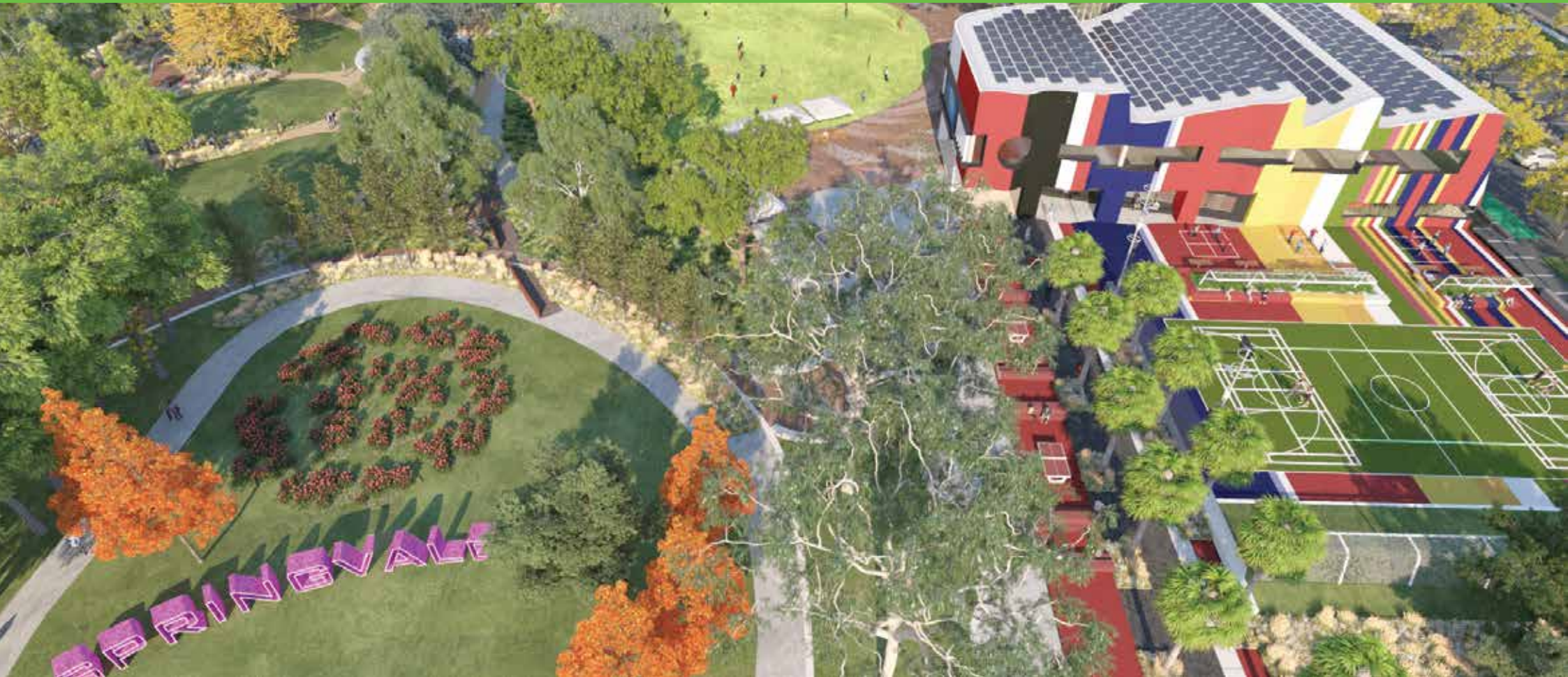


CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG

Annual Sustainability Report

2018/2019 Financial Year







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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Council Plan 2017-21 identifies sustainability and the environment as a high priority for the City of Greater Dandenong. Two of its six key strategic objectives reflect this priority and the views of the local community, which are:

- 'A healthy, liveable and sustainable city' and
- 'A city planned for the future'.

Guiding Council's approach to achieving this is the Greater Dandenong Sustainability Strategy 2016-30 and its vision:

By 2030 the City of Greater Dandenong is one of the most sustainable cities in Australia.

Delivering this vision has ongoing benefits for the environment, as well as the health and wellbeing of residents and businesses. Council has the capacity to realise this vision by implementing projects and programs within its own control, but it cannot do it alone. Working in collaboration with the community, stakeholders and key partners is essential, and everybody has a role to play.

The Sustainability Strategy provides the strategic framework to achieve this vision, by informing decisions, helping to shape plans and activities undertaken across the municipality and region. Achieving this vision won't occur straight away, but the implementation of many of the Strategy's identified key priorities and future key strategic actions are well underway with significant progress made since its adoption in 2016.

About this Report

Annual Sustainability Reporting is a transparent management reporting tool to both monitor our progress towards the strategy's goals and objectives, as well as

inform our policies and practices that guide our activities each year.

This report focuses on the highlights and key achievements related to the Sustainability Strategy's ten themes and associated goals and objectives in the 2018/19 financial year. This report provides a snapshot on the various achievements made by Council and the community, ensuring that these key achievements are acknowledged and celebrated by everyone involved. The report also highlights Council's performance against various objectives across a number of themes compared to the previous financial year.

This report reinforces Council's commitment to environmental sustainability, highlights the significance of each theme included in the Sustainability Strategy to our everyday lives, and demonstrates the progress we have made together towards achieving our overall vision for sustainability in Greater Dandenong.

Tracking our Performance

Council is committed to monitoring and tracking our performance against all objectives and targets across each theme in the 2016-30 Sustainability Strategy. While this document provides a snapshot of our achievements related to the strategy, it is not intended to be used as a tool to monitor and track our performance.

The *Sustainable Greater Dandenong Website* is the platform used to monitor and track Council's performance and progress against all objectives and targets outlined in the Sustainability Strategy. This includes a list of key achievements for the 2018/19 financial year and a list of current and completed actions relevant to that financial year.

Our Achievements

The table summarises our progress and success for 2018/19 in relation to achieving our goals for each of the ten themes included in the 2016-30 Sustainability Strategy.

Biodiversity and Open Spaces



Our Goal: A Greener City

Progress for the year: Council undertook work on strategic projects that protect and enhance biodiversity including; introducing a Vegetation Protection Overlay to the Green Wedge, commencing work on an Open Space Strategy and implementing our Urban Tree Strategy.

Council's Parks Team continues to undertake a wide range of activities to increase the community's awareness on the value and benefits of our Biodiversity and Open Space.

Water and Stormwater



Our Goals: A Water Sensitive City

Progress for the year: While community mains water consumption continues to decrease each year, Council's water usage continues to increase as a direct result of below average rainfall. This requires more effort to improve water efficiency across our buildings, sports fields and leisure centres.

Council's efforts towards improved water quality were achieved with the introduction of a Stormwater Management Local Policy into the Planning Scheme.

Waste and Resources



Our Goal: A Waste Wise City

Progress for the year: Council and the Community continue to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill by increasing the amount of recycling and organic waste disposal.

Council's Waste Education and Litter Prevention Officers continue to engage and educate residents with a record number of activities and people engaged.

Transport and Movement



Our Goal: A Well Connected City

Progress for the year: Council continues to invest in shared user path infrastructure and continues to collaborate with its partners to expand the extent of the shared user path network.

To help facilitate a transition away from private motor vehicles, Council commenced the development of its Car Share Policy and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy.

Climate and Energy



Our Goal: A Low Carbon City

Progress for the year: Council commenced the development of its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan with extensive community consultation undertaken. The community's message was clear, calling for strong action on reducing our emissions as fast as possible.

Council continues to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions across its buildings, streetlights, facilities and fleet, ensuring we remain in line with our 2020 target.

In addition, the uptake of renewable energy across the municipality continues with a number of solar installation projects on council buildings and private developments.

Buildings and Place



Our Goal: A City Planned for the Future

Progress for the year: Council continues to enhance the sustainability of its own buildings and private development. In 2018 Council introduced an Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Planning Policy into the Planning Scheme, ensuring over 100 private developments achieved Best Practice ESD outcomes.

Environmental Pollution



Our Goal: A Clean and Healthy City

Progress for the year: Council's programs to increase awareness and reduce pollution are increasingly being recognised by both the community and other stakeholders.

The introduction of the Officer for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLE) and continued stormwater quality point source monitoring and other monitoring activities are helping to minimise pollution across the municipality.

Local and Sustainable Food



Our Goal: A City Connected by Food

Progress for the year: As the cost of fresh food increases and access to fresh food outlets remains an issue, Council is working to increase residents' ability to produce and grow fresh fruit and vegetables in the

urban environment. This includes supporting and funding the establishment of local food gardens by community groups and schools.

Council also continues to promote the benefits of a healthy diet across the organisation and divert food waste from landfill.

Local Community and Culture



Our Goal: A Liveable City

Progress for the year: As the most culturally diverse municipality in Australia alongside a number of socio-economic challenges, many residents are vulnerable to social, economic and environmental issues.

Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan has placed a strong focus on climate adaptation measures to help build the resilience of our most vulnerable.

Local Business and Economy



Our Goal: A City of Opportunity

Progress for the year: Council is actively working with local businesses to save them money by improving their operations to reduce energy and water use, and resource efficiency.

This includes implementing the Environmental Upgrade Agreements Program and promoting the business industry's sustainable efforts through the Sustainability Awards.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



Why is it important?

Whilst the image of Local Government may once have been of 'rates, roads and rubbish', they are increasingly responsible for the delivery of a broad range of services for their community, including their residents, businesses and other levels of government. Furthermore, local government is also perceived as a source of innovation and research, with new concepts initiated or piloted at a local level with their community or own operations, with their learnings and successes adopted and replicated by other local government's or even higher levels of government.

This expansion in activity and service provision has led to increased expectation and accountability of their leadership and governance, to ensure their decision-making processes are relevant and responsive to their community's needs. To ensure we respond to these needs effectively, local government must increasingly develop partnerships with the community and other key stakeholders in a collaborative manner. By applying a bottom up approach, facilitated by local government, it builds better governance and transparency allowing council to tap into the skills and capabilities of all participating sectors in the community, resulting in outcomes that can benefit all.

In the context of sustainability, Local Government leadership and governance is critical in empowering others to act to achieve the desired outcomes for their communities. This is because Local Governments can influence:

- The decisions made by state or federal government and key stakeholders through advocacy undertaken on behalf of their community.
- The decisions made by households and communities through information programs, policy and regulatory frameworks.

- Goods and services markets through their support for more environmentally sustainable technologies and services.
- Demonstrate leadership through their own sustainable practices and projects.

What are we doing about it?

Council is committed to demonstrating leadership and governance across its operations and projects, to ensure the community remain engaged, inspired and committed to achieving our vision for environmental sustainability in Greater Dandenong.

Environmentally Sustainable Development

In October 2018 Council introduced Clause 22.06 - Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) into the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. This Local Policy applies ESD design and documentation requirements to proposed developments of various scales that must apply for a planning permit.

Before this policy was developed and implemented, the fundamentals of leadership and governance were applied to inform its development and ensure its ongoing success. Governance and leadership were demonstrated through the following:

Governance: Trialling the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) program as a voluntary ESD assessment framework for several years, evaluating its success to help inform the development and refinement of a permanent local ESD planning policy.

Leadership: In October 2017, Council adopted its own Sustainable Building Policy, ensuring ESD measures are applied to the design, construction, operation and

management of buildings owned and managed by council. This policy demonstrates Councils approach taken to the sustainability expectations of all new buildings in the community, whether public or private.



Springvale Library and Community will achieve a 5-Star Green Star Design and As-Built rating and will achieve zero net emissions, a requirement for all large scale capital building projects under councils Sustainable Buildings Policy 2017.

ADVOCACY

Why is it important?

Advocacy is an important role of local government as it provides a powerful voice representing the views and needs of their local communities seeking to influence decision and policy makers actions to help build strong, healthy and connected communities. Effective advocacy outcome decisions can have substantial impacts on residents' everyday lives well into the future.

The success of advocacy is often viewed by the direct outcome of the action taken, such as a project granted, or funding obtained. However, the fact is advocacy results in more indirect benefits than direct benefits. For example, advocacy develops groups, bonds relationships, strengthens community ties and brings prominence to the issue at hand and those driving change.

The City of Greater Dandenong is committed to advocating on behalf of its current and future communities and has a strong history of achieving many significant outcomes through a range of approaches to advocacy.



What are we doing about it?



SECCCA

Greater Dandenong is a member council of the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA), an organisation committed to supporting member council's reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Greater Dandenong has been a member since 2013 and works closely with SECCCA in the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of community and council operations and assets.

A key role of SECCCA is to advocate to state and federal government and industry groups on behalf of its local government members. In 2018/19 SECCCA prepared several submissions forward to state and federal government including:

- National Construction Code Review and New Home Energy Advisory Service Evaluation
- Updating the Authority's advice on meeting the Paris Agreement
- Victoria's Interim Emissions Reduction Targets Submission
- Electricity Distribution Code Review Submission
- Enquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Victorian Communities
- Wholesale Demand Response Mechanism Submission



CASBE

Greater Dandenong is a member council of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), an association of Victorian councils committed to the creation of a sustainable built environment within and beyond their municipalities. CASBE provides a central body of advocacy, expertise and support for its members, in particular sharing of resources, knowledge and development of sustainability tools (including the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard BESS) for member councils to apply to planning applications and capital projects. Greater Dandenong has been a member council since 2010.

CASBE has been advocating to the State Government for stronger and more effective Planning Policy for several years. Throughout 2018, we collaborated with CASBE to advocate to the Minister for Planning for the approval of a consistent ESD policy to be applied to the planning schemes of several councils. This advocacy was acknowledged and Granted by the Minister in October 2018.



Eastern Transport Coalition and South East Melbourne Group

Greater Dandenong Councillors and officers also undertake advocacy for sustainable and integrated transport services through the Eastern Transport Coalition and South East Melbourne (SEM) group.

The Eastern Transport Coalition consists of Melbourne's seven eastern metropolitan councils and represents approximately one million residents. The Eastern Transport Coalition advocates for a wide range of projects including Train & Tram, Buses and Active Transport projects that improve connectivity, liveability and sustainability.

SEM advocates for jobs, infrastructure, investment, liveability, sustainability and wellbeing for the southeast and everyone who lives and works in the region. SEM has recognised the need in their South East Transport Strategy for a bus review in the south east to create a more efficient, reliable and sustainable transport network.

Recycling and Waste management reform

Councils Engineering Services Unit continue to provide a key role in advocating for effective disposal and management of municipal waste for the community. This comes at a time where the Victorian waste and recycling industry faces increased challenges to dispose and recycle waste. This is dubbed the "recycling crisis".

Council Officers have participated in a number of State Government workshops providing input into key strategic documents including the "Circular Economy Policy", "Victoria's Recycling & Resource Recovery Infrastructure Requirements Report" and an "Inquiry into Recycling & Waste Management".

Council Officers have also made a significant contribution towards the scope for collaborative procurement of Advanced Waste Processing (household garbage), Household Recycling Processing and Landfill & Transfer Services coordinated by the Metropolitan Waste & Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG).

Working closely with MWRRG, we have navigated through the recycling crisis to keep recyclables out of landfill and advocated to the State Government to prioritise funding into key waste and recycling needs.



AWARENESS



Why is it important?

The day-to-day activities and decisions we make, whether it be at home or work, all have an impact on our environment. If we are to live a more sustainable life that entitles future generations to the same basic privileges we have and enjoy today, then we all have a role to play.

Governments can influence decisions made by households and businesses through policy and programs to educate the community and trigger change. These measures, whether it be through awareness campaigns, environmental education or behavioural change programs rarely result in changed behaviour when applied alone, but when combined with policy and regulation, they encourage sustainable behaviour, leading to permanent change.

Education enables learning to occur through the many social networks such as families, peers and workplaces that influence the way people think, feel and act. Practical demonstrations can be a powerful way to communicate sustainability messages and encourage behaviour change. The community should not just be educated about sustainability, they need to be empowered to take actions that contribute to sustainable outcomes.

What are we doing about it?

Sustainability festival

Council's Annual Sustainability Festival is our largest community environmental event. Held at the Dandenong Market since 2014, the festival aims to engage, inform and educate the community in a fun and entertaining way, the importance of and benefits of a sustainable lifestyle. This encourages residents to adopt sustainable measures at their home, work or school.

The scale of the festival provides Council and the Community with a platform to promote various initiatives and programs focused on environmental sustainability to the wider community. This builds further awareness and influence on the community to take action.

The 2019 Sustainability Festival was our most successful yet with a diverse range of activities, displays, information stalls and entertainment. This year's festival had an emphasis on the impacts of single use plastics on the environment and seeking the community's views on climate change and where action is required.

Sustainability Awards

The Sustainability Awards acknowledges and encourages community led sustainability initiatives. It recognises, rewards and promotes sustainable practices implemented by residents, schools, businesses, community groups; and individuals.

By sharing the stories and achievements by the community – to the community, the Awards create a peer-to peer learning environment. This helps to inspire and empower the community to apply similar sustainable practices at their home, school, work or other place.

The 2018 Awards took a different approach with a dedicated presentation evening at the held in October 2018 for Business category entrants. In addition, the 2019 Sustainability Festival was used to launch the 2019 Sustainability Awards. In previous years, the Festival was used to present the winners of the Sustainable Community Category.



Fujitsu Australia being presented the 2018 Sustainability Business Category Award for their Noble Park Data Centre, saving them one million dollars/year.

AWARENESS CONT.



Bushland Education Programs

Council's Bushland Education Team provide a range of activities and programs each year for schools, residents and other groups. These activities help increase community awareness of our local parks, gardens, wildlife and environment, providing people with the opportunity to discover and explore the outdoors and develop a life-long appreciation for bushland and biodiversity.

Council's 2018/19 Biodiversity Education program was far reaching with a range of community events and programs, engaging thousands of residents, students and community group members.



**64
Educational
Events**

with 5,179 attendees



**30
Planting days**

with 1,012 attendees

Key Activities include:

- **Discover Dandenong Creek Festival:** Held at Tirhatuan Park, over 800 visitors enjoyed the many activities, displays and entertainment and explored the natural features of the park Reserve which is located along Dandenong.

- **Habitats and Hollows Nesting Program:** This program takes primary school students on a guided tour through local reserves to educate them about native animals and where they find food, water and shelter. The activity involves students building a nesting box for an animal of their choice which is then placed in the environment and monitored by the student's overt time.
- **Dolphin Research Institute - I See, I Care Program:** Council's supports the program which is designed for grade 5 and 6 students to educate them about what lives in our bays and waterways and the many issues facing them. Several Schools in Greater Dandenong participated in the program in 2018/19.
- **Adopt a Park:** The program targets pre-schools, kindergartens and early learning centres that don't have room to plant trees, by allowing them to plant trees in council reserves.
- **Tree Planting Activities:** Council continues to offer community tree planting activities to schools and residents each year. These programs ensure we continue to green the city and replenish natural habitat.
- **School excursions:** Council provides guided tours for schools to local reserves to educate them on significance of our natural environment. The new Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve education centre is central to these excursions.

Waste Education programs

Council's Annual Waste Education Plan identifies activities to be undertaken by Council to increase community awareness on waste and resources that aims to minimise waste and increase recycling.

The waste education team delivers a wide range of programs for all sectors of the community, including programs for schools and early learning centres, community workshops and tours, displays at events and specialised waste events.



**6286
Participants**



**30
Waste
Education activities**

The following key waste education activities were delivered in 2018/19

- **Schools Waste Education program:** Several waste education activities were made available to primary schools and early learning centres in 2018/19. Uptake was its highest yet with over 2403 children engaged across 109 activities.
- **Community Waste Education Events:** A total of 25 community events were held ranging from workshops, waste facility tours, community events and activities with over 1300 participants.
- **Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day:** The event gives residents the opportunity to ensure their hard rubbish waste is correctly disposed of. Two drop off days were held in 2019 with over 123 tonnes of waste collected for correct disposal, with over 40 tonnes recycled.
- **Litter Prevention Campaign:** Council's Litter Prevention Officer continues to work closely with the community to prevent the illegal dumping of waste in the municipality.

Climate Change Strategy

In 2018, Council commenced its journey in the development of a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Due to the significance of climate change and the threat it poses to the world we live in, it was essential for Council to engage with the community to ensure they understand the science, the consequences and the opportunities to lessen the impacts of climate change. To achieve this, Council prepared a range of materials and engaged with all parts of the community including schools, businesses, community groups, senior citizens groups and council officers.

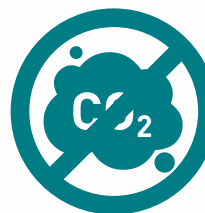
This enabled the community to share their concerns around climate change including feedback on what action should be taken to lessen its impacts in the short and long term. This information has formed the basis of Council's climate change strategy and action plan, to be delivered in 2020.



92% of our community are worried about climate change



94% of our community think it's important that Greater Dandenong take action



90% of our community want targets of Zero Emissions by 2050 (63% before 2050) to keep temperature increases at 2°C or below.

Plastic Bag Ban – Supporting Market Traders

In response to the Victorian Government ban on single use plastic bags from November 2019, Council collaborated with the Department of Land, Environment, Water and Planning (DELWP), the National Retailers Association of Australia and the Dandenong Market Management Board, to support market traders comply with legislation.

Support was provided through workshops, surveys, and development of fact sheets, including a dedicated plastic bag-free day at Dandenong Market during the Sustainability Festival.





BIODIVERSITY AND OPEN SPACE



Why is it important?

Biodiversity directly supports our way of life. At its most basic, it is the provision of the clean air, water and food we rely on. In many parts of Australia, biodiversity continues to be in serious decline. Urban cities such as Greater Dandenong can play an important role in protecting and enhancing the local biodiversity that remains.

Whilst urban, green open spaces can support local biodiversity, they can also provide many other functions. These can include producing food, reducing heat island impacts, providing safe walking and cycling routes as well as sites for recreation, physical activity and social interaction. Urban open spaces are particularly important in supporting the community's physical and mental health.

What are we doing about it?

Council has implemented a range of initiatives in 2018/19.

Green Wedge Vegetation Protection Overlay -

Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the environmental values of the Green Wedge. In order to achieve this, Council introduced a Permanent Vegetation Overlay through Planning Scheme Amendment C205 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.

The Vegetation Protection overlay covers the main portion of the Green Wedge. This means a planning permit is required to remove larger native trees, including River Red Gums.

In 2018-19 Council planted



2,624
Trees

+



23,005
Seedlings

Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve Visitor Centre

In December 2018, Council completed the construction of a new state-of-the-art education centre at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve in Springvale South. The centre is designed to have a minimal impact on the reserve and will be core to council's biodiversity and bushland education programs.

The education centre will be equipped with a range of interactive displays and education materials and facilities for use by schools, residents and corporate workshops.



Open Space Strategy and Action Plan Review:

In May/June 2019, Council released an Analysis and Discussion Paper as part of the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan Review and sought feedback from the community on the future of open space. A total of 263 submissions were received. The importance of vegetation, being outdoors and close to nature along with the expansion of the existing open space network was of great importance to many.

Urban Tree Strategy

Greater Dandenong's overall tree canopy is only 9.9 per cent which is the lowest of all metro Melbourne municipalities on the eastern side of Melbourne. Council's aim is to increase canopy cover to 15 per cent by 2028 as part of the 'Greening our City' Strategy. Tree canopy reduces the temperature, provides shading and habitat for native animals.

KEY ACTIONS

Review of Council's *Open Space Strategy*

Introduction of the Permanent Vegetation Protection Overlay to increase protection of the Green Wedge's biodiversity.

Planting of thousands of trees and seedlings as part of the Greening Our City Strategy





BUILDINGS AND PLACES



Why is it important?

The construction and operation of our buildings has a significant impact on our natural resources. Buildings are responsible for generating:



Despite this, these impacts give buildings the opportunity to achieve the most environmental gains. Furthermore, as the benefits of living and working in sustainable buildings continues to be realised, a sustainable building can deliver the following benefits:



What are we doing about it?

2018/19 saw significant changes to the way *Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD)* is applied in new buildings across Greater Dandenong.

This year saw more private developments incorporating sustainable design measures than in any other year after the introduction of a new policy into our Planning Scheme. Additionally, the introduction of Council's Sustainable Buildings Policy ensures that Council's own buildings also must include sustainable design measures.

Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Local Planning Policy

In October 2018, Council introduced Clause 22.06 - *Environmentally Sustainable Development* into the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. This Local Policy applies ESD standards to planning applications of various scales. The policy formalises the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) program and extends the scale of development applications that it has applied to since 2010.

In 2018/19 we achieved:



Collaborating for Policy Improvement

Council continues to collaborate with CASBE in advocacy for stronger and consistent ESD outcomes in the planning scheme. This includes building the capacity of council officers and the building industry to apply and improve sustainable development outcomes.

Council Buildings

Implementation of Council's Sustainable Building Policy, adopted in October 2017, now ensures that ESD measures are applied to the design, construction, operation and management of buildings owned and operated by Council. The policy will result in leading edge sustainable buildings such as the Spingvale Library.



Springvale Library will be constructed to achieve a 5-star Green Star rating and be Council's first zero net emissions building.



CLIMATE AND ENERGY



Why is it important?

Climate change is here, and its impacts are already affecting our environment, our society and our economy. While global efforts to tackle climate change are increasing, the science is clear these efforts are not enough to keep climate change from affecting life on earth in increasingly severe ways. With climate change already impacting our day to day lives, we all need to take stronger action, urgently. This action needs to focus on both:

- 1. Reducing carbon emissions into the atmosphere (mitigation).**
- 2. Lower the risks of the impacts from climate change (adaptation).**

As the most socio-economically disadvantaged community in Melbourne, we will be more exposed to some of the worst impacts as the vulnerable in our community may lack the resources to prepare for, or to respond to climate change to recover from its impacts.



What are we doing about it?

Council is working hard to reduce its emissions and impacts of climate change for the Greater Dandenong community.

What are we doing about it?

Climate Change Strategy

Council is developing a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan to provide a strategic framework to guide Council and the community's efforts to reduce emissions and increase resilience. Initial work on the development of the strategy is complete with Council undertaking extensive consultation with the wider Dandenong community to better understand their concerns around climate change. In the end, a total of 1020 responses including 897 survey responses; and a further 123 submissions were submitted pushing for strong action on achieving zero net emissions for council operations and the community as fast as possible.

This initial community feedback has helped Council develop a draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, which will be completed in 2020.

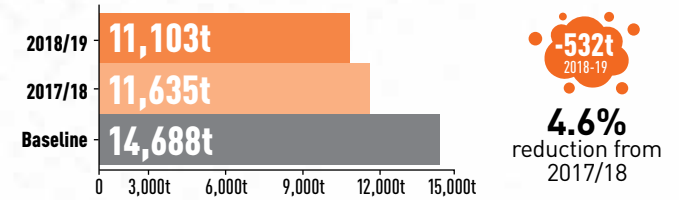
KEY ACTIONS

Council is developing a Climate Change Strategy.

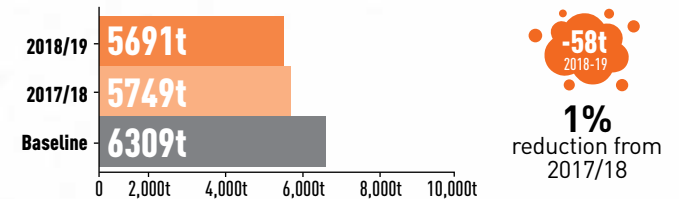
Council is installing 600kW of solar panels at Council facilities by 2021, including 250kW at the Springvale Community Hub (2020) and 100kW at Dandenong Market (2020).

Council's Energy Use Tonnes tCO2-e

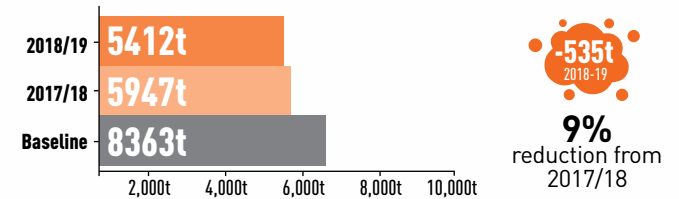
Emissions from buildings, streetlights and facilities



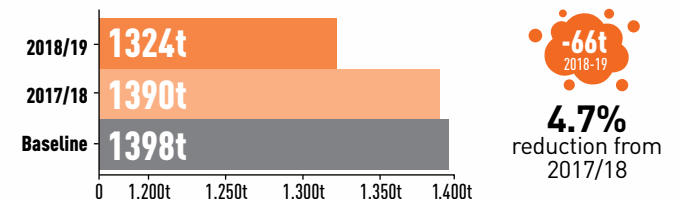
Buildings – electricity and gas (combined)



Street Lighting and other public lighting



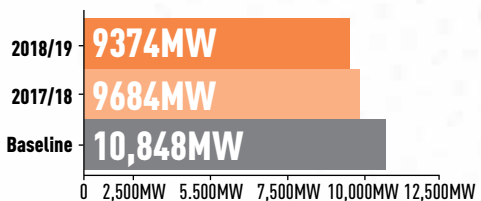
Fleet emissions





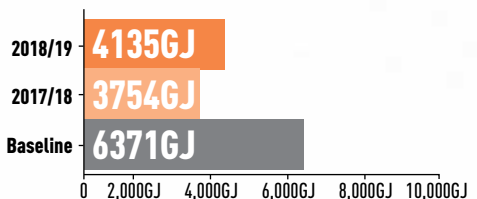
Council's Energy Use

Electricity



-310MW
2018-19
3%
reduction from
2017/18

Gas



+381GJ
2018-19
3.2%
increase from
2017/18

Energy Costs



\$1.27million
Councils energy bill
for 2018/19



\$150,000
Increase from
2017/18



\$7,100+
Has been saved by council
monthly savings (over
\$2000/month)

Energy Efficiency Improvements

Council continues to implement energy saving measures to its buildings and facilities as part of the Building Energy Management Plan. Projects recently completed include:

- **Air Conditioner Optimisation and Monitoring at 39 Clow Street Offices** – reduced heating and cooling costs by over 50 per cent and improved maintenance regimes
- **Walker Street Car Park Lighting Upgrade** – Installation of LED lighting, controlled by sensors and timers has reduced energy use by 23,000kW a year and costs by 35 per cent

Council's Solar Revolution Begins

Council is in the process of transforming its rooftops into renewable energy hubs including the following:

- Installation of 100kW solar system on the roof of Council's Dandenong Civic Centre
- Installation of 30kW solar system on the roof of Council's Shepley Oval pavilion
- Planning the installation of 250kW solar system on the roof of the Springvale Library



Community Solar Continues to Grow

The Greater Dandenong Community continue to release the environmental and economic benefit of solar panels with continued growth in 2018/19. Council will continue to encourage community uptake of Solar through programs such as Environmental Upgrade Agreements, Solar Savers and ESD Planning Policy.



375%
Increase since 2013
in Community uptake of solar
renewable energy. That is a
34% increase from 2017/18.



ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION



Why is it important?

Environmental pollution occurs when pollutants contaminate our surroundings, impacting on the natural elements that life on earth relies on: air, water and soil.

Pollution affects the health of the community, the amenity of our open space, the function of ecosystems, and the prosperity of our economy. This makes pollution one of the biggest threats to the community and the environment. It is essential our city is one that supports a clean and healthy environment and protects the community from pollution that causes health-related problems.

What are we doing about it?

Council continues its efforts to reduce pollution levels across the municipality, in particular raising community awareness, environmental monitoring, project audits and enforcement of planning permit conditions for development.



Stormwater Quality Point Source Monitoring project

To ensure the protection of waterway health, Council officers continue to monitor the stormwater drainage network in the industrial and commercial areas of Dandenong South. This includes taking regular samples of stormwater to detect harmful pollutants which allows the source of the pollutants to be identified.

The project continues to be successful with council officers engaging with a number of businesses to assist them to reduce pollution levels from their operations. This program has led to the development of further measures as part of council's approach to integrated water management.

Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLE)

Council has partnered up with the EPA to employ an OPLE officer to respond to issues of noise, dust, odour and waste arising from business operations. The OPLE officer also equips community and industry with the knowledge and skills to help prevent, identify and resolve environmental issues.

In 2018/19 Councils:

OPLE officer has visited over 150 sites and completed 79 inspection reports. This high level of engagement and subsequent action ensures businesses apply safe practices

Environmental Tenders

To ensure protection of our environment, council requires all of its contractors to implement compliant Environmental Management Systems or Plans for works in the municipality.

In 2018/19 Council:

Tendered for 93 projects with requirements for the tenderers to demonstrate their environmental management practices.

Council conducted audits on 20 tendered projects. The audits included consideration of environmental management practices



93 projects
Out for tender



20 audits
Conducted by council



LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD



Why is it important?

As the world's population has increased and become richer, the global demand for food, energy and water has grown rapidly, in part because they are strongly linked, with increasing food production requiring more water and energy. As a result, the impacts of food production and consumption the environment is significant:



26%
Of global greenhouse gas emissions comes from food



50%
Of the world's habitable land is used for agriculture



94%
Of mammal biomass (excluding humans) is livestock



70%
Of global freshwater used is taken for agriculture

Moving to more sustainable diets and food systems is required if we are to tackle climate change and reduce water stress, pollution, and impacts on biodiversity. It will also lead to improved public health and food security outcomes.

What are we doing about it?

Supporting community gardens

Community gardens allow people to grow their own fresh produce. With the 2017 Victorian Population Health survey finding that Greater Dandenong residents eat well below the recommended levels of fruit and vegetables, community gardens provide an opportunity for those members of our community on low incomes or without land of their own to grow food.

While community gardeners enjoy the rewards of eating fresh food they produce, there are many other benefits which in many ways are even more important, such as providing opportunities to meet your neighbours, learn new skills and be active.



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Community and school gardens across the municipality.

In 2018/19 we achieved:

- Edible food gardens developed in Dandenong Park by Council.
- Establishment of a community garden at Athol Road Primary School funded by the community grants program.
- Support of the Halpin Way Community Garden Project implemented by TRY Australia, supporting disadvantaged youth.
- Council's community grants program funded the establishment of several community gardens.

Other Key Achievements

- Development of the South East "Food for thought program" in collaboration with Monash Health.
- Healthy Bites Program – 17 local food outlets participating in the program in 2018/19.
- Publication of Council's Flavours newsletter, promoting healthy diets and food safety practices for the food industry.
- Diversion of 1.3 tonnes of Council office food waste into compost, used on council gardens.





LOCAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMY



Why is it important?

Greater Dandenong and the surrounding region hosts the largest number of manufacturing jobs in Melbourne and Victoria, making it a major economic hub. Within this hub are a diverse range of manufacturing and commercial operations of varying scale.

Business, in particular, manufacturing, often focus on two vital areas, ensuring their operational viability is maintained, and implementing new measures to maintain the edge over their competitors. Sustainable development has a vital role in supporting businesses across these two areas, whilst minimising their environmental impact.

What are we doing about it?

Council's commitment to economic resilience and sustainable development is being implemented through a range of strategies, programs and initiatives.

Environmental Upgrade Agreements

Council is helping support the business community reduce their operating costs through the implementation of the Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUAs) program. EUAs can be used to fund building works that improve energy efficiency, reduce waste, and cut water use.

Council continues to work with stakeholders to streamline and promote the program to local businesses.

Sustainability Awards

Council continue to promote the achievements of businesses and industry who apply sustainability into their business model through the annual Sustainability

Awards. 2018 saw the merging of the sustainable business and sustainable development categories into the "Sustainable Industry Category".



IKEA Springvale (pictured) was highly commended in the 2018 Sustainability Awards for their large-scale Solar PV system and other sustainability programs that benefit their operations and the community.

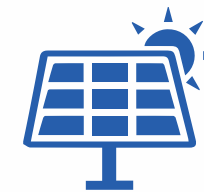
Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

Council continues to support the business community embrace sustainable practices and strengthen their operation. Our Economic Development team and the South East Business Network (SEBN) work closely with stakeholders to support the following programs:

- Hosting Gas Efficiency Masterclasses, facilitated by Sustainability Victoria
- Continued support for online Advisory Service for Process Information and Resource Exchange (ASPIRE) to help businesses cut waste disposal costs and facilitate collaboration between local businesses
- Promoting sustainable practices by local companies in Council's Talking Business magazine.



Smart Recycling installed a 100kw Solar PV system via an Environmental Upgrade Agreement (EUA) with the Sustainable Melbourne Fund and Greater Dandenong Council.



Since launching in 2017/18, a total of **Two 50kW** of solar panels have been installed through EUAs.



This includes local business **Smart Recycling** who installed a 100kW system which has reduced its energy bill by **\$28,000 pa.**



LOCAL COMMUNITY AND CULTURE



Why is it important?

In 2018, Greater Dandenong became the most culturally diverse municipality in Australia. While celebrating its cultural diversity, the community continues to face challenges including high unemployment rates, relatively low incomes and educational outcomes, coupled with lower levels of health.

These challenges are reflected in the priorities identified by our community, with their highest priority being their livelihoods, employment opportunities, access to transport, safety and education. Following these priorities are those that influence people's sense of wellbeing and belonging, or community identity. This includes the environment, being proud of where you live, how people regard each other and behave and how to make the most of opportunities.

Council's efforts to bring its diverse community together in projects that help raise cultural awareness and foster social inclusion also helps promote tolerance and community harmony. Encouraging members of our community to identify with and contribute to their community has important social benefits, as well as environmental and economic benefits.

What are we doing about it?

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

The effects of climate change will have far reaching impacts on vulnerable people in the community as they lack the resources to prepare for, or respond to climate change, or recover from its impacts. Due to the higher proportion of socio-economic disadvantage in Greater Dandenong compared to the rest of Victoria, Council takes the threat of climate change seriously and has commenced preparation of a Climate Change Strategy.

The strategy will guide Council and community efforts to reduce emissions and increase resilience.

In March-April, over 1000 responses were received from the community with the results showing:

- 92%** are worried about climate change
- 94%** think it is important that Greater Dandenong Act
- 90%** want targets of Net Zero Carbon emissions before or by 2050

Community Sustainability Advisory Committee

The Sustainability Advisory committee was established to assist council in the implementation of the community key priorities and community objectives identified within the Climate Change Strategy. In 2018/19, a total of four meetings took place with members contributing to a number of initiatives. This included significant input into the preparation of four background reports that formed the basis for the initial public consultation of a draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Increasing Community Resilience to Heatwaves

Council contributed to the delivery of the *Hot Spots* initiative, a program specifically aimed at building community resilience to impacts of heatwaves. Funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Council collaborated with *Enliven*, *Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre*, and *Bolton Clarke*.

The health promotion activities focused on community members who are vulnerable on days of extreme heat including newly arrived migrants, older people and parents with babies and young children.



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TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT



Why is it important?

Transport connects us to our family, friends, employment, services and the community. A well-connected city of roads, rail, paths and trails that are well serviced is critical to the liveability of our city.

By providing access to all these transport options, in particular, options to reduce reliance on private motor vehicles, our city moves faster and is more active improving our health and well-being.

What are we doing about it?

Council continues to advocate for improvements to our regional transport networks as well as directly implementing a range of local transport infrastructure measures, as well as contributing to significant projects that will benefit the broader region.

Car Share Policy and EV Policy

To encourage the use of sustainable transport options, council commenced work on the development of a public Car Share Policy and public Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Policy. The policy will help create a framework to facilitate the provision and use of electric vehicle charging and car sharing facilities on public land for residents, businesses and visitors to Greater Dandenong.



EcoDriver Program

In 2018, selected council fleet operations staff participated in the EcoDriver pilot program which identified opportunities to reduce vehicle emissions, wear and tear on vehicles and improve driver safety. A number of learnings were applied which have contributed to council's reduction in fuel consumption.

Transport Advocacy statement

Many aspects of public transport are not directly under the control of Council. However, Council plays a critical role in ensuring the needs of residents are considered by decision makers such as the Department of Transport.

Council needs a clear and justified position around what improvements are required to the public transport system in Greater Dandenong. The Public Transport Advocacy Statement (PTAS) will identify specific advocacy actions that council will advocate to the State Government.

Development of Council's PTAS commenced in 2019 which included engagement with multiple stakeholders in the region to support detailed research that will inform the proposed public transport improvements as part of the final statement.

Increased Bicycle Infrastructure

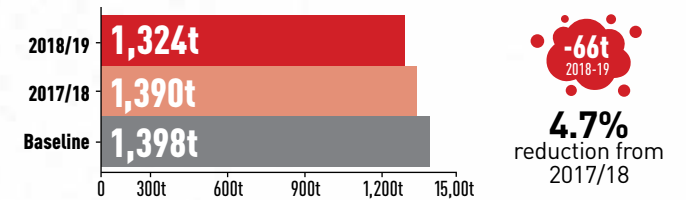
Council continues to increase its bicycle and shared user path network to encourage the community to walk and cycle. In 2018/19 a number of projects were completed including:

- A 17-kilometre shared user path for commuter and recreational cyclists and pedestrians was delivered by the Level Crossing Removal Authority as part of the Caulfield to Dandenong project. Over 12 kilometres

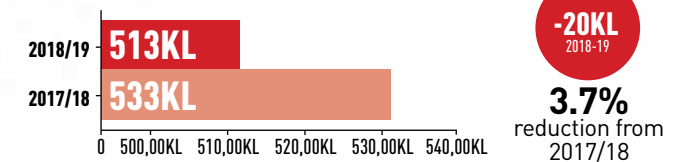
of new sections of shared path will join existing paths to create a continuous route from Caulfield to the Yarraman Station.

- Construction of on-road cycling lanes along Corrigan Road and James Street in Dandenong.

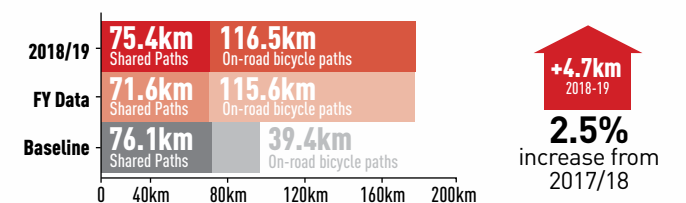
Council Fleet Emissions



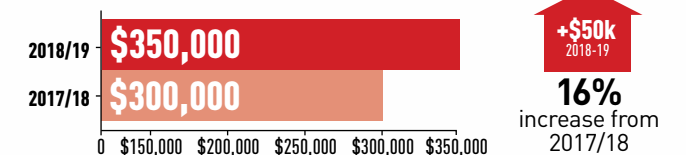
Fuel Consumption



Bike and Shared User Path



Bicycle infrastructure investment





WASTE AND RESOURCES



Why is it important?

2018/19 saw the world declare a war on waste. This was in response to recent disruptions on global recycling markets, with overseas countries not accepting our recyclable waste to process. With Australians one of the highest generators of waste in the world per capita, this disruption will require us to make changes to the way we dispose, recycle, and manage waste.

Whilst we begin to reform our approach to waste management and recycling processes across the State, we must continue to apply the waste hierarchy and avoid creating waste in the first instance.

Residents and businesses are playing their part in the war on waste, as they continue to reduce their waste to landfill. Council is working closely with the state government and industry and the community to win the war on waste.

What are we doing about it?

Recycling continues for us

The beginning of 2019 saw the recycling industry facing huge challenges after the closure of a number of Materials Recycling Facilities (MRF's) operated by SKM. The result was numerous councils across Victoria having to send their recyclables to landfill.

The story was different for Greater Dandenong however. Who, through a strong partnership with our MRF service provider, Polytrade, enabled recycling to continue and avoid the need for recyclables being sent to landfill.

Industry Collaboration

As the waste and recycling industry continues to change in response to the recycling crisis, Council continues to work closely with industry to work closely

with industry stakeholders such as the Metropolitan Waste Management and Resource Recovery Group, Sustainability Victoria to ensure residents and business can manage and dispose of their waste efficiently and effectively.

Single Use Plastics

Council commenced work on the development of a Single Use Plastics Policy. The policy will guide council in eliminating single use plastics across its operations and service delivery as well as at festivals and events on land or buildings owned by council.

Plastic Bag Ban – Supporting Market Traders

In response to the Victorian Government ban on single use plastic bags from November 2019, council collaborated with the Department of Land, Environment, Water and Planning (DELWP), the National Retailers Association of Australia and the Dandenong Market Management Board, to support market traders comply with legislation.

Support was provided through workshops, surveys, and development of fact sheets, including a dedicated plastic bag-free day at Dandenong Market during the Sustainability Festival.

Community Waste Initiatives

Council continues to implement programs to help the community dispose of unwanted goods to ensure they are correctly disposed, recycled or re-purposed, reducing waste to landfill and illegal dumping of rubbish.

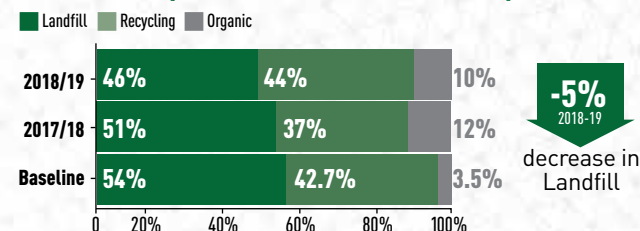
- Reuse and recycle drop off days – collected over 123 tonnes of goods and waste
- Homecycle services – 30 tonnes of goods

- Council office recycling stations – 1080kg's of batteries, phones, light globes and CD/DVD's
- 155 tonnes of waste and goods collected (for correct disposal, recycling or repurposing – based on above 3 key community waste collection events)

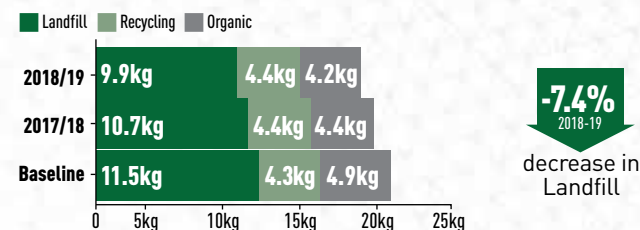
Waste Education

Council's Waste Education team continue to implement various waste activities with the community to increase community awareness on waste and resources that aims to minimise waste and increase recycling.

Council Corporate Waste Stream Composition



Residential Kerbside Waste Breakdown Per Week



Household recycling waste increased to **303 tonnes** from 17/18



Why is it important?

Water is one of our most precious resources. Access to a secure source of clean drinking water is essential to sustain our lives. As it is for people, water is vital to keep our parks and gardens alive and healthy, our sports fields green and playable, and our waterways clean and safe.

2018/2019 was one of our hottest and driest years on record. However, when it did rain, it would often pour, overwhelming drains and damaging our waterways. Therefore, we all must continue to manage our water effectively and efficiently.

What are we doing about it?

Council continues to save water across all its operations through a range of efficiency measures. It has also introduced a range of new initiatives that ensure long term protection of our waterways and drainage assets.

Securing our Water

Council understands the risks of a need for reliable supply of water by investing in a number of water conservation projects, in particular rainwater and stormwater harvesting projects. These include:

- Dandenong Municipal building project - installation of 120,000L rainwater tank for toilet flushing.
- Tatterson Park Stormwater harvesting project - will provide up to 20megalitres of water per year
- Construction of an 120,000L underground stormwater harvesting tank that will be used to irrigate all the gardens in the Springvale Civic Precinct.

Water Sensitive Cities Index - Benchmarking Project

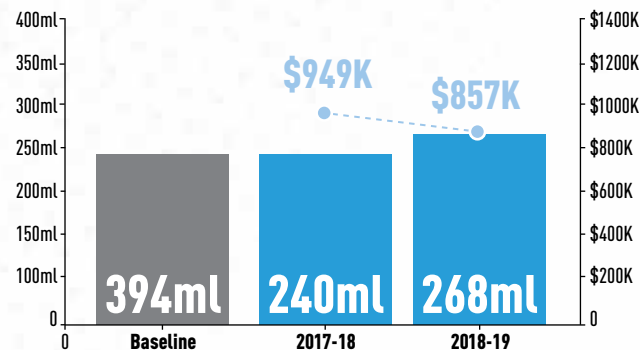
Council participated with other metropolitan councils and government agencies in the development and implementation of the Water Sensitive Cities Index. The Index is a tool that will help benchmark our city against a range of urban water indicators.

This will allow council and other local organisations to set targets and collaborate more effectively to manage water into the future. The project concluded in May 2019 with a series recommendations developed.

Site Stormwater management

In November 2018, council adopted Clause 53.18 (Stormwater Management in Urban Development) in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. The clause ensures quality and flow of stormwater leaving a property is managed to a high standard to protect local waterways and infrastructure. The provision has been applied to 116 planning applications in 2018/19.

Council Water Consumption



Corporate Breakdown



Sports Fields
150ML, \$522K



Leisure Centres
61ML, \$218K



Council buildings
57ML, \$209K

Residential Mains Water Consumption



344L
per household
per day



8L increase
per household
per day




Awareness activities

Council continues to educate the community to help them reduce water consumption and protect water quality through a range of initiatives including:

- Facilitating kids teaching kids program in schools with Melbourne Water and Dolphin Research Institute.
- Stormwater quality testing and monitoring in industrial areas and liaison with businesses to reduce the pollution from their operations.
- Working with planning applicants to apply water efficiency and stormwater treatment measures as part of Councils ESD planning policy.





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