

CITY OF WHITEHORSE INTERIM CLIMATE RESPONSE PLAN 2020-2022



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Whitehorse City Council recognises the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which the City of Whitehorse is located; Wurundjeri connection to this land dates back more than 40,000 years, and evidence of this connection still exists today.



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Executive Summary

Whitehorse City Council has been taking action on climate change for over ten years. Working to reduce emissions from council operations, to support the community to reduce their emissions and also beginning the necessary task of adapting to our changing climate.

This Interim Climate Response Plan will build on that momentum, accelerate and strengthen the action currently underway and set the foundations for Council and the community to work together to set strong, ambitious targets for the new Sustainability Strategy.

Over the next two years Whitehorse City Council will be working with the community to develop a new Community Vision out to 2040 which will guide all other council strategy, policy and plans including the new Sustainability Strategy. Whitehorse will be looking to join many other Victorian local governments in taking a leadership role in climate action. Meeting the growing urgency for wide spread and large-scale action to rapidly reduce our emissions and to minimise the risks and impacts of climate change – those that are felt now and those projected in the future .

This Interim Climate Response Plan has been developed to guide work over the next two years whilst the Community Vision and Sustainability Strategy are developed. It brings together the wide range of short to medium term council activity that reduces emissions and supports climate adaptation.

The Action Plan organises the activity under seven key themes:

1. Strong Foundations & Good Governance
2. Community Engagement
3. Sustainable Transport
4. Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency
5. Biodiversity & Water Management
6. Waste Management
7. Sustainable Buildings & Homes

While the Engineering and Environmental Services team are responsible for leading much of the activity within this plan, there is involvement from across Council and an interdepartmental Working Group will be established to govern the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the plan.



IMAGE: 10KW ROOFTOP SOLAR ON THE ELEY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Background

The science is clear. We understand the realities of human induced climate change. If we don't drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C as soon as 2030.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) strongly recommends limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C, to avoid the impacts of climate change steeply escalating. Even at 1.5°C of global warming, times will be tough. But the impacts amplify rapidly between 1.5°C and 2°C of temperature increase.

In 2015, Australia became a signatory to the international Paris Agreement. This accord calls for limiting the global average temperature rise in this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and attempting to limit the temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.

In 2017, Victorian Parliament passed a new Climate Change Act, positioning Victoria as a leader in climate change action. In line with the Paris Agreement, the Act sets out a clear policy framework and a pathway to a net zero emissions, climate resilient community and economy by 2050.

It is this Framework that local governments, including Whitehorse City Council, are using to meet their responsibilities to manage climate change risks, maximise the opportunities and drive a local transition to a zero carbon future.

Local governments are on the front line in dealing with climate change impacts and have been demonstrating leadership in climate change action for many years. In Victoria, Councils have made significant progress in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting their communities to do the same. The services and infrastructure Councils provide to the community are vulnerable to a range of climate hazards. Because of their local knowledge and close connection to the community, Councils are often best placed to help the local community reduce risks and adapt to climate change.

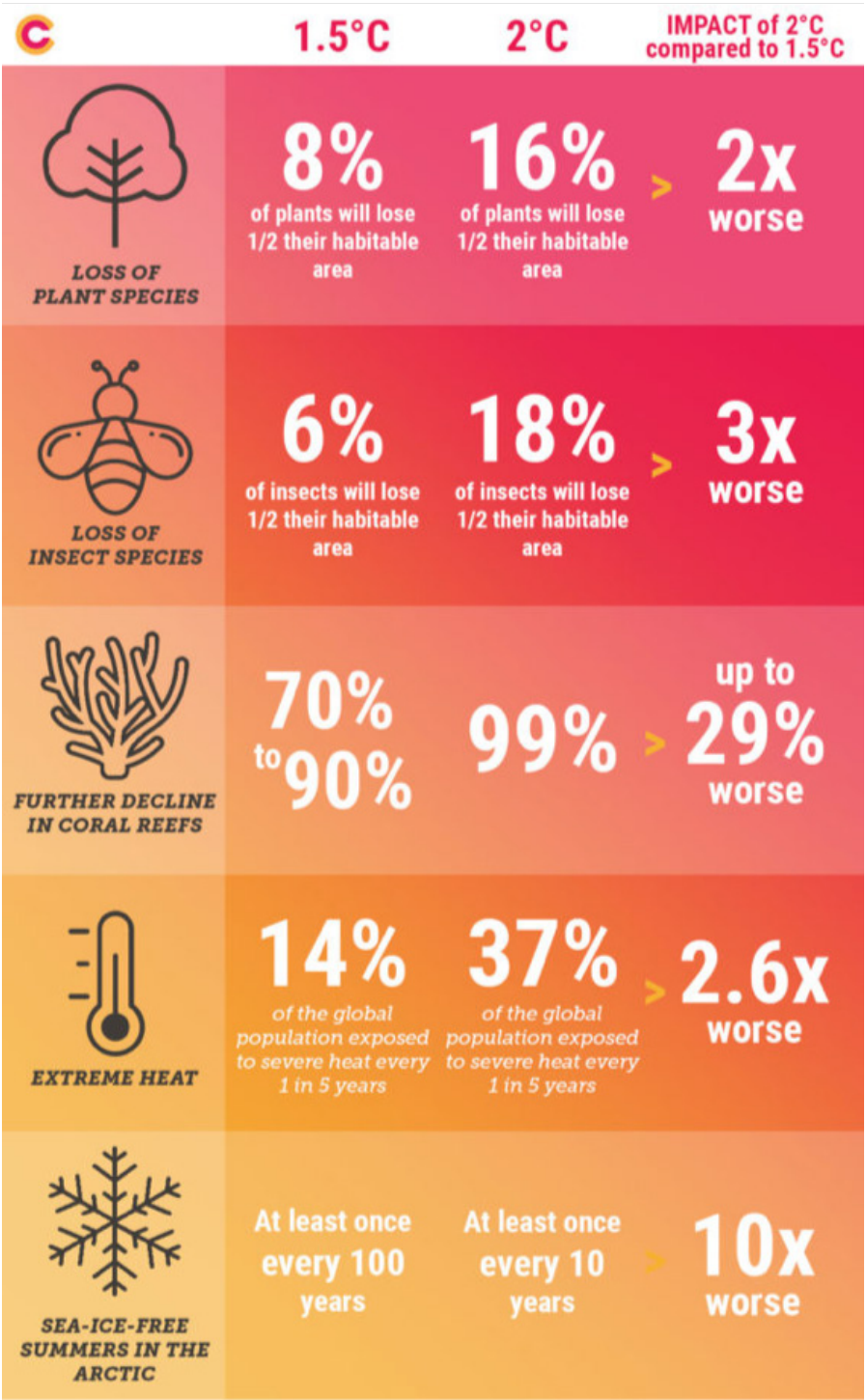


FIGURE 1: 1.5 VS 2 DEGREES OF GLOBAL WARMING: THE CLIMATE COUNCIL¹

References

1. www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/infographic-the-difference-between-1-5-and-2-degrees-warming/ Adapted from WRI (07/10/18) based on data from IPCC (10/2018).

COUNCIL’S PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Council Vision 2013–2023 is strongly aligned with action on climate change: We aspire to be a healthy, vibrant, prosperous and sustainable community supported by strong leadership and community partnerships. In 2019 and early 2020 Council was approached by community members asking whether Council was going to join the growing number of Australian local governments and declare a Climate Emergency. At this stage Whitehorse City Council haven’t declared a Climate Emergency. However, Council recognised the need to highlight and accelerate action on climate change.

This Interim Climate Response Plan fulfils that role over the coming two years, whilst Council embarks on widespread community consultation for the new Community Vision 2040, including seeking input from the community about their environmental, sustainability, climate-related aspirations for Council and the broader community. This will also include detailed community consultation for the new Sustainability Strategy which will incorporate a longer-term Climate Response Plan.

The Interim Climate Response Plan is supported by and aligns with nine other key strategies and plans. The relationship between the Climate Response Plan, Council Vision and the Sustainability Strategy is represented in Figure 2. It will support delivery of the following key targets:

- 45% reduction in corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 2022
- 30% reduction of corporate water consumption by 2022
- 60% diversion of kerbside waste from landfill by 2023

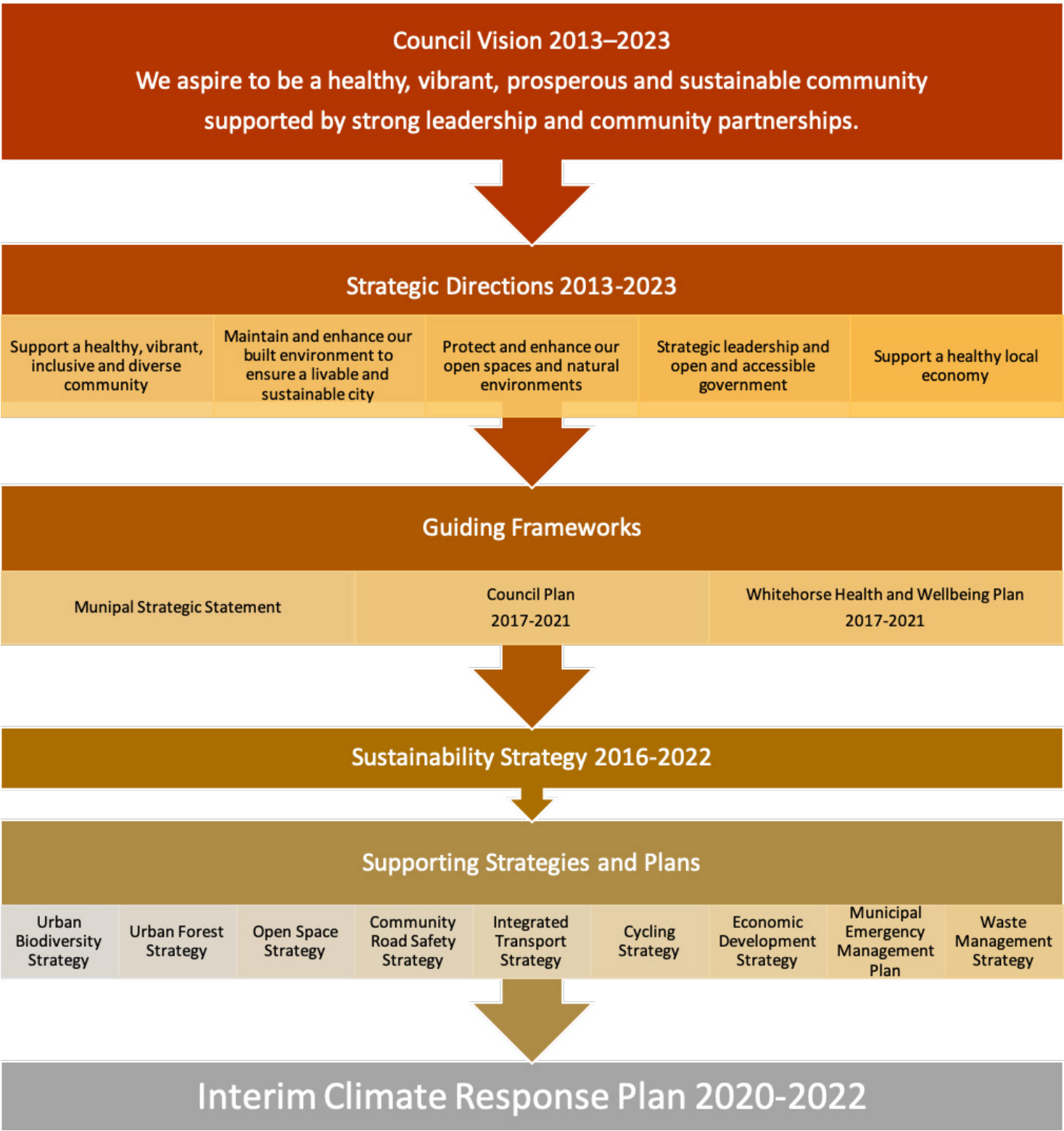


FIGURE 2: INTEGRATED PLANNING FRAMEWORK

CLIMATE ACTION IN WHITEHORSE

Whitehorse City Council's journey to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change commenced in 2009, when it undertook a Climate Change Risk Assessment. This led to the development of the Whitehorse Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2011 (CCAP).

Since the development and implementation of the CCAP, a number of additional Council strategies and plans have included measures in response to the significant impact of our changing climate. These include the Sustainability Strategy 2016-2022, Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021, Procurement Policy 2019 and Urban Forest Strategy 2018.

Council's Emergency Management Plan was developed utilising the Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) tool to identify, mitigate and reduce risks. This includes consideration of weather-related events such as extreme temperatures, heatwaves, storms, bushfires and local floods.

Changing climate is an increasing consideration in the building and retro-fitting of Council facilities. Recently Council has accelerated actions to make Council buildings more energy-efficient, and hence reduce emissions. Since 2015, Council's Environmentally Sustainable Development policy requires applicants for larger developments to provide a Sustainable Design Assessment Report or Sustainability Management Plan Report with their planning application to improve the environmental performance of private developments.



IMAGE: THE ABBEY WALK FOOTBRIDGE CROSSING THE DANDENONG CREEK

Responding to Climate Change

Most Australians understand dangers of climate change and the need for urgent action.

According to the 2019 Climate of the Nation report published by The Australia Institute 81% of Australians are concerned that climate change will result in more droughts and flooding, up from 78% in 2018 and 64% of Australians think Australia should have a national target for net-zero emissions by 2050 (only 15% think Australia should not)¹.

The report also identified that Victorians are most likely to support further climate action in line with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees, with 58% support compared to a national average of 56%¹.

There is overwhelming evidence that delaying action on climate change will lead to significantly higher costs². Taking strong and immediate action maximises the opportunity for success and reduces the risks over the long term.

Taking action on climate change is in the form of both *emissions reduction* and *adaptation*. We need to drastically and urgently reduce the greenhouse gas emissions we are generating and releasing into the atmosphere. At the same time, we need to plan for and adjust our systems to cope with the impacts of climate change that are already felt and those projected into the future (adaptation).

In Victoria we are facing a range of climate related hazards that will have a significant impact on our lives and communities. Work is underway at a local and state level to adapt to our changing climate.

With regard to emissions reduction, Victoria is the only state in Australia to have a legislated net zero emissions target by 2050. However, the 5-year interim target for 2020-25 (originally due to be set in March 2020) to ensure Victoria remains on track has not been established at the time of writing. An independent panel, chaired by Greg Combet, found Victoria should reduce its emissions by 32 to 39 per cent in the next five years, and 45 to 60 per cent over the next decade. However, these targets are not in line with keeping global warming below 1.5°.

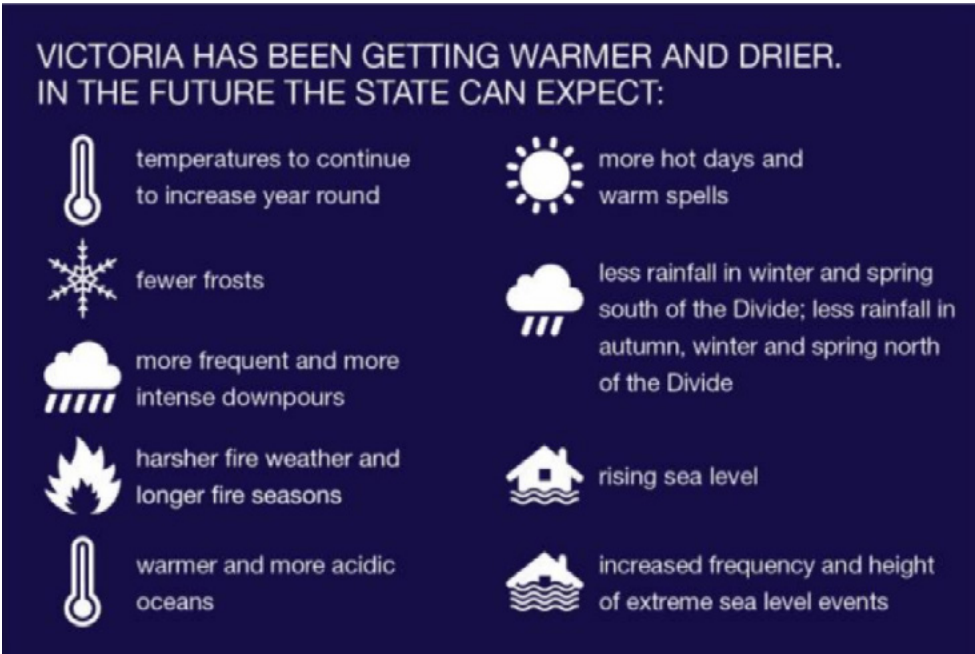


FIGURE 3: CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN VICTORIA³

References

1. Climate of the Nation 2019: Tracking Australia's attitudes towards climate change and energy. The Australia Institute
2. <https://theconversation.com/wait-and-pay-action-on-climate-change-is-cheap-delay-is-costly-40539>
3. Climate Change Risks to Local Government 2017

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

If we do nothing, there are significant potential local implications, that could include:

- Reduced service delivery and loss of business continuity
- Increased demand on Council facilities and resources
- Increased damage to Council assets and private property
- Failure of Council owned infrastructure during heatwaves and other extreme weather events
- Unbudgeted financial impacts from cumulative impacts of climate change, including increased insurance premiums
- Decreased public health and safety and mental and physical wellbeing. In particular for elderly and vulnerable people during heat waves (exacerbated by the Urban Heat Island Effect)
- Loss of environmental amenity and biodiversity values, dying trees in the streets and parks due to extreme heat and a lack of water
- More frequent energy, transport and communications disruptions
- Reduced food, water and energy security
- Increase in liability issues

Whilst the overall greenhouse gas emissions attributable to Whitehorse City Council and the broader community is small in a national or global context, taking action to reduce emissions urgently is an important act of leadership for local governments and the broader community. The 2018/19 Climate Snapshot produced by Beyond Zero Emissions and Ironbark Sustainability estimated that the Whitehorse community is responsible for 2,103,800 tonnes of carbon emissions and reported that the municipality has seen a significant increase in emissions since 2005¹. Understanding the emissions profile of the community and developing a pathway to a net zero emissions is a key activity to be completed during this Climate Response Plan.

The good news is there are significant opportunities and benefits for local governments and their communities by taking action to protect people, property and nature from the severe impacts of climate change. These include:

- Improvements in health and comfort by increasing the energy efficiency, thermal comfort and climate resilience of our homes and buildings
- Financial savings from energy efficiency and the shift to renewable energy for Council operations, residents and local businesses
- Reduced Urban Heat Island Effect by increasing urban forests and canopy cover
- Increased connection to nature for the community
- Reduction in waste generation (and the associated costs) by moving towards a circular economy
- Reduction in local pollution and traffic congestion by moving to a more sustainable transport system
- The opportunity to redress the balance of inequity in housing and energy for the most vulnerable community members
- Supporting economic resilience by increasing the energy independence of local businesses with renewable energy and energy efficiency



IMAGE: 15KW ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEM ON THE BOX HILL COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

References

1. <https://snapshotclimate.com.au/locality/australia/victoria/whitehorse/>

Developing the Plan

Whitehorse City Council worked with sustainability consultants HIP V. HYPE (HV.H) to develop this plan.

As this is a short-term, interim plan, guiding decisions and activity for the next two years while Whitehorse City Council undertakes the detailed community engagement to set up the new Community Vision and Sustainability Strategy engagement has been focused on consulting with the staff critical to the implementation of the plan.

The COVID-19 Pandemic social distancing and staying home orders have limited engagement to phone, email and online workshops and meetings.

The planning process commenced with a desktop review of Council's key plans, strategies and policies (a full list of documents reviewed is provided in Appendix 1). Building on the work already completed to evaluate the progress and achievements over the past 10 years in delivering the Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2011, each document was reviewed in detail, identified activity that could be strengthened, accelerated, any key gaps, as well as any activity that may be working in direct opposition to Council's broader climate action. This desktop review was further strengthened by including key strategies developed by other Victorian local governments, state and federal government documents as well as several key pieces of research focused on the role of local government in climate action. HV.H summarised all of the findings in a Gaps and Opportunities Report which formed the basis for discussion and planning of key actions during the online staff workshop.

The intention in developing this plan was to ensure that actions spanned the whole of Council, with all staff finding an opportunity within their role to understand and support climate action. Therefore, a broad range of teams and individuals were invited to participate in the staff workshop which was held online in June 2020.

The staff workshop was attended by 24 staff from across the organisation (a full list of staff who attended or participated in later discussions is presented in Appendix 2). Discussion allowed the staff to identify actions that accelerated and extended existing work underway via the multiple supporting strategies (see Figure 2 above). Several new areas of activity were identified that focused on building the internal knowledge and capacity of staff to take climate action.

The outcomes from the staff workshop, in particular the recommended actions, were then reviewed in partnership with the management team and a full draft of actions was recirculated to the broader staff team for final review and feedback.



IMAGE: THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19 HAVE RESULTED IN ENGAGEMENT BEING CONDUCTED VIA TELEPHONE, EMAIL AND ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Several follow up meetings were held online with relevant team members throughout the final review process to sense check, align and refine the proposed actions. The final outcome of this is presented in The Action Plan below).

A full draft of the Interim Climate Response Plan was then presented to the Executive Management Team on July 28 2020, feedback was incorporated and the final draft endorsed by Council in September 2020.

The Action Plan

The actions presented in the tables below have been developed to extend, accelerate or modify activity already underway across Council to reduce emissions and improve climate change adaptation outcomes for Council operations and the community.

Several new actions have been included to develop solid foundations for more ambitious climate action into the future that will be developed in line with the 2040 Community Vision and 2022 Sustainability Strategy. Each of the actions has been organised under one of seven key themes outlined in more detail below.

Theme 1: Strong Foundations with Good Governance

This theme looks at how Whitehorse City Council can build a shared understanding of the local impacts of climate change, the benefits in taking action and the activity that is underway across the whole of Council to improve Council operations and support the local community to take action. Effective collaboration and transparent and regular reporting on progress are critical elements.

Theme 2: Community Engagement

Ensuring meaningful community engagement is critical to an effective climate response, this theme describes the ways that Whitehorse City Council can support the community to understand the risks associated with climate change and the opportunities to take climate action, minimising the threats from climate related shocks and stressors, such as heatwaves and flooding.

Theme 3: Sustainable Transport

This theme focuses on ways that Whitehorse City Council can support sustainable transport such as walking, cycling, public transport and electric vehicles powered by renewable energy. Actions under this theme work in parallel alongside the following strategies or plans:

- Integrated Transport Strategy
- Community Road Safety Strategy
- Cycling Strategy

Theme 4: Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

This theme identifies ways that Whitehorse City Council can support the decarbonisation of the energy system through switching to efficient, renewable energy solutions such as solar for Council operations as well as across the broader community. It is supported by activity underway in the Sustainability Strategy.

Theme 5: Biodiversity & Water Management

This theme explores opportunities for Whitehorse City Council to further integrate the natural environment into cityscape, strengthening land and water-based habitats. This includes action such as increas-

ing tree canopy cover, urban forestry and agriculture, use of drought and water resilient plants, native gardening, greener and cooler spaces as well as all aspects of integrated water management. It is supported by activity underway in the following strategies and plans:

- Urban Biodiversity Strategy
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Open Space Strategy

Theme 6: Waste Management

This theme identifies ways that Council can support the move away from the ‘take, make, dispose’ economy, towards one where materials are treated as precious resources, with nothing thrown away. The actions here extend some of the work underway in the Waste Management Strategy.

Theme 7: Sustainable Buildings and Homes

This theme outlines the ways that Whitehorse City Council can support transition locally to a built environment that provides comfortable, efficient, liveable spaces for people and will withstand climate related shocks and stressors, such as heat waves, flooding and other extreme weather events. The action in this theme is supported by work underway in the Sustainability Strategy and links strongly with Theme 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

Understanding the Budget

Due to the economic shocks of the current COVID-19 pandemic the implementation budget allocated to this plan, along with many other council activities, has been reduced. Actions within the plan are either funded in their entirety within the existing budget (allocated) or will require some additional internal investment (sought). A further suite of actions that require external investment have been identified and listed in the relevant theme.

Where budget has been allocated it is rated as either

High: above \$50,000

Medium: \$15,000-\$50,000

Low: under \$15,000

Theme 1: Strong Foundations with Good Governance

No.	ACTION	DELIVERABLE / OUTCOME	DEPARTMENT LEADING	DEPARTMENTS SUPPORTING	BUDGET	ALLOCATED OR SOUGHT	TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION
1.1	Develop and implement communication and training program for staff and Councillors on climate change to increase awareness of the local impacts, Councils' responsibilities and response.	All staff and Councillors are aware of the organisational response to climate change.	People & Culture	Engineering & Environmental Services	Low	Allocated	Commence Jan 2021
1.2	Consider and address the implications of climate change as Council strategies, plans and policies are developed and reviewed.	Over time, all strategies, plans and policies will consider and address the implications of climate change.	Engineering & Environmental Services	ALL	Low	Allocated	Ongoing
1.3	Review and further integrate climate risk into the Council's corporate risk register and risk management plan and communicate any changes.	Climate risk (physical, financial, legal and reputational) is adequately identified and addressed in Council's corporate risk register and risk management plan.	People & Culture	Engineering & Environmental Services	Low	Allocated	Ongoing
1.4	Work with the community to develop the 2022 Sustainability Strategy, including a greenhouse gas emissions target and plan for net zero emissions.	Community members are active and engaged in the process to develop the 2022 Sustainability Strategy and have set a reduction target by June 30 2022.	Engineering & Environmental Services		Low	Allocated	In line with Community Vision consultation Strategy finalised by June 30 2022
1.5	Implement an organisation wide staff behaviour change program to measure and reduce overall environmental impacts of Council operations.	Measurable reduction in resource consumption, energy, water and waste.	Engineering & Environmental Services	People & Culture	Low	Sought	Launch in January 2021
1.6	Create a working group across Council departments to drive climate response actions, coordinate and streamline effort and provide support to overcome barriers to action.	Regular meetings/ discussions to progress shared actions and support colleagues from across the whole of Council.	Engineering & Environmental Services	ALL	Low	Allocated	Establish October 2020 Quarterly meetings
1.7	Consider climate change impacts, risks and opportunities and circular economy principles in annual Procurement Policy reviews. This may include increased weighting/consideration of the carbon footprint, increasing targets for recycled content and sustainability performance of suppliers and contractors.	Weighting for climate change / sustainability criteria increased annually. A process to measure and track social and environmental impact through Procurement is established.	Finance	ALL	Low	Sought	Weighting - Annual reviews Measuring impact - June 2022
1.8	Conduct regular training and support Council officers regarding sustainable procurement: including park infrastructure, uniforms, stationery, catering, fleet.	Staff are making more sustainable procurement decisions.	Engineering & Environmental Services	People and Culture Finance	Low	Allocated	June 2021
1.9	Proactively seek external funding (i.e. government grants or other investment) to support additional activity identified throughout the plan.	Grant opportunities are pursued in line with priority activity identified.	Engineering & Environmental Services	ALL	Low	Allocated	Ongoing

Theme 2: Community Engagement

No.	ACTION	DELIVERABLE / OUTCOME	DEPARTMENT LEADING	DEPARTMENTS SUPPORTING	BUDGET	ALLOCATED OR SOUGHT	TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION
2.1	Develop and implement a Climate Change Strategic Marketing and Communication (SMC) Plan with clear messaging around the linkages between climate change impacts and benefits of action and community values (i.e. healthy parks and vegetation, more comfortable buildings, public transport, walking / cycling, cost savings over time). Ensure the plan includes clear actions to engage with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.	SMC Plan Developed and implemented collaboratively across key Council Departments. Community support for local climate action is strengthened. CALD and short term resident communities, including international students, understand the opportunities and benefits of climate action and how Council can support them.	Communications	Engineering & Environmental Services ParksWide Planning & Building	Medium	Sought	Developed: October 2020 Implemented: ongoing Reviewed: quarterly
2.2	Continue to deliver a coordinated Sustainability in Schools program. Including a Climate Leadership program for students.	Students are engaged and active in the local community on climate change and broader sustainability initiatives.	Engineering & Environmental Services		Low	Allocated	Ongoing
2.3	Develop and implement a coordinated calendar of community events.	Council events are regular, accessible, well attended and cover a breadth of sustainability and climate change issues for all local audiences.	Engineering & Environmental Services	Strategic Marketing & Communications Parkswide Planning & Building	Low	Allocated	August 2020
2.4	Use the opportunity presented by the Strathdon Sustainability and Healthy Living Precinct to showcase healthy, sustainable and climate resilient living.	The Strathdon Sustainability and Healthy Living Precinct is supporting action by the local community.	Engineering & Environmental Services	Arts and Cultural Services	Low	Allocated	Ongoing

Action that requires external investment

2.5 Piloting a model to build leadership and upskilling the community to run local projects and share ideas and skills.

Theme 3: Sustainable Transport

No.	ACTION	DELIVERABLE / OUTCOME	DEPARTMENT LEADING	DEPARTMENTS SUPPORTING	BUDGET	ALLOCATED OR SOUGHT	TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION
3.1	Review the Green Travel Policy and update it to incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote working arrangements to limit travel (where appropriate) Incentives for cycling/ walking/ catching public transport Longer term goals for zero emissions fleet management and transport 	More staff choosing to walk or cycle to work A clear pathway developed for net zero emissions corporate fleet management and transport.	Engineering & Environmental Services		Low	Allocated	Dec 2021
3.2	Review the 2016 Cycling Strategy and Capital Works Plan to identify potential infrastructure, construction and other actions that can be accelerated to maintain and grow the momentum of community members choosing to walk, cycle during the COVID 19 Pandemic.	More people choosing to ride or walk for transport (mode shift).	Engineering & Environmental Services		Low	Allocated	Dec 2020
3.3	Continue to work with the Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC), Eastern Regional Trails Strategy Working Group and Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) to advocate on key sustainable transport initiatives. Including identification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key cycling and walking infrastructure investments Improvements to connectivity between active and public modes of transport Opportunities to encourage / accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles 	Transport Advocacy Plan draws on existing strategies to develop a clear set of requirements from State and Federal Government to increase uptake of sustainable transport options in Whitehorse.	Engineering & Environmental Services		Low	Allocated	Ongoing

Actions that require external investment

3.4 Piloting innovative streetscape solutions that encourage the uptake of active transport.

3.5 Working with the community to assess opportunities to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles across the municipality. This may include:

- Key locations for charging infrastructure
- Incentives for uptake (i.e. discounted parking permits, priority parking in key shopping locations)

Theme 4: Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

No.	ACTION	DELIVERABLE / OUTCOME	DEPARTMENT LEADING	DEPARTMENTS SUPPORTING	BUDGET	ALLOCATED OR SOUGHT	TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION
4.1	Develop a pathway to carbon neutrality for Council operations.	Council has a clear pathway and target date for operational carbon neutral certification.	Engineering & Environmental Services	Corporate Performance	Low	Allocated	March 2021
4.2	Set a target date and a pathway for 100% renewable energy across Council operations. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition away from gas Self generation across all appropriate Council buildings, and Certified Green Power (possibly via a power purchase agreement) for the balance. NB: This should allow flexibility for Council to scale down its purchase as it scales up on-site energy efficiency and solar. 	Pathway and timeline established and communicated internally and externally.	Engineering & Environmental Services	Finance	Low	Allocated	March 2021
4.3	Pilot a program to reduce energy costs and increase energy independence for local businesses, supporting them in their recovery from the economic shocks of the COVID 19 Pandemic. The program will offer trustworthy advice, products and associated services.	Establish a cost-effective inclusive and accessible model for supporting local businesses that can be scaled up and resourced to take forward in the 2022 Sustainability Strategy.	Engineering & Environmental Services	Investment & Economic Development Property & Rates	Medium	Allocated	January 2022
4.4	Deliver an energy advice program to residents and businesses to ensure they have access to the information and support they need to make decisions to improve the comfort and performance of their buildings.	All residents and businesses have access to information and support they need to make informed decisions.	Engineering & Environmental Services		Low	Allocated	Ongoing
4.5	Continue to invest in council and community building efficiency.	Progressive delivery of energy audits and upgrades for council and community facilities.	Engineering & Environmental Services		High	Allocated/ Sought	June 2021

Action that requires external investment

4.6 Piloting a targeted sustainability and climate change adaptation assistance program for low-income and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) households.

Theme 5: Biodiversity & Water Management

No.	ACTION	DELIVERABLE / OUTCOME	DEPARTMENT LEADING	DEPARTMENTS SUPPORTING	BUDGET	ALLOCATED OR SOUGHT	TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION
5.1	Develop an Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan that allows Council to proactively manage increased rainfall intensity and declining supply. The IWM Plan will identify a suite of priority projects to be staged through capital works funding.	Integrated Water Management Plan (IWM) developed for implementation from 2022 onwards.	Parkswide	Engineering & Environmental Services	Medium	Allocated / Sought	June 30 2022
5.2	Update the Urban Forest Strategy to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More ambitious tree canopy targets across a range of sites • Improve alignment with the CRP and Sustainability Strategy • Models for (financially) sustainable maintenance programs • Feasibility study for passive irrigation for street trees. 	Urban Forest Strategy updated and ready for implementation.	Parkswide		Low	Allocated	December 2020
5.3	Develop and pilot a Green Corridors enhancement program in Gardiners Creek or Wurundjeri Walk.	Establish a cost-effective model and business case for a Greening Corridors programs for Whitehorse. Increased tree canopy cover.	Parkswide		Medium	Sought	June 2022
5.4	Extend Nature Strip Guidelines for under and mid-storey canopy cover to improve connectivity, climate resilience and biodiversity.	Nature Strip Guidelines are updated and tree canopy cover is increased.	Parkswide	Planning and Compliance	Low	Allocated	June 2021
5.5	Expand and target the promotion of citizen science and community programs, including Gardens for Wildlife and Tree Education, to encourage broader participation, especially for under-represented groups including CALD communities. .	More community members connected with nature, engaged and active through the community programs.	Planning and Building	Parkswide and Engineering & Environmental Services	Low	Allocated	June 2021

Theme 6: Waste Management

No.	ACTION	DELIVERABLE / OUTCOME	DEPARTMENT LEADING	DEPARTMENTS SUPPORTING	BUDGET	ALLOCATED OR SOUGHT	TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION
6.1	Build on the work already underway to minimise single use plastics at Council events and facilities and develop a pathway and timeline to eliminate them altogether.	Pathway and timeline for complete phase out of single use plastics established and communicated.	Facilities and Events	Engineering & Environmental Services	Low	Sought	June 2022
6.2	Empower and support staff to trial and evaluate improved food waste systems at Council offices and events.	Improved food waste management at Council offices and events. Reduced volume overall and increase in food waste diverted from landfill.	Engineering & Environmental Services	Arts and Cultural Services	Low	Sought	Ongoing
6.3	Pilot a program to improve waste management, resource recovery and boost the circular economy with local businesses, supporting them in their recovery from the economic shocks of the COVID 19 Pandemic.	Establish a cost-effective and inclusive model for supporting local businesses that can be scaled up and resourced to take forward in the 2022 Sustainability Strategy.	Engineering & Environmental Services	Investment & Economic Development	Low	Sought	June 2021

Actions that require external investment

6.4 Working with local community members to establish a repair cafe in Whitehorse.

6.5 Working with State Government to pilot models for recycling difficult items (for example polystyrene)

Theme 7: Sustainable Buildings and Homes

No.	ACTION	DELIVERABLE / OUTCOME	DEPARTMENT LEADING	DEPARTMENTS SUPPORTING	BUDGET	ALLOCATED OR SOUGHT	TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION
7.1	Update ESD Policy regarding Council Buildings to achieve best practice outcomes. Benchmark against similar local government areas and build internal capacity.	Whitehorse ESD Policy for Council Buildings (and implementation of the policy) is in line with Industry Best Practice	Engineering and Environment	Infrastructure Planning and Building	Low	Allocated	December 2020
7.2	Develop a centralised platform and method for sharing the ongoing energy performance monitoring of Council buildings.	Energy generated, consumed or exported across all Council buildings is tracked, monitored and communicated for anomalies, improvements.	Engineering and Environment		Medium	Allocated	December 2021
7.3	Develop a process to prioritise the available annual sustainability funding in order to achieve best value outcomes for Council facilities.	Process established. Internal stakeholders report improved prioritisation.	Infrastructure	Engineering & Environmental Services	Low	Allocated	September 2020

Actions that require external investment

7.4 Work with property developers and other stakeholders to pilot:

- A green walls / facade incentive
- Models for higher vegetation standards through the Planning Process (i.e. stronger vegetation removal and replacement requirements and/or adoption of the City of Melbourne Green Factor Tool)
- Models to better support sustainable modes of transport including bike parking, EV charging infrastructure and end of trip facilities.

7.5 Establishing an ongoing program to assess climate vulnerability of a range of Council assets, including drainage infrastructure, vegetation and community buildings serving a critical community function.

Monitoring Progress and Reporting

Implementation of the Climate Response Action Plan will be monitored by the cross departmental working group established under Theme 1. The progress of delivery of actions will be reviewed quarterly by this Working Group and reported annually to Council.

Actions will be reviewed and updated after the first year of implementation.

The key indicator of success of the Plan will be the completion of scheduled actions and deliverables in the Climate Response Action Plan.

Each action will be measured and reported via a traffic light system.

- Green – completed or on track for completion by due date.
- Orange – slightly off track but likely to be completed.
- Red – significantly off track or unlikely to be completed.

Actions reported as Orange or Red will need to be reviewed and updated. This will be completed in conjunction with the Working Group.



IMAGE: CLIMATE ACTION IS AN ONGOING PROCESS THAT REQUIRES COLLABORATION AND FEEDBACK

Appendix 1: Key Documents Reviewed

1. Council Vision

2. Council Plan 2017-2021

3. Sustainability Strategy 2016-2022

4. Whitehorse Open Space Strategy

5. Whitehorse Urban Biodiversity Strategy

6. Urban Forest Strategy

7. Community Road Safety Strategy 2013

8. Integrated Transport Strategy 2011

9. Whitehorse Cycling Strategy 2016

10. Draft Investment and Economic Development Strategy Extension 2020 - 2022

11. Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 - 2021

12. Whitehorse Municipal Emergency Management Plan ver 2017

13. Whitehorse Waste Management Strategy 2018-2028

14. Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2011

15. Community Local Law 2014

16. Procurement Policy June 2019

17. Affordable Housing Policy 2010

18. Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy (within the Planning Scheme)

19. Annual Report 2018/19
20. Community Satisfaction Survey 2019

21. Adopted Budget 2019/2020

22. 10 Year Capital Works Program (internal document)

23. DRAFT Sustainability and Healthy Living Framework Extract – Strathdon (internal document)

24. Carbon Neutral Report (internal document)

25. Climate Briefing Report (internal document)

26. Climate Change Adaptation Plan Review Jan 2020 (internal document)

27. Water Sensitive Cities Benchmarking and Assessment (internal document)

28. Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap Summary 2015

29. Greater Melbourne Climate Projections 2019

30. Victoria’s Climate Change Framework

31. Victoria’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020

32. Climate Change Risks to Local Government 2017

33. Climate Works Net Zero Momentum Tracker Local Government Report January 2020

34. Australian Local Government Climate Review 2018



IMAGE: WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

Appendix 2: Staff Contributions

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following staff for participating in the development of the Interim Climate Response Plan 2020-2022:

- The Executive Management Team
- Chris Hui, Senior Transport Project Officer
- Debbie Seddon, Manager - Community Development
- Elizabeth Roberts, Workforce Planning Project Lead
- Ellen Kimball, Community Development Officer
- Erin Hollis, Community Development Officer
- Garry Younger, Manager - Parkswide
- Garth Stewart, Emergency Management Officer
- Georgia Paterakis, Social Media Lead
- Gwilym Craig, Project Engineer
- Ian Barnes, Assistant Manager – Sustainability
- Ilias Kostopoulos, Manager - Engineering & Environmental Services
- Jacqi Sgro, Business Marketing Communications Officer
- Jaime Edge, Community Development Officer
- Jayne O’Grady, Capability and Development Lead
- Jo Harkin, Strategic Communications Advisor
- Julia Cushing, Procurement and Contracts Specialist

- Leo Pegoli, Co-ordinator – Buildings Project Management
- Lucy Menzies, Sustainability Officer
- Melanie Kerr, Waste and Sustainability Co-ordinator
- Melinda Federico, Risk Management Consultant
- Miho Portelli, Sustainability Officer
- Millie Wells, Senior Environment Advisor
- Mirjam Fabijanac, Co-ordinator - Engineering Assets
- Nigel Brown, General Manager - Infrastructure
- Serman Uluca, Active Transport Officer
- Shenan Bruce, Co-ordinator – Natural Environment:
- Stephanie Smith, Corporate Performance Officer
- Stephen Doyle, Co-ordinator – Facilities Maintenance
- Steven Morison, Manager Compliance
- Vanessa McLean, Senior Strategic Planner
- And Broderic Indranada, Deakin University



IMAGE: WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL STAFF

