This process will include consideration of costs (construction and maintenance), co-benefits (i.e. carbon sequestration, ecosystem improvements) and effectiveness of options.	2022-2023
13.3	Work with Parks Victoria, Marine Safety Victoria, Better Boating Victoria, DELWP and the community to implement new boating and coastal recreation policies to protect coastal and marine habitat from the detrimental impacts of water transport, vessel mooring and sports and recreational activities	Ongoing	In 2023, Council adopted three new Coastal and Marine Management Plans (CMMPs) for Flinders, Mount Eliza and Portsea. Consultation with State agencies including Parks Victoria, Better Boating and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) was a key aspect to developing the CMMPs. The CMMPs all include a 'Shire Wide' action to "Advocate for Parks Victoria to undertake a review of current boat mooring arrangements and potential opportunities for minimising user impacts (e.g. environmentally sensitive moorings)." Parks Victoria are open to exploring options further.	Ongoing
13.4	Use low-water demand turf for sporting fields, and prioritise indigenous species for other green open spaces	Ongoing	All newly constructed sports fields are surfaced with drought tolerant grass varieties following adoption of the Shire's Environmental Sustainability Design (ESD) Policy. This policy sets an objective for our open spaces and sports fields to use low-water demand turf and greenery when no sustainable water source is available.	Ongoing
13.5	Collaborate with and support research partners to work locally in nature-based infrastructure, and to integrate their findings into the Shire's planning and strategic decision making	In progress	The Western Port Biosphere's Blue Carbon Study and SECCCA's Carbon Sink Study are interrogating opportunities for restoration of land and shoreline natural environment to enable the Shire to prioritise future investment.	2021-2025
13.6	By 2023, publish easy-to-read guides for residents and businesses on the Peninsula to incorporate biolinks (habitat corridors), green walls and other green-blue infrastructure into existing and new developments	In progress	Mornington Peninsula Shire's Biolinks Support grant provides guidelines and information on biolinks projects, informed by the Shire's Biolink Decision Support Tool for the Mornington Peninsula.	2022

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Action 14 – Optimise use and management of our water

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
14.1	<p>Enhance the liveability, resilience and prosperity of our community and environment through integrated water planning and management</p> <p>Increase use of alternative water sources (e.g. recycled water and stormwater) to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. green open spaces (sport fields, parks, gardens) and tree canopy growth, which will provide urban cooling as well as support community health and wellbeing b. Increase use of alternative water sources to support emergency management, agriculture, business and tourism growth c. Increase access to recycled water at strategic locations to support agriculture, industry, fire-fighting and other beneficial uses 	In progress	<p>Several recycled water schemes are either under investigation or in implementation stage, this includes the construction of Class A recycled water network at The Briars and a feasibility study on the Tyabb/Somerville Recycled Water Scheme.</p> <p>There has been progress with the Class A recycled water network project at The Briars, where the pipeline detailed design and the tank functional design have been developed. Further funding has been secured, with contribution from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), South East Water and Mornington Peninsula Shire to implement the works.</p> <p>The Shire will continue to advocate for the progression of the Tyabb/Somerville Recycled Water Scheme to the State Government throughout 2024 in line with the Catchment Scale Integrated Water Management Action Plan.</p> <p>A Water Sensitive Asset Masterplan was developed in early 2022 and helps identify opportunities in medium and large-scale Water Sensitive Urban Design assets. The objectives of this masterplan include stormwater treatment and alternative water supply for green open spaces, and the implementation is subject to funding availability.</p>	2021-2030
	<p>Empower the community to improve water cycle management through highlighting initiatives such as raingardens, water efficient products, water saving practices and leak detection monitoring</p>	Ongoing	<p>The Shire's Integrated Water Management webpage is regularly updated with information on water saving initiatives for stormwater and wastewater management. In addition, local food businesses are encouraged to improve their water management via the Best Bites program.</p> <p>The Stormwater Quality In Lieu Contribution Scheme has been introduced and the funds collected will go towards construction and maintenance of stormwater treatment assets to manage stormwater that is not treated within private development. This will help improve water</p>	Ongoing

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14.3	Increase number of sewer connections in high-risk catchments to eliminate septic system impacts on the environment	In progress	<p>quality and protect the health of the receiving waterways and bays on the Peninsula.</p> <p>The Shire has been implementing a communications and education program that aims to increase the awareness of appropriate maintenance of septic tanks and the availability of sewer.</p> <p>The Peninsula Early Connection (ECO) project by South East Water has been highly successful in increasing the number of properties connected to sewer in Portsea, Sorrento, Blairgowrie, Rye and St Andrews Beach Mornington Peninsula Shire adopted its Flood and Stormwater Strategy on 22 March 2022. The Strategy identifies Climate Change as a major pressure on the future of our drainage networks and presents various objectives to mitigate the detrimental consequences of increased stormwater flows.</p>	2021-2030
	14.4	Improve stormwater drainage infrastructure to reduce flooding impacts, protect life, properties and assets from flooding and increase stormwater use as an urban resource	In progress	<p>Through flood modelling and customer complaints, we have identified 17 priority locations for drainage upgrades. Concept designs have been completed which inform the feasibility and cost of mitigation. The concepts have been used to review the priority flooding locations. One project has progressed to detailed design.</p>
14.5	Increase stormwater harvesting initiatives to protect the environment, enable capture and reuse of this resource, and reduce nuisance flooding	In progress	<p>The Water Sensitive Asset Masterplan was completed in early 2022. One of the five completed WSUD concept designs include stormwater harvesting. Progress of these WSUDs into implementation is subject to the budget process.</p>	2021-2030
	14.6	Promote best practice stormwater management through the planning scheme, by applying existing clauses as well as new planning scheme amendments such as the 'ESD Planning Policy'	In progress	<p>Mornington Peninsula Shire continues to work with developers on embedding best practice stormwater management in private developments. The Stormwater Quality In Lieu Contribution Scheme for planning applicants has been introduced and funds collected will go towards construction and maintenance of stormwater treatment assets to manage stormwater that is not treated within private development. This will help improve water quality and protect the health of the receiving waterways and bays on the Peninsula.</p> <p>An in-house Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) construction hold point training was delivered in 2022/23 to build internal capacity on raingarden construction works.</p>

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14.7	Integrate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles alongside and as part of the ESD integration into Shire capital works	In progress	Mornington Peninsula Shire continues to embed Integrated Water Management objectives in Shire buildings and civil works via the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy. The Water Sensitive Asset Masterplan, which identifies medium to large scale Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) opportunities, was completed in early 2022. Implementation is subject to funding availability.	2020-2025
14.8	Build new and ensure ongoing effectiveness of existing large scale WSUD assets such as wetlands to protect the health of our waterways from the impacts of increasing urban development	In progress	The Rye Bio infiltration basin was completed in November 2021 and received the Stormwater Victoria Award in 2022. In 2023, 10 raingardens were refurbished to improve their functionality, resulting in better stormwater treatment outcomes. An audit of all WSUD assets was completed in 2022 and each year several assets are refurbished or upgraded to ensure they operate to improve stormwater quality as intended.	2021-2022
14.9	Use the Briars as a demonstration and research site to establish the viability of recycled water for ecological regeneration and agriculture, as a fit for purpose alternative water source to mains or rainwater	In progress	Design of the Briars Recycled Water Scheme has been completed and further funding secured to implement the works. This will provide 2.6 ML/day of Class A recycled water to the Briars from the neighbouring Mt Martha treatment plant. This project has been experiencing significant delays and financial challenges that the project team is currently working through.	2021-2025

Action 15 – Enhance sustainable agriculture and food systems

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Support sustainable businesses and landholders, and guide consumer choices to create a sustainable and regenerative food system informed by accurate and local climate data			
15.1	Deliver the actions set out in the Green Wedge Management Plan that align with environmentally beneficial outcomes for the local food economy	Ongoing	The State Government recently released the 'Planning for Melbourne's green wedges and agricultural land action plan 2024'. The Shire is advocating to the State Government to ensure that the actions in our Green Wedge Management Plan are addressed as part of the implementation of this action plan. A copy of the submission can be found on our website .	Ongoing

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15.2	<p>By 2021, review the Agricultural Rate and Conservation Land Rate to incentivise transitions to sustainable agriculture. Agricultural Rate priorities could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Agroecological and regenerative farming practices b. Incorporating indigenous agricultural practices and crops c. Sequestering soil carbon d. Improving biodiversity outcomes on farms 	Delayed	<p>The new Conservation Land Rate was approved as part of the previous rating strategy.</p> <p>The Shire's Food and Agroecology Strategy 2022-2028 has been adopted and endorsed by Council. This includes investigating rating incentives for agroecological practices and biodiversity conservation, including on leased land. More information is available on our website.</p>	2022
15.3	<p>Through consultation with local agriculture and food manufacturing sector, develop and deliver a 'Food Economy and Agroecology Strategy':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify ecological and climatic impacts of and opportunities for local food industries b. Support the uptake of regenerative farming practices and showcase businesses using sustainable, regenerative food production methods c. Forecast sustainable economic and production opportunities and threats d. Encourage and enable circular economy practices amongst local businesses e. Determine regulatory barriers to business growth and diversification f. Forecast opportunities and threats for food production and security, and devise mitigation and adaptation strategies to help businesses g. Work collaboratively with partner organisations to advocate for recycled water access to key agricultural areas within the region <p>Use the Briars as a demonstration site for regenerative agriculture and opportunity for agricultural research and development, particularly to:</p>	Completed	<p>The Shires Food Economy and Agroecology Strategy is in year two of implementation and the Food Economy and Agroecology Taskforce is working collaboratively with the Shire on the action plan. The Strategy is the first of its kind in Australia and is a collective action plan to radically transform the way food is produced on the Mornington Peninsula. It was commissioned to drive sustainable growth in the agriculture, food and beverage sector whilst actively regenerating the land and resources on which our community depends. The Shire is progressing advocacy to deliver the Tyabb-Somerville Recycled Water project which will mitigate future water security issues.</p>	2022
15.4	<p>Use the Briars as a demonstration site for regenerative agriculture and opportunity for agricultural research and development, particularly to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gather and share locally relevant weather data b. Adapt to a changing climate by researching and trialling new crops c. Grow indigenous crops as commercially viable competitors d. Determine opportunities to increase biodiversity 	Delayed	<p>The Shire is scoping methods to trial regenerative techniques for managing the Briars vineyard, with the aim of increasing soil biodiversity. Ongoing rainfall data also continues to be gathered onsite. Opportunities will be explored from late 2025.</p>	2020-2021

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15.5	Promote and improve access to sustainably produced local food for farmers, residents, visitors, and vulnerable communities, through extending the Mornington Peninsula Produce Program, implementing the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan as it relates to sustainable food options, and strengthening connections between producers and retailers	In progress	<p>Work is currently underway to revitalise the Mornington Peninsula Produce (MPP) brand, with a new website and a range of marketing activities including events, seasonal newsletters, social media and new MPP podcasts planned for 2024 and beyond.</p> <p>The new MPP website was launched in February 2024 and features a farm gate map, seasonal recipes, a producer directory, and information on our rich agricultural region.</p> <p>The Get Fresh at Farm Gate map connects the community with farm gates and is available to download from our website.</p>	2022
15.6	Work towards a circular economy by investigating opportunities to divert local organic waste streams from landfill, to contribute to the creation of valuable by-products	In progress	<p>The Green Wedge Agricultural and Commercial Food Organics Recovery to Bioenergy' feasibility study project has provided extremely valuable insight to the current production of agricultural organic and commercial food waste within the Green Wedge Zone, that will complement some similar work that has been undertaken recently by South East Water, targeting the urban growth boundary zone.</p>	2021-2025
15.7	Investigate options such as carbon farming to promote the diversification and expansion of revenue streams for farmers on the Peninsula	Ongoing	<p>A Carbon Sink Study has recently been completed by the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA). The findings of the study have indicated Environmental Planting Pilot Projects are the most, and possibly the only, viable opportunity for carbon farming for our small Peninsula land holdings. The Shire is scoping a pilot project for private landholders this financial year.</p>	Ongoing
15.8	Implement community and landowner engagement and capacity-building programs to encourage sustainable agriculture, sustainable land management, and to maximise restoration opportunities, such as climate data access, land and biodiversity stewardship, partnerships with farming networks and Traditional Owners	Ongoing	<p>During the 2021/22 round of Biolink Support Grant funding, nine community groups successfully applied for projects that will restore and enhance biodiversity values on both private and public land across the peninsula, totalling \$73,000. Throughout 2021/22, the Shire continued to work with Bunurong Land Council to support the Warreen Beek Ranger program. Additionally, 2021/22 saw the development of Conservation Action Plan templates that will be incorporated into the application process, helping to clearly outline long-term actions that landholders will commit to improve biodiversity values.</p> <p>During the 2022/23 round of the Biolink Support Grant funding, 10 community groups successfully applied for projects totalling \$80,624 that will see restoration of 36 hectares of biolinks through environmental weed control works and the planting of 7,000 tube stock. Works delivered through this program include remnant habitat restoration, environmental</p>	Ongoing

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weed control, creek line restoration and revegetation works to link patches of fragmented vegetation.

The long running farmer and market gardener discussion groups engage landholders in regenerative land management practices and provide an opportunity for peer-based learning and guest speakers.

Action 16 – Enhance environmentally sustainable design

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Introduce Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) and climate risk impact considerations into the Mornington Peninsula Shire Planning Scheme and capital works programs. This will apply to both Shire-owned and community buildings and assets.			
16.1	By 2021, develop and implement an ESD Policy for Shire buildings and civil works, encompassing all new builds, extensions, refurbishments, fit outs and civil works, using tools such as SECCCA's 'Brief Ezy'	In progress	Implementation of the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy for Civil Works is ongoing, with all new capital works projects required to meet policy objectives and standards, as well as development of additional tools and resources, researching new technologies and educating and upskilling officers and contractors.	2020-2021
16.2	Advocate to the Minister for Planning, for expedited authorisation of proposed amendment C232morn to introduce a local ESD policy to the Planning Scheme and ensure the Shire is appropriately resourced to effectively implement the new Planning Scheme policy	Completed	Amendment C232morn for an Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Planning Policy has been approved by the Minister for Planning and is now part of the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme. More information on the Shire's ESD Planning Policy can be found on our website .	2021-2022
16.3	Incorporate climate projections into the 'Asset Management Framework' to improve future decision making	In progress	The Asset Management Strategy and the Portfolio Asset Management Plans for Transport, Open Space, and Drainage are currently being reviewed, and climate protection measures will be included.	2021-2025
16.4	Provide residents, developers and builders with the resources to understand and adapt practices and to incorporate sustainability principles and climate change impacts	In progress	The Eco Living Display Centre provides regular consultation and education to residents and homeowners to include sustainability as part of their building project. In addition, ESD resources will be published on the Planning section of the Shire's website to encourage sustainable design.	2021-2023
16.5	Incentivise early adoption of ESD in private development	In progress	Education and support resources are in development, to align to C232morn.	2021-2023

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16.6	Continue to partner with CASBE to support the continual improvement of best practice regarding ESD and WSUD policy and implementation, e.g. through the 'Elevating Targets' project	In progress	The Shire has been a member of CASBE since 2021 and has signed on to Stage 2 of the Elevating Targets project, lodging an amendment in July 2022 alongside over 20 other councils. Officers will continue to contribute and support the project.	2021-2025
16.7	Develop a 2030 ESD roadmap, detailing the Shire's future direction of both the internal policy and any potential subsequent Planning Scheme amendments, focussing on location-specific climate change risk mitigation, green-blue infrastructure integration, township-scale planning and other innovative technologies and design philosophies	Delayed	This task has not commenced due to limited officer resources; however Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) is strongly embedded into Mornington Peninsula Shire's Procurement Plan and implementation, Strategic Risk Register and Asset Management Strategy, and the Shire is actively supporting the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) led Elevating ESD Targets project to increase requirements for private developments to achieve sustainable outcomes.	2022

Action 17 – Transition to a circular economy

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Fully support the Shire's Beyond Zero Waste Strategy and embed circular economy principles within the Shire, including promoting local resource recovery initiatives and businesses.			
17.1	<p>Adopt and fast-track the Beyond Zero Waste Strategy, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Achieve 100% diversion from landfill by 2030 b. Introduce the Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) collection system across the municipality c. Create opportunities to explore and test new and emerging technology and infrastructure to support improved recycling and reuse d. Create opportunities to explore how a circular economy can support the development of new, local industries and economic opportunities e. Actively collaborate with other councils and the state government to enhance waste management systems and infrastructure f. Work with and educate the community to encourage waste avoidance, change purchasing behaviour, improve recycling and normalise sharing and reuse g. Heighten controls around minimising the contamination of recyclable and compostable waste streams h. Work with and educate local businesses to encourage and support circular economy practices, e.g. implementing the 'Single Use Plastic 	Ongoing	The Beyond Zero Waste Strategy continues to guide our work to meet our target of zero waste to landfill by 2030. Community, council and business initiatives are guided by the waste hierarchy and circular economy principles, namely avoiding waste generation and encouraging repair, share and reuse; recovering valuable resources through our kerbside waste service and our Resource Recovery Centres. Work on regenerating closed landfill sites continues, as does business/community connection to facilitate circular economy outcomes for the Peninsula.	Ongoing

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	<p>Free Policy', and promoting state and federal programs to minimise business waste and improve recycling</p> <p>i. Investigate levers to incentivise waste avoidance and local circular economies in businesses, agriculture and industry.</p> <p>j. Support the promotion and delivery of Federal and State commercial initiatives and programs that minimises business waste and improves recycling</p>			
17.2	<p>Drive a cultural change away from consumerism and towards a circular economy model of conscious consumption, where waste is eliminated, and all materials are used as a valuable resource</p>	Ongoing	<p>This is an ongoing task, directly tied to the Shire's Beyond Zero Waste Strategy. Circular economy principles and the waste hierarchy are at the core of the programs being delivered by the waste education officers through this strategy, with the key focus on reframing waste as resources, promotion of waste avoidance behaviour and diverting waste from landfill (resource recovery). The Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MVRRG) has now dissolved.</p>	Ongoing
17.3	<p>Continue active participation in the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MVRRG) procurement process of alternative waste treatment, ensuring alignment with circular economy principles</p>	Completed	<p>The Shire withdrew from the South East Metropolitan Advanced Waste Processing procurement process and commenced our own procurement progress for an advanced waste processing facility (waste to energy) in January 2023 with negotiations currently occurring with a preferred tenderer/provider.</p>	Ongoing
17.4	<p>Conduct and publish a materials flow analysis of the Peninsula to:</p> <p>a. Identify waste streams and encourage local reuse of materials, e.g. organic waste, bird netting, plastic silage wrap</p> <p>b. Encourage existing and new industries and businesses to reprocess and recycle waste on or near the peninsula</p> <p>c. Support businesses to improve resource efficiency, waste reduction and procurement choices of raw materials and packaging</p>	Completed	<p>A Materials Flow Analysis has been conducted and a final report produced for officers. A summary and overview of actions will be circulated to relevant community stakeholders to align with grant opportunities. Recommended actions from this report will influence the updated Climate Emergency Plan in 2022 and be implemented as relevant.</p>	2020-2021
17.5	<p>Investigate and implement new and emerging technology and nature-based solutions to enhance landfill management and resource recovery, especially where available locally</p>	In progress	<p>Initiatives that have commenced for landfill management solutions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in on-site leachate treatment at Rye Landfill to reduce off-site transport and treatment • Installation of specialised pumps into leachate sumps at Rye Landfill 	2022

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- Early-stage master planning for a best practice Resource Recovery Centre / Circular Economy hub to update the existing centre in Rye
- Updating rehabilitation of the former Tyabb Landfill, using nature-based solutions to stabilise historic waste and protect the environment
- Three historic landfills are being rehabilitated utilising best available technology to reduce landfill gas emissions and the impact on climate change. Designs have included protection of native plant species and will include native grass species in final planting. The Shire is also utilising recycled materials such as crushed concrete on site, diverting these materials from landfill and reducing the use of virgin material.

Action 18 – Embed sustainability and circular economy into the Shire’s procurement

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Improve product and services procurement to reflect and set best practice sustainability.			
18.1	Set sustainability criteria in all procurement evaluation e.g. emissions generated	In progress	Mornington Peninsula Shire continues to update and include sustainability considerations into procurement documentation, including contracts, tenders and evaluations, to support delivery of the Procurement Policy.	2021-2022
18.2	Update standard contracts to include provision of all contractor and product emissions data, including fuel use	In progress	Mornington Peninsula Shire continues to update and include sustainability considerations into procurement documentation, including contracts, tenders and evaluations, to support delivery of the Procurement Policy. New contracts have been the focus to gain maximum impact of greening of the supply chain with sustainability reporting requirements and research and development opportunities included.	2021-2022
18.3	Review existing contracts to encourage innovation and greening of the supply chain	In progress	Also a Project Plan for 'Doing Good Business' is in development to encourage social, economic and sustainable outcomes from our procurement, in line with the Procurement Policy.	

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18.4	Incorporate sustainability requirements into future maintenance contracts, such as zero-emissions vehicles and plant, circular economy practices, net zero emissions and soil improvement methodologies	In progress	Our Future Maintenance Service contracts have commenced on 1st July, and sustainability requirements are now in place with some requiring carbon neutral service and sustainability plans to be in place. Ongoing work to support efficiency, governance, transparency and accountability is ongoing. Data and progress reports will be established in the coming months.	2021-2023
18.5	Develop a sustainable products and materials register to assist procurement decisions, including reactive and proactive maintenance	In progress	Sustainable products and materials specifications in capital works are supported through the Shire's Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy (ESD). The Shire is investigating viable platforms and services to support other procurement such as stationary and other consumables.	2020
18.6	Set ambitious targets for recycled content use for Shire operations, including stationery and consumables as well as construction and other civil works	In progress	In addition to implementation of Mornington Peninsula Shire's ESD Policy for Council Buildings and Civil Works, sustainable and recycled consumables and products is included in the infrastructure maintenance contracts that commenced on 1 July 2024. Further opportunities will be investigated, including in the 2025 review of the Shire's Procurement Policy.	2021-2022
18.7	Provide ongoing education and training for staff and contractors to understand short and long-term impacts of procurement decisions	In progress	The Procurement Policy encourages and allows for spend on sustainable and recycled materials, and a new Procurement system will increase ability to capture data and inform decision making from officers. Ongoing plans to develop further training and support will align with our updated Procurement Policy expected in late 2025.	2023
18.8	Embed Climate Emergency principles into the draft 'Healthy Food and Drink Policy' and all future corporate catering contracts, prioritising sustainably grown, local, plant-based produce, and eliminate food and packaging waste for Shire-run and permitted events	In progress	The Shire's Healthy Food and Drink Policy has been updated and was endorsed by Executive in March 2024. The updated Policy references the Climate Emergency Plan and Beyond Zero Waste Strategy. Procurement process will take place in 2024 to tender new catering suppliers, with evaluation criteria including consideration for zero waste, sustainability, and locally produced foods.	2022-2023

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18.9	Embed sustainability within all Shire-run and permitted events on the Peninsula to implement, demonstrate and communicate cultural and behavioural change, by: a. Renewing the 'Events Policy' in 2021 to incentivise sustainable events, including a roadmap for future Policy updates b. Updating the 'Sustainable Events Toolkit' to improve event management practices and ensure that the Shire incorporates advocacy and education	In progress	The Shire's Waste Wise Event Guidelines will be released for the 24-25 event season. The 'Wash Against Waste' trailer has been constructed and will be available for events to access this season. It's stocked with reusable crockery and drinkware, and a commercial dishwasher.	2022-2024
Action 19 – Prioritise sustainable investment				
#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Update the Shire's 'Investment Policy' and other banking and financial standards to ensure that by 2023 our financial operations are fully divested from industries that cause ecological, social, economic and humanitarian harm.			
19.1	Review banking and investment policies to divest the Shire's from activities that cause or promote environmental harm	Completed	The Shire's Investment Policy was reviewed and adopted in 2023. The policy now includes <i>green investments</i> to be pursued over the highest rate offered, if the rate is not more than 0.1% higher. The policy will next be reviewed not later than 2027.	2023
19.2	Implement new criteria relating to environmental sustainability, human rights and ethical concerns	Completed	New criteria was included in the latest banking tender and the Shire's Investment Policy has been reviewed and updated to include a clause allowing investment in products that better support the community or provide access to green investments. The Shire's Finance Team held meetings with financial institutions regarding the Shire's updated policy to inform them of the changes.	2023
19.3	Inform current banking partners of the upcoming change in policy, and the new criteria for future contracts	Completed		2021-2023
19.4	Provide education and resources for all residents to make informed choices about sustainable banking, investment and divestment, e.g. training/webinars	In progress	The Shire partnered with 'Market Forces' to deliver a community webinar on 'Sustainable investment' in May 2023. This webinar recording is available on the Shire website: Workshop recordings - Mornington Peninsula Shire (mormpen.vic.gov.au)	2021-2023

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Action 20 – Strengthen and integrate climate data into decision-making

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
Key focus	Research, synthesise and integrate climatic data projections and risks into the Shire's Geographic Information System (GIS) and other data management platforms.			
20.1	<p>Access, or conduct where necessary, detailed modelling to identify erosion and inundation impacts in key coastal areas, assisting in strategic planning.</p> <p>a. Derive baseline data to develop a strategy to mitigate damage and risk for community and Shire property, such as the use of nature-based infrastructure and incorporation of blue carbon projects</p> <p>b. Advocate where required for access to state government modelling resources</p>	Ongoing	Mornington Peninsula Shire has commenced development of the Our Coast, Our Future (OCOF) Strategy. The OCOF Strategy will be one of the first coastal adaptation plans in the state and has been in-part funded by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) as a pilot project to apply the Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting for 2100+ Guidelines. The OCOF Strategy will identify coastal adaptation priorities based on the most up-to-date data including the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment. Future adaptation pathways will consider nature-based methods and blue carbon opportunities.	Ongoing
20.2	Partner with the Association of Bayside Municipalities and the State Government and seek to introduce provisions to the Planning Scheme to address predicted sea level rise and storm surge induced erosion, inundation and groundwater impacts identified by the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment.	Ongoing	The Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment was released in January 2024. As a member of the Association of Bayside Municipalities, Mornington Peninsula Shire will continue to advocate for State Government led Planning Scheme provisions to address predicted sea level rise and storm surge induced erosion, inundation and groundwater impacts. The Shire hosted a round table in March 2024 with Victorian Coastal Councils which produced a joint communique calling for State-led Planning Scheme Amendments to address coastal hazards.	Ongoing
20.3	<p>Undertake regular review and monitoring of relevant climate data and use to inform strategic planning</p> <p>a. Improve understanding of local weather and climate changes by investigating historical weather records, utilizing existing weather stations on the Peninsula, and assessing the viability and need for more automatic weather stations on the Peninsula</p> <p>b. Review relevant data and learnings from other municipalities, cities and government organisations. Investigate data sharing partnerships and sharing platforms</p>	Ongoing	The Shire has supported the Mornington Peninsula Vignerons Association to try and access grant funding for localised weather data across seven sites. The Shire is collaborating on how this data can be best be used to inform strategic planning and emergency management across the Shire.	Ongoing

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20.4	<p>c. Consolidate existing and new data into standardised format, facilitating access and distribution for users</p> <p>d. Make climate data available to community, emphasising education as it pertains to climate change adaptation and mitigation</p>		
	<p>Investigate the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the collection, analysis, interpretation and communication of data, especially relating to key activities within this Plan</p>	In progress	<p>The Shire is incorporating technology into various projects documented in this plan, including the Tree Ledger, SunSPOT and Asset Vulnerability Assessment. We continue to seek further opportunities to use innovative techniques to understand and communicate data.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
20.5	<p>Work with community, government organisations and the private sector to ensure that risk mapping is accurate according to latest projections</p> <p>a. Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO), Victorian Fire Risk Register (VFRR) and Bushfire Prone Areas (BPAs) accurate and consolidated in conjunction with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the Country Fire Authority (CFA).</p> <p>b. Consolidate relevant risk mapping with local water authorities, South East Water (SEW) and Melbourne Water</p>	Ongoing	<p>The Shire contributed to the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) Community Resilience Project which developed a data tool that allows our organisation to identify social and well being risks related to climate hazards at a township level. This data will inform future adaptation and resilience plans.</p> <p>As part of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning requirements, all MEMPS members are required to review the highest emergency risks and mitigation strategies for the municipality through the Community Emergency Risk Assessment process. The MEMPS committee met in May 2024 to review the key emergency hazards for this municipality which ensures that our response and preparedness plans are regularly updated. The Victorian Fire Risk Register was assessed through a MEMPS sub-committee called the Fire Working Group.</p> <p>We are currently working with Melbourne Water to deliver flood mapping of the entire Peninsula. The maps will include current flood extents and flood extents in the 2100 climate scenario. These maps are expected for delivery in 2025.</p>
	<p>In partnership with community, research economic impacts to local industries to advise businesses of future threats and opportunities</p>	Ongoing	<p>The Shires Food Economy and Agroecology Strategy, and Economic Development and Tourism Strategy's identify the risks and opportunities that Climate Change presents to our business community and identifies pathways to build resilience.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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Action 21 – Understand climate risks on assets and services

#	Task wording	Progress	Detail	Time frame
	Incorporate climate change risks and controls into projects, long-term plans and strategies for all Shire services and assets, as well as the Shire's natural environment.			
21.1	Annually review the 'Climate Change Risk Register', incorporating current Victorian Climate Projections	Ongoing	The Climate Risk Register has been reviewed this year and an additional risk has been added to inform the energy transition phase. Learnings from the Southeast Climate Change Council Alliance (SECCCA) project on asset and population vulnerability using a range of RCP projections has helped inform the risk review. Work continues on new data tools which can support the Climate Risk Register.	2020-2030
21.2	Conduct regular vulnerability assessments and financial risk modelling of Shire services and assets, both built and natural, based on the latest climate change projections. Consider the escalating impacts of: a. Coastal inundation and sea level rise b. Heatwaves on service delivery c. Intensified rainstorm and wind events d. Humidity and temperature impacts on building materials e. Soil contraction, groundwater availability and secondary consequences caused by increasing incidence and severity of droughts f. Increased incidence and severity of bushfires	Ongoing	The implementation of the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Service Management Framework examines the strategic and operating environments of services. This includes planning for and responding to Climate Change in alignment with the Council's strategic direction and policies. Ensuring all services can respond to our rapidly changing environment, appropriate climate data and information is applied at various points in the framework to trigger Service Reviews and/or inform service improvement recommendations.	Ongoing
21.3	Elevate the use of best available climate science projections into planning and delivery to: a. Minimise emergency response costs through the identification and adoption of climate adaptation practices b. Ensure all new projects and rebuilds include a climate risk evaluation and impact statement, along with mitigation measures	Ongoing	An Asset Vulnerability Assessment was completed for Road, Building and Drainage assets in 2020 and for Open Space assets in 2024. The Shire adopted the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy in late 2020 and this policy includes climate risk considerations. Asset vulnerability data, that was developed by SECCCA, is being applied to Shire infrastructure through Asset Management. A data visualisation tool has been developed to quickly and easily identify climate change risks to roads, buildings and drains. The Community Resilience project, led by SECCCA, has	Ongoing

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			<p>been finalised and these findings are being integrated into Shire dataset to assist in planning future climate change projects.</p> <p>New initiatives are considered from a climate risk perspective through the Climate Oversight Committee. The Shire will continue to embed climate science projections into planning and delivery.</p>	
21.4	Develop standards and guidelines for building and maintaining Shire built and natural assets, and embed these into Shire programs and practices	In progress	<p>These standards and guidelines are regularly being added to and embedded in relevant areas, especially through the ESD Policy in the Shire's capital works program, future maintenance contracts and relevant areas to address specific requirements such as biodiversity, water sensitive urban design and circular economy solutions.</p>	2022
21.5	Investigate avenues to efficiently integrate climate impact reporting into existing Shire reporting mechanisms	In progress	<p>Financial analysis of the cost of extreme weather events on the Shire is assessed annually (within the constraints of the data available) and a summary of funds received from the Disaster Relief Fund is published in the budget. Development of relevant datasets is ongoing.</p>	2023
21.6	Increase human resources and in-house expertise for climate change impact and risk management, particularly regarding coastal risks	Ongoing	<p>The Shire has now increased human resources in the Coastal team by hiring a Coastal Risk Project Officer.</p>	Ongoing
21.7	Assess liability risks when considering planning permits in high-risk areas, particularly those areas at risk from coastal erosion, inundation and storm surges. Investigate changes to insurance and loan application processes as they pertain to increasing climate risk	Ongoing	<p>Planning permits for areas identified to be at risk are required to complete site specific hazard assessments and outline adaptation actions achievable within the development area.</p>	Ongoing
21.8	Produce a report on the impacts of not acting to address climate change and the risks of continuing business-as-usual.	In Progress	<p>Bank loan processes and consideration of climate risk were considered when the Shire last procured a bank loan and will be considered prior to future applications.</p> <p>In 2022/23, a report was prepared for Councillors on the cost to the Shire of the impact of extreme weather events, and internal strategic risks are regularly being reviewed to identify and mitigate key climate change impacts.</p>	2022-2023
21.9	Implement 'Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) Practice Statement 2' requirements into accounts reporting to ensure climate related risks are considered in the context of financial statements	Delayed	<p>Climate-related financial disclosure reporting is currently not required for local government authorities and has not yet been implemented by the Shire. The introduction of this reporting is under consideration for future reporting.</p>	2022