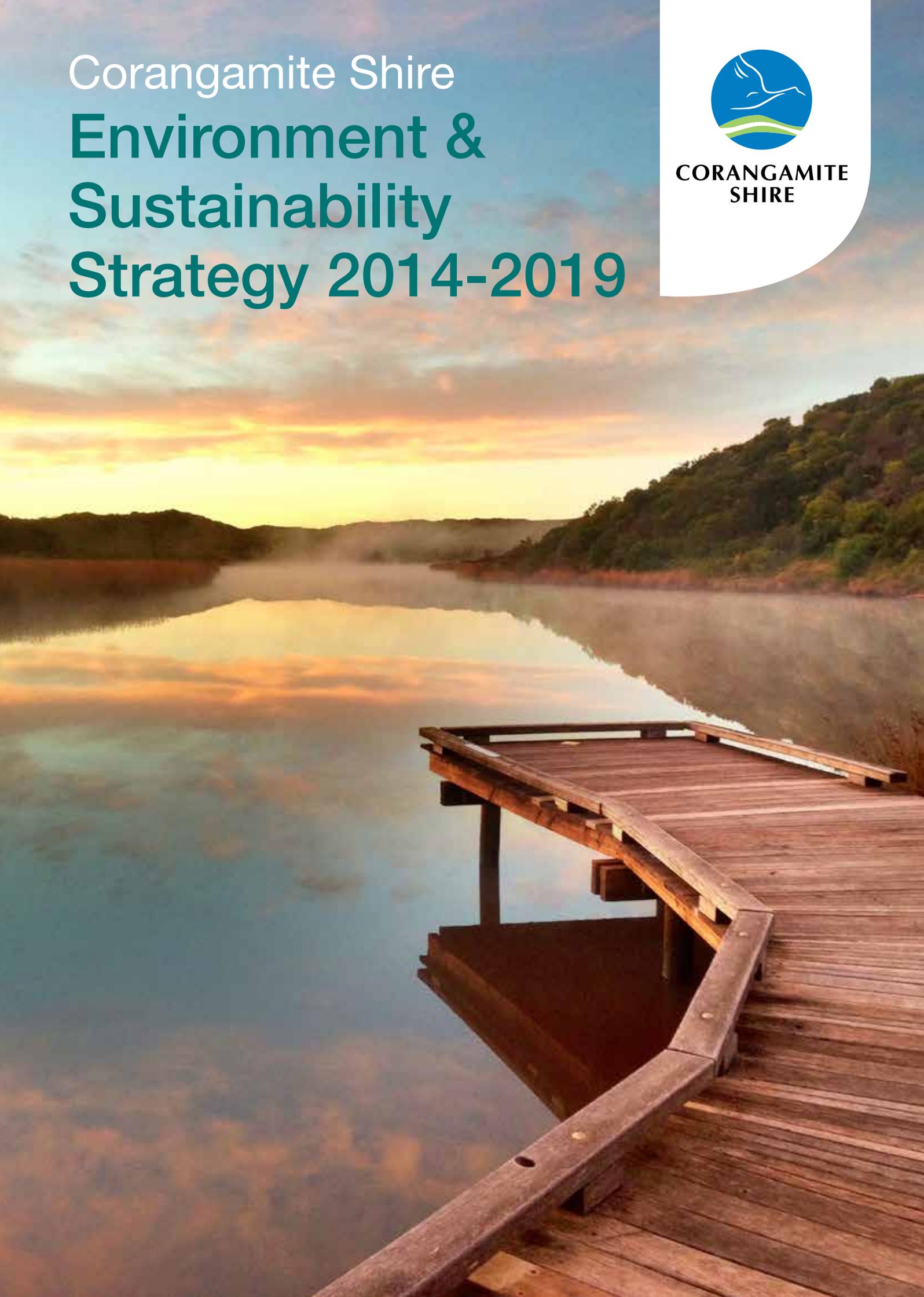


Corangamite Shire
**Environment &
Sustainability
Strategy 2014-2019**



**CORANGAMITE
SHIRE**



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Mayor's Forward

Corangamite Shire has abundant natural assets and resources that underpin the Shire's communities, culture and economy.

In the south, consistent rainfall and fertile soils combine to produce one of Australia's most productive dairying regions. In the north, volcanic plains and grasslands produce wool, beef, lamb and grain. More than a third of our population is employed in the agricultural sector, highlighting just how important our natural resources are.

But even more significant is the role our environment plays in the health of our local communities. Our residents choose Corangamite as a place to live because of its natural beauty. We breathe in the fresh smell of Eucalypts and Tea-tree. We can stand in a paddock, in the bush or on the beach and hear nothing but the wind. Our residents not only work the land, they enjoy and appreciate it. We recognise that a prosperous future for Corangamite Shire depends on good environmental management and a sustainable approach to development.

It involves Council taking a leadership role in the areas of land management, waste reduction, renewable energy, weed management and the protection of our natural assets.

This Strategy sets some bold targets so Council can lead by example and encourage our residents to think about the way we use resources and how it can impact our natural environment. The climate is changing and understanding that we all have a role to play in reducing our environmental impact is the first step to changing the way we act collectively.

Thank you to everybody involved in the development of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2014 - 2019. During the consultation phase we received strong, positive messages from our communities which enabled us to set clear directions.

Community support for this strategy has already set a good foundation and I'm confident that we can take positive steps so our future generations can use and enjoy Corangamite Shire's natural assets for years to come.



Cr Chris O'Connor
Mayor, Corangamite Shire Council

Section A: Strategy Overview



1 Introduction

1.1 Why do we need an environment and sustainability strategy?

The natural environment of Corangamite Shire is both diverse and unique. The rugged coastline and lush hinterlands of the south provide a contrast to the open woodlands and grasslands of the north.

Volcanic scoria cones and craters are unique to the Shire. Lakes, wetlands, estuaries and waterways are scattered across the landscape, including Ramsar listed wetlands, which have international significance for their habitat for migratory and non-migratory birds.

The diverse ecosystems sustain an array of indigenous flora and fauna species, including nationally significant species such as the Rufous Bristlebird and Hooded Plover among others, which are listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999. Critically threatened vegetation communities, also recognised under the EPBC Act, can be found in the Shire and include the Plains Grassy Woodland and Plains Grassland communities.

The natural environment underpins the Shire's economy and communities. Favourable soil and climatic conditions enable the production of milk, wool, beef, lamb and grain; and approximately 30% of the Shire's population is employed in the agricultural sector. Distinctive landscape features and natural assets provide the basis for a growing tourism sector and a range of recreational pursuits.

Threats, such as weed invasion, pest animals, poor soil management, unsustainable resource use and inappropriate development all pose a risk to the natural environment in Corangamite Shire.

The present threats, coupled with the strong association between the local environment, economy and community calls for a considered approach to environmental sustainability in Corangamite Shire. A planned approach to external pressures, such as climate variability, is also required so that the Shire can respond and adapt, as well as capitalise on the opportunities presented by future challenges.

This Environment and Sustainability Strategy builds on past achievements, encourages new thinking and presents opportunities for Council and the community of Corangamite Shire to be leaders in environmental sustainability.



Grassland species of the Victorian Volcanic Plains

1.2 What will the strategy do?

This strategy identifies the approach that Council will take, as one organisation amongst many, to protect and enhance the environment and sustainability of Corangamite Shire.

The strategy focuses on Council managed land and will be Council's guiding document for decision-making and delivery of environmental services and programs over the next five years.

The strategy will be used to:

- Give Council staff guidance about design and delivery of environmental and sustainability programs
- Support applications for funding internally and to external bodies
- Inspire community, Council staff and external stakeholders to take action on the priority environmental and sustainability challenges facing the Shire.

The strategy will also help achieve the natural asset objectives identified within the Corangamite Shire Council Plan 2013-2017:

- *Manage our environment for future generations*
- *Reduce energy consumption and promote use of clean energy*
- *Manage waste, including household waste and organics to increase recycling volumes*
- *Build resilience in our communities to adapt to impacts of climate change.*

Annual action plans will be developed using this strategy as a basis. The action plans will assist to achieve the goals set out in this strategy. Appendix 1 provides a template for the development of annual action plans.

The basis of the strategy is the natural environment and sustainability; however it will generate broader social and economic benefits. Additional social and economic benefits may include, but are not limited to:

- Potential cost savings from renewable energies and low carbon infrastructure
- New enterprises creating local employment opportunities e.g. in the agriculture, tourism and recreational sectors
- Improved quality of life benefits from healthier ecosystems
- Improved and more efficient waste facilities for the community
- Increased community cohesion and resilience arising from local initiatives such as community owned power.

Many of the strategies will also generate economic benefits for Council, such as reduced energy and water costs. There are likely to be other social and economic benefits for both the community and Council that are not identified here, but may also result through the implementation of this strategy.

1.3 Roadmap to the strategy

This strategy comprises of five sections, which can be read in sequence or as individual sections.

Table 1.1 provides a roadmap to the various sections of this strategy.

Section		Overview
A	Strategy Overview	This section introduces the strategy, including why Council has prepared a new strategy and what the strategy will do. It also sets the strategic direction including Council's role in the environment and sustainability, their sphere of influence and priority areas that are addressed in this strategy.
B	Setting the Scene	This section sets the context within which this strategy has been prepared. It includes drivers of change, policy context and the consultation that was undertaken in the early stages of developing the strategy.
C	Operational Priorities	The operational priorities include those areas where Council can take action through working with the community. Six operational priority areas have been identified in this section including waste, energy, natural assets, pest plants and animals, community capacity and climate variability. These areas are not presented in any order of priority.
D	Organisational Priorities	The organisational priorities focus on Council leading by example and sets goals for Council as an organisation across engaging staff, waste, energy, water, environmentally sustainable design and transport. These areas are not presented in any order of priority.
E	Implementation	This section briefly outlines the process Council will take to implement the strategy through developing annual action plans. The annual action plans will be where Council identifies the action they will take to achieve the goals in this strategy. Annual action plan templates are provided in Appendix 1.

2 Strategic direction

2.1 Council’s role in environmental sustainability

Council is one player amongst many striving to improve the environment and sustainability of Corangamite Shire and build the region’s reputation in this field. However, it is often other organisations that have the primary responsibility for achieving such a vision.

To achieve the best environmental and sustainability outcomes, it is important that Council works closely with the suite of national, state, regional, local and non-government agencies, as well as the community. Council also needs to be clear about its role in environmental sustainability and identify areas where it can achieve positive and effective change. Council has developed the following mission statement to guide its role in environmental sustainability.

Council’s mission

To lead innovation, invest in and advocate for priority environmental and sustainability issues that ensure the Shire has healthy ecosystems, productive landscapes, environmentally sustainable communities and capacity to adapt to future environmental challenges. We will achieve this mission by working with stakeholders and the community.



Council Environment Officer working with local landholder

2.2 Sphere of influence

Council’s ability to directly control or influence environmental sustainability actions varies. In some cases, Council has direct accountability for, or control over, an issue, such as the statutory responsibility for the management of domestic pets. Council can also make a direct contribution to environmental sustainability through managing its own operations e.g. through reducing internal waste, water and energy use.

In other cases, Council may be concerned about an environmental issue, such as ground water extraction, but has limited ability to directly control or positively change the situation. This varying ability to control, influence or advocate for a situation or issue is illustrated in the “spheres of influence” in Figure 2.1.

These three spheres of influence have been used in developing the strategies to ensure Council balances its efforts appropriately.

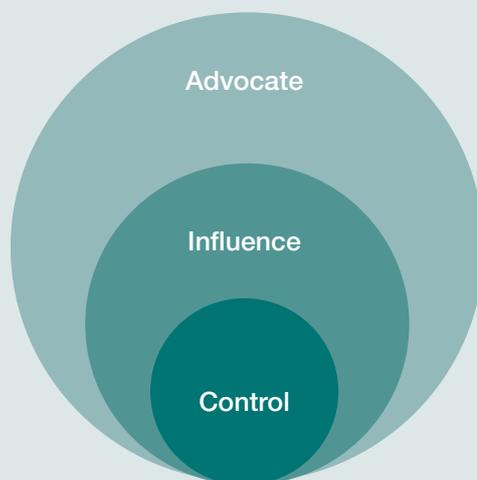


Figure 2.1: Spheres of influence

2.3 Council priority areas

Council has identified seven priority areas to guide Council in achieving their over-arching mission. Objectives, goals and strategies have been identified within each priority area. The priority areas are presented in Table 2.1. They are not presented in any order of priority.

Table 2.1: Council priority areas for the environment and sustainability as addressed in this Strategy.

Focus	Priority Area	Objective
OPERATIONAL Working with the community	Waste	Reduce waste to landfill and increase the recovery of waste resources, to extend the lifecycle of resources.
	Energy	Increase the production and diversity of renewable energy in the Shire, providing support and leadership to the community in this area.
	Natural assets	Increase the protection and enhancement of natural assets in Corangamite Shire.
	Pest plants & animals	Reduce the impact of pest plant and animals on environmental, economic and community values in Corangamite Shire.
	Community capacity	Engage and empower the community to address environmental and sustainability concerns in Corangamite Shire.
	Climate variability	Increase the resilience of the community to adapt to changes and respond to extreme events.
ORGANISATIONAL Working within Council	Council leading by example	Reduce Council's environmental impact across all operations and strengthen commitment to being a leader in environmental sustainability.

Priority areas have been identified at an operational and organisational scale

The operational priorities consider those areas where Council can influence and support action within the wider community to improve the environment and sustainability more broadly.

This can include providing improved community waste services, incentives for renewable energy uptake in the community or supporting new and existing community environment groups and volunteers. The strategies for each of the organisational priority areas are presented within the context of Council's three spheres of influence (refer to Figure 2.1, Section 2.2).

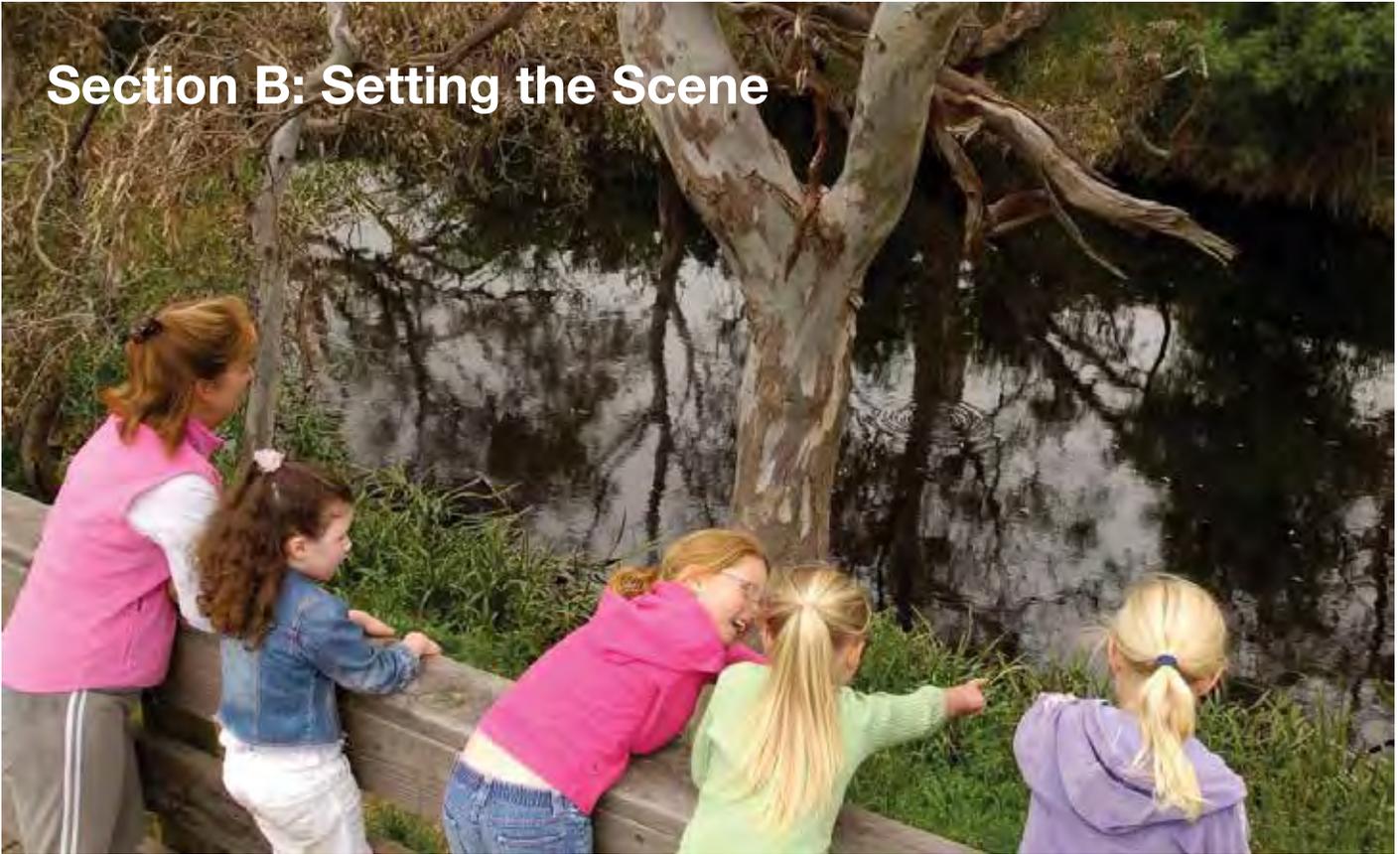
The organisational priorities focus on what Council can do as an organisation to reduce its overall environmental impact. There was a clear message through the consultation, from community and staff alike, for Council as an organisation to be proactive in reducing its environmental impact and demonstrate leadership in doing so.

Six sub-areas have been identified as areas of action for Council to improve their environmental sustainability as an organisation.



Naroghid Landfill

Section B: Setting the Scene



3 Strategy context

3.1 Drivers of change

This strategy recognises that there are a number of 'drivers of change' that will influence the natural environment in Corangamite Shire. Changes to agriculture, land use, an increasing demand for natural resources and population growth and an ageing demographic will all shape the local environment, community and economy, presenting challenges and opportunities for Council.

External pressures such as climate variability and rising energy costs will present aspects that are outside Council's control. However there remains a role for Council in preparing for and responding to these changes and capitalising on the opportunities they present.

Agriculture: preservation and innovation

Corangamite Shire contributes 19%, or approximately \$479 million annually (based on 2005/06 data) to Victoria's agricultural production. The main producers are dairy and wool, meat production (mainly beef and lamb) and cropping. Combined agriculture, forestry and fishing employ approximately 32.5% of the working population within the Shire (Versace et. al. 2013).

Given the importance of agriculture to the local community and economy of Corangamite, the preservation of the limited supply of agricultural land is necessary for the sustainable development of primary productivity within the Shire. It is also important that agricultural practices have a minimal impact on the natural environment, to best ensure agriculture remains viable and sustainable into the future.

There are considerable opportunities within the Shire to progress innovative agricultural practices that not only increase efficiencies and production, but also contribute positively to the natural environment. There are opportunities to trial innovative farm energy, waste and water practices such as the reuse of green waste as compost on dairy farms and 'green' dairy cleaning systems.

There is also a role for Council to encourage and support environmentally sustainable farming practices such as fencing off waterways, good soil management and indigenous revegetation. Such practices could be supported through current river and soil health programs administered by the Corangamite and Glenelg-Hopkins Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs).

Supporting and promoting the production and purchasing of local food will also help to generate benefits for local agricultural enterprises, local communities and the environment through reduced food miles and carbon emissions.

Land use change

The combination of favourable climatic conditions and productive soils means that land in Corangamite is highly desirable. In addition to the current main agricultural industries, there are opportunities for other high yield enterprises such as horticulture, viticulture, poppies and green tea to be established in the Shire (Urban Enterprise 2011).

Climate variability may also influence land use change. By 2040 predictions indicated a southward trend of suitable cropping land and a contraction of suitable dairy land (Versace et. al. 2013). The change in climatic conditions may support the development of new agricultural enterprises. It is important that the development of any new enterprises occurs in a way that is complementary to the natural environment, and integrates well with existing agricultural industries.

Land use change may also occur in response to a steadily growing population (see beneath), driving a potential increase in subdivision for residential and industrial purposes. The population of coastal townships such as Port Campbell are growing and are likely to experience heightened demand for residential and holiday accommodation.

There is a responsibility from Council to ensure that population growth, and the associated development, occurs in a way that is environmentally sustainable. There are opportunities to achieve this through the incorporation of environmentally sustainable design (ESD) principles in new developments; rehabilitation of natural areas surrounding new development; protection of existing biodiversity assets and areas of potential biodiversity linkages; and in-fill development to reduce township expansion, ensuring the preservation of agricultural land, biodiversity and rural amenity.



View of the Southern Ocean from Port Campbell Headland

Population growth and ageing demographic

Over the next 20 years, the population of Corangamite Shire is expected to increase by approximately 13% (forecast.id 2011). Drivers for population growth include growth in tourism, retail, health and education; consolidation of agricultural industries and growth in value-adding; and attraction of families to the area based on lifestyle (forecast.id 2011). Overseas migration

and movement of retirees from the city have also contributed to population growth.

The Corangamite Shire has an ageing population. The population of people aged over 65 is expected to increase by 19% by 2021, and over 85 by 29%. As such, a significant proportion of the Shire's population will be aged over 65 in the next ten years.

An ageing demographic will be an important consideration under future climate scenarios, due to the increased risk to elderly people of extreme events, such as heat waves. Steady growth in the population overall will place more pressure on infrastructure and increase the demand for new developments, all of which will need to consider the impact of climate variability and rising energy costs.

Natural resource demand

The Shire has many natural resources such as natural gas and quarrying materials that make it attractive to outside investment.

The discovery of natural gas deposits has boosted the Shire's industrial development in recent times and currently there are a number of large-scale developments proposed by BHP Billiton, TRU Energy and Origin Otway Gas (Urban Enterprise 2011). There is also significant interest in quarrying in the Shire, for materials such as scoria. While these developments present economic benefits for the Shire, the associated environmental impacts mustn't be overlooked.

The Shire is also rich in renewable energy sources. There are several unique strengths that make the Shire attractive for renewable energy development including:

- Proximity to transmission lines - the 66kV and 500kV Alcoa lines intersect the Shire
- Good availability of wind resources in some parts of the Shire;
- The potential to exploit other types of renewable resource such as geothermal, wave and tide (Urban Enterprise 2011).

Renewable energy developments present economic opportunities for the Shire, whilst offering more environmentally sustainable alternatives. This is recognised in the Council Plan (2013), which identifies alternative energy technologies and community owned and operated energy as contributing to economic growth in the Shire.

There are challenges for Council in progressing renewable energy opportunities, such as wind power, due to community concern and resistance, potential impact to landscape amenity and appropriate site selection. The potential impact to flora and fauna, particularly avian fauna, from wind turbines is also a concern. However, through the consultation for this strategy there was considerable support from the community for diverse local-scale renewable energy projects.

In addition, water is likely to become an increasingly valuable resource as climate predictions suggest average annual rainfall is expected to decrease. This may increase competition for water resources across sectors such as agriculture, industry, recreation and domestic use. This presents an opportunity to increase water efficiency and conservation developments in Corangamite.

Rising energy costs

Over the past four years, the cost of electricity for households has risen by an average of around 70% nationally (DRET 2013). One of the biggest contributing factors is the finite nature of oil and coal.

Conventional crude oil prices have increased steadily since 2009, and many analysts believe global oil extraction has peaked and will continue to decline. This is likely to see an increased reliance on unconventional oil and gas, which is currently more expensive and has a lower energy return on investment (Murray & Hansen 2013).

At a local level, increased energy prices may translate into higher prices for all forms of transport, increased food and retail prices and increased domestic utility bills. Rising energy costs may stimulate a significant shift in behaviour as individual homes and entire communities reduce carbon and energy footprints. Opportunities exist for users to generate their own renewable energy such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydro.

Climate variability

Even the most conservative climate projections show that Corangamite Shire will get warmer and drier over the coming decades. The greatest increase in temperature is expected in the south western region near Timboon and the driest area will likely occur north of Camperdown (DEPI 2014).

Sea level rise is expected to have significant impacts on the Shire's coastline, particularly at Port Campbell (DEPI 2014). Climate variability impacts will extend across the environment, economy and community of the Shire. Extreme climate events will present complex challenges for the Shire. While Council has limited, if any, ability to influence climate variability they do have a role in managing and adapting to the impacts and capitalising on the new circumstances. As knowledge about the impacts of climate variability develops, goals and strategies may need to be revised.

Policy and regulation

Changes to government policy and regulation will always occur, presenting both challenges and opportunities for Council. Several recent policy and regulation changes will have implications for Council's role in the environment and sustainability. Such changes include:

- The State Government's Getting Full Value – Victoria's waste and resource recovery policy provides new direction for waste management and include reforms to institutional arrangements, including the amalgamation of the Barwon and South West Waste Management Groups (refer to Section 4).
- A statewide draft Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan has been recently developed and identifies the Naroghid Landfill as a hub of state significance with the potential to receive waste from other smaller landfills (refer to Section 4).

Climate variability in Corangamite Shire Projected climate impacts

Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture sector put under stress, in particular the dairy industry • Water infrastructure put under stress • Impacts to coastal infrastructure due to sea level rise • Increase in water demand • Power infrastructure put under stress • Increase in electricity demand from winter heating to summer cooling
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in water quality and flows in rivers and wetlands • Altered species distribution • Greater risk of bushfires • Inundation from heavy rains and storm events
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in heat-related health deaths and illnesses, in particular: Elderly People under physical stress Cardiovascular disease

- Following the 2009 Victorian Bush Fires Royal Commission, an amendment was made to clause 52.17 of the Victorian Planning Provisions (VPP) allowing exemptions for a range of works to remove native vegetation on public and private land.
- The Victorian government is undertaking further reforms to native vegetation clearing regulations. New guidelines are to be incorporated into the VPP in place of the Native Vegetation Framework. The new guidelines, called Permitted clearing of native vegetation – Biodiversity assessment guidelines, set out a risk-based approach, information and offset requirements and decision guidelines for permitted clearing. Landholders will be required to use these guidelines to undertake an assessment of native vegetation removal on their land prior to seeking a permit from Council.
- A recent amendment to the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act (1994) has limited Council's responsibilities for roadside weeds and rabbits to situations where a certain set of criteria are met (refer to Section 7).
- In 2011, an amendment was made to the VPP making local Councils the responsible authority for all planning permit applications for the use and development of land for a wind energy facility. In 2012, amendment VC82 was gazetted prohibiting wind energy facilities in a range of locations, including along the Great Ocean Road and in areas of high conservation significance.

It is important that Council remains flexible in the face of changing policy and regulation particularly where new and emerging policies, such as carbon pricing, present a high degree of uncertainty. There will be challenges for Council in adapting to new and changing policy, however it is important that the potential opportunities are recognised and capitalised upon.

3.2 Policy context

There are many legislative requirements that guide Council operations – from weed and native vegetation management through to energy and resource use. Acts relating to environmental management of particular significance to Council include:

- Australian Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)
- Victorian Local Government Act (1989)
- Victorian Planning and Environment Act (1987)
- Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (1988)
- Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994)
- Victorian Environment Protection Act (1970)

At a regional scale, Corangamite Shire is a member council of the Great South Coast Group and is represented on the ‘Sustain our Natural Assets’ pillar, which is responsible for addressing regional issues relating to natural resources, climate variability, settlements and land use. The Great South Coast Regional Growth Plan (2013) provides direction for regional development and land use in this region of Victoria. This strategy has been developed in consideration of the strategic directions set out in the Regional Growth Plan.

The strategy is also cognisant of other state and regional strategies such as the Corangamite and Glenelg-Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategies and the associated sub-strategies (e.g. Waterway Strategy, Soil Health Strategy), the Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the Victorian Coastal Strategy.

Within Council, this strategy will influence whole of Council operations, as demonstrated in Figure 3.1. The broad context of this strategy, and the associated social and economic outcomes, means the development and delivery of other Council strategies and plans will need to occur within the context of this strategy.



Figure 3.1: The Environment and Sustainability Strategy within the broader context of Council

3.3 Consultation

In developing this strategy, the community, stakeholders and Council staff were asked to identify the most pressing environmental and sustainability issues and opportunities for Corangamite Shire. Many of the issues and opportunities were discussed within the broader context of other influences such as climate variability, natural resource demand, population growth, land use change and the preservation of agriculture (refer to Drivers of Change, Section 3.1).

The main issues and opportunities identified through the consultation are included beneath, in no order of priority:

- Waste management, including reduction in waste and resource consumption in Council and the community, and improved provision of Council managed waste services
- Renewable energy (in particular solar power) for Council infrastructure and operations, and the community
- Protection, enhancement and restoration of the natural environment and productive agricultural lands
- Managing the land to be sustainable and productive for future generations.
- Pest plants and animals, across land tenures
- Support for community environment and sustainability groups and initiatives
- Council to demonstrate leadership in environmental sustainability
- Environmentally sustainable building design
- Environmentally sustainable, low-carbon transport options

There was a clear message from the community that they want Council to show more leadership and direction in solar power, home sustainability, waste management, support for existing environment groups and communication about Council’s own sustainability activities.

There was widespread support amongst Council staff for proactive involvement in achieving better environment and sustainability outcomes within Council. This community and staff support for environment and sustainability provides a strong foundation for Council to implement this strategy and achieve good outcomes for the environment and sustainability in Corangamite Shire.

Appendix 2 provides a schedule of the consultation activities undertaken in developing the strategy.



Community consultations stall at Port Campbell

Section C: Operational Priorities

Working with the community



4 Waste

OBJECTIVE

Reduce waste to landfill and increase the recovery of waste resources, to extend the lifecycle of resources.

Context

Effective waste management and resource recovery is an essential service that protects environmental health – the more waste we generate, the greater the risks of groundwater and land contamination, greenhouse gas emissions, odour, noise, dust and litter (DEPI 2012).

Corangamite Shire is committed to reducing waste to landfill, improving the recovery of recyclables and organics and reducing litter across the Shire. Significant efforts have been made by Council to improve waste management, through the provision of appropriate services and facilities and strengthening regional alliances. For example:

- Council operates the Corangamite Regional Landfill at Naroghid. During 2012-13 the landfill received 34,301 tonnes. Council has recently amended the site's licence to increase to composting capacity from 2,400 t per annum to 10,000 t per annum from across the south west.
- The recently developed draft Victorian Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan identifies Naroghid Landfill as a hub of state significance, recognising the potential for the landfill to expand.
- Council is investigating opportunities to improve resource recovery at Naroghid, using alternative waste treatment

technologies. Investigations are also underway to improve the treatment of organics at the landfill. This may involve new treatment technologies, waste to energy projects or waste sorting at the landfill.

- There are six transfer stations located across the municipality, at the Naroghid Landfill, Skipton, Derrinallum, Timboon, Simpson and Port Campbell. Comingled recyclables are accepted for free at all transfer stations.
- Corangamite Shire is a member of the South West Regional Waste Management Group, which is responsible for implementing best practice waste management and education across South West Victoria. As of July 2014 the group will merge with the Barwon region forming a larger Barwon South West Group. This amalgamation may present regional-scale opportunities such as improved waste streams and efficiencies, new waste technologies and improved economies of scale.

Current waste management

Kerbside collection in Corangamite during 2012-2013 (volumes collected*)

Waste

1,876 tonnes in total
7.10 kg waste/
household/week

Recycling

1,224 tonnes in total
4.63 kg recyclable/
household/week

Green organics

1,474 tonnes in total
5.90 kg green organics
/household/week

Recovery rate

59%

* Council currently offers kerbside waste, recycling and green waste collection to 5,081 properties located in township collection zones.



Green Organics Program

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline	
1	Kerbside waste per household to landfill has reduced by 10% by 2019, based on 2013 levels	Collect annual kerbside waste data to monitor reductions	2014-19
2	Kerbside recovery of organics and recyclables per household has increased across the Shire by 10% by 2019, based on 2013 levels	Collect annual kerbside organics and recyclables data to monitor reductions	2014-19
3	Waste facilities have improved recovery rates within 3 years	Review recovery rates at all waste facilities	2017
4	Large waste producers in the Shire will implement improved waste recovery technology in the next five years	Review the implementation of waste recovery technology by large waste producers in the Shire	2019
5	A high level alternative waste technology project will commence in the Shire by 2019	Review the establishment and progress of a high level waste technology project in the Shire	2019

How will Council achieve the goals?

Council influence	Strategies
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop waste facilities to meet best practice management standards Improve resource recovery and processing at Council managed waste facilities Support the community to reduce per capita waste, through the provision of appropriate waste services and other Council led initiatives
Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with the community (including schools, households, businesses and farms) to decrease waste to landfill and increase alternative waste technologies Support community and business led waste initiatives
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for conditions and programs that will support a decrease in waste to landfill and an increase in alternative waste technologies in the Shire

5 Energy

OBJECTIVE

Increase the production and diversity of renewable energy in the Shire, and improve energy efficiency within homes, providing support and leadership to the community in these areas.

Context

Renewable energy supplies, reducing overall energy consumption and trialling new renewable energies within the municipality are important components of a more environmentally sustainable Corangamite Shire.

The landscape and climate within Corangamite Shire presents significant opportunities to trial and produce renewable energy including wind, solar, geothermal, wave energy and waste to energy.

The community plays an important role in reducing generation of greenhouse gases through behaviour change, retrofitting energy saving appliances and devices and switching to more sustainable forms of energy e.g. through community-scale energy production and bulk-buying schemes for solar. The uptake of more sustainable transport options also presents opportunities for the community to reduce their energy use.

There are opportunities for Council to continue shifting its own energy consumption to more renewable sources whilst playing a supporting and informing role for the community on this topic.



Cape Bridgewater Wind Farm, Glenelg Shire

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline	
6	Council will support renewable energy production across the Shire to double by 2019	Review renewable energy production data for the Shire	2019
7	One renewable energy supply will be produced in the Shire at a commercial scale by 2019	Identify the number and type of commercial renewable energy producers operating in the Shire	2019
8	One community owned renewable energy supply will be established in the Shire by 2019	Identify the number of community owned renewable energy supplies in the Shire	2019
9	Residential homes across the Shire will have improved energy efficiency by 2019	Review energy efficiency of residential homes across the Shire	2019
10	The availability and uptake of sustainable transport options will have increased by 2019	Review the availability and uptake of sustainable transport options	2019

How will Council achieve the goals?

Council influence	Strategies
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead renewable energy production, research and development in the Shire (refer to Section 10.3) Communicate Council's progress in renewable energy production to the community (refer to Section 10.3)
Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and partner with the community, industry and other stakeholders on innovative, locally led renewable energy initiatives Support residents in the Shire to implement energy saving initiatives in their home Encourage the uptake of more sustainable transport options amongst the community Support the community to reduce per capita energy consumption through education and community-based programs and incentives
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for legislative and regulatory conditions that will support an increase in renewable production in the Shire



Solar panels on Corangamite Shire Civic Centre, Camperdown

6 Natural assets

OBJECTIVE

Increase the protection and enhancement of natural assets in Corangamite Shire.

Context

The diverse natural environment of Corangamite Shire supports significant flora and fauna and provides many important ecological values and services for the local community and economy. There are many threats, which pose a risk to the natural assets in the Shire. These threats include, but are not limited to:

- Pest plants and animals and fragmentation of habitat
- Modification
- Disease
- Salinity
- Vegetation clearing
- Soil acidification
- Inappropriate land use and/or land management practices
- Unsustainable resource use e.g. water, timber, quarrying
- Inappropriate development variability
- Climatic variability

Council's role in managing land and biodiversity assets on land outside its jurisdiction is limited. It is important that Council works with other government stakeholders including Parks Victoria, DEPI, the CMAs, as well as the community, to manage land and biodiversity values for healthy ecosystems, productive landscapes and a vibrant community.

Natural assets of Corangamite Shire

- Remnant vegetation covers approximately 11% of the Shire and is confined to the south-eastern regions and along the coastal fringe (Versace *et al*, 2013).
- Nationally significant species such as the Hooded Plover, and other important species such as the Rufous Bristlebird, Swamp Antechinus and Glossy Grass Skink reside in the Shire.
- Lakes and wetlands, some of which are Ramsar listed, host migratory and non-migratory birds of international significance.
- Ecological vegetation communities, which are critically endangered and a matter of national significance under the EPBC Act 1999, can be found in the Shire. This includes the Plains Grassland and Plains Grassy Woodland communities.
- The numerous parks and reserves provide important ecological values and services for community and visitors, such as the Port Campbell National Park and Twelve Apostles Marine National Park. Healthy parks and reserves also support a growing tourism sector.
- The natural environment, in particular fertile soils and a favourable climate, is the basis for productive agricultural industries including dairy, wool, beef, lamb and grain.

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline	
11	There will be a 5% increase in the health and production of natural assets on Council managed land by 2019	Collect annual natural asset data for Council managed land using Council's roadside mapping, NaturePrint and Index of Stream and Wetland Condition as a basis where applicable	2014-2019
12	Council will have formed three formal partnerships with other stakeholders to increase the protection and enhancement of natural assets by 2019	Identify the number of partnership projects	2019
13	One large biolink project will be established in partnership with stakeholders and community by 2019	Review the progress and establishment of the biolink project	2019

How will Council achieve the goals?

Council influence	Strategies
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve the health and protection of natural assets on Council managed land through monitoring and working with the relevant Council departments e.g. roads, parks and gardens, infrastructure• Use planning mechanisms to increase the protection and connectivity of natural assets across the Shire• Implement the strategies relating to biodiversity assets in the Corangamite Shire Rural Roadside Management Plan
Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support and partner with community groups and volunteers to protect and enhance natural assets across land tenures, and increase community awareness of biodiversity• Partner with the relevant agencies to protect and enhance natural assets and implement the best management practices
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for increased investment in natural asset protection and enhancement



Mount Elephant

7 Pest Plants and Animals

OBJECTIVE

Reduce the impact of pest plant and animals on environmental, economic and community values in Corangamite Shire.

Context

Pest plants and animals are those that occur beyond their natural range and have the potential to impact economic, environmental and/or social values.

In Corangamite Shire, as in other parts of Victoria, pest plants and animals can significantly impact biodiversity values, agricultural industries and amenities through:

- Competition with, and displacement of, indigenous flora and fauna
- Contamination of goods and services
- Land degradation e.g. soil disturbance caused by rabbits
- Spread of disease to indigenous flora and fauna, pets and livestock



Roadside pampas grass is an issue

Local government responsibilities for weed and pest management are regulated by the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994, under which Council has a responsibility for controlling 'Regionally Prohibited' and 'Regionally Controlled' weeds on Council managed land.

Roadside weeds and rabbits

In 2013 an amendment was made to the CaLP Act to provide clarity around local government's responsibility for roadside weeds and rabbits.

Under the new amendment local government obligations for managing regionally prohibited and regionally controlled weeds on roadsides are limited to situations where a certain set of criteria are met. This includes roadsides where sustained community-led weed control is producing a clear public benefit, where weed management is required to meet the objectives of a recognised community-led group, and where state and regional priorities are being addressed.

Council has developed the Rural Roadside Management Plan to provide direction on how roadside weed management obligations under the CaLP Act can be met.

Adopting an asset protection approach enables Council to set priorities for allocation of funding among the many Council managed assets threatened by invasive plants and animals.

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline	
14	Priority weeds will be reduced on Council managed land across the Shire by 10% by 2019	Review the extent of priority weeds on Council managed land	2014-2019
15	There will be no increase in the extent of new, emerging and isolated weed infestations, which may impact on priority environmental assets	Review the extent of new, emerging and isolated weed infestations across the Shire	2014-2019
16	The extent of priority weeds will not increase beyond the 2013 extent on Council managed land	Review the extent of priority weeds across Council managed land	2014-2019
17	Pest animal harbour on Council managed land will be reduced by 5% by 2019	Review the extent of pest animal harbour on Council managed land	2014-2019
18	Community satisfaction for the management of roadside weeds will have increased by 2019	Review the Community Satisfaction Survey, using the 2012-13 satisfaction levels as the baseline	2014-2019

How will Council achieve the goals?

Council influence	Strategies
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the most appropriate weed and pest management practices on Council managed land and provide education of Council staff and work with the relevant agencies Trial new weed and pest management techniques on Council managed land in partnership with the relevant agencies
Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the community to reduce the spread of weeds and pest species across land tenures, through education and local initiatives Partner with stakeholders and agencies to raise community awareness of new and emerging weed and pest species and trial new management techniques
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for support in pest plant and animal management in areas such as compliance and enforcement, investment and research and development

8 Community capacity

OBJECTIVE

Engage and empower the community to address environmental and sustainability concerns in Corangamite Shire.

Context

Many individuals and groups within the Corangamite community have a strong interest in the environment and sustainability. There is a strong network of community-based environment groups currently operating in the Shire.

There are two Landcare Networks – the Heytesbury District Landcare Network in the south and the Corangamite Lakes Landcare Network (formerly Lismore Land Protection Group) in the north of the Shire. These networks support smaller Landcare and conservation based groups.

Other informal networks and volunteer groups, such as hall committees and friends of groups, have undertaken retrofit activities through Council grant programs. The many volunteers involved in these community groups have made significant contributions to the local environment and sustainability, and continue to do so.

The existing network of community-based groups provides a platform to build community interest and action on local environmental and sustainability issues. Education, incentive programs and support for new and existing community groups are just some of the opportunities for Council to help build community capacity in addressing environmental and sustainability issues.

Another important component of building community capacity will be supporting local farmers to manage their land in a way that ensures it is sustainable and productive for future generations. This was identified as a high priority through the community consultation for this strategy.



Cobden Lake community planting with local Scouts

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline	
19	Council will provide support for environment and sustainability in the form of resources, information and/or funding to at least three groups within the Shire	Identify the number of community groups Council has supported and the scale of support provided (resources, information and funding)	2014-2019
20	One sustainability focused group will be established within the Shire in the next three years	Review the focus of community groups operating in the Shire	2017
21	Community education on environmental sustainability will be increased over the next three years	Review the sustainability focused community programs undertaken e.g. number of activities and participants, against 2013 community education data	2017

How will Council achieve the goals?

Council influence	Strategies
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directly support volunteer environment and sustainability groups and individuals, through the provision of funding, resources and information Provide recognition of volunteers and community groups who make a measurable contribution to the environment and sustainability in the Shire
Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support locally driven initiatives and the establishment of new environment and sustainability community groups Partner with schools and agencies to increase community awareness of local environment and sustainability issues
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate on behalf of the community on key environment and sustainability issues as they arise

9 Climate variability

OBJECTIVE

Increase the resilience of the community to mitigate and adapt to changes and respond to extreme events.

Context

Corangamite Shire is not immune to the impacts of extreme weather events, having already experienced such events as prolonged drought, flooding and fire. Climate variability will present complex challenges for Council and the community across social, economic and environmental parameters.

Council recognises the importance of building resilience through planning and adapting to a changing climate. Council has already taken some steps, such as retrofitting Council buildings and facilities to reduce carbon emissions. Council has also developed a Health and Wellbeing Plan and a Heatwave Plan to respond to the likely social impacts of climate variability within the community.

Council is a member of the Climate Resilient Communities of the Barwon South West project, which is a joint collaboration between 10 municipalities and DEPI. The project aims to assist municipalities and stakeholders to understand and respond to risks and opportunities presented by future climatic changes

and extreme weather events.

Council must work with the community to plan for the anticipated climate events, so that the Shire as a whole has the capacity to respond to the challenges and capitalise on the opportunities that a changed climate may present.

Building resilience in a changing climate

Resilience refers to the ability and capacity to withstand, recover and adapt from stress, as it is a measure of how much disturbance a system or community can handle without losing its functionality. Council has the ability to build resilience to a changing climate by anticipating and planning according to projected and current climate events.

Source: *Climate Resilient Communities: Corangamite Shire Council plan (2014)*

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline	
22	A climate variability plan will be prepared for Corangamite Shire within three years	A climate variability plan is developed and considers the local economy, environment and community	2017
23	At least one major adaptation for a changing climate will be implemented by 2019	Identify the number of adaptations implemented in the Shire and review their progress	2019
24	Corangamite Shire's vulnerability to a changing climate will have decreased (based on the 2013 Climate Resilient Communities assessment) by 2019	Review Corangamite Shire's vulnerability to a changing climate against the Climate Resilient Communities 2013 assessment	2019
25	There will be increased community awareness of individual vulnerability and risk to climate variability	Review the level of community awareness of climate related vulnerability and risk against 2014 levels	2019

How will Council achieve the goals?

Council influence	Strategies
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify climate variability impacts and opportunities when undertaking internal planning processes and operations Increase community understanding of local climate variability impacts, vulnerability and adaptation through the provision of information and local initiatives Identify indicators for measuring climate vulnerability and risk Review Council planning mechanism to ensure they adequately address climate related events and impacts e.g. overlays
Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with agencies, industry, research institutes and the community to fill knowledge gaps and identify climate impacts to the local environment, community and economy Work with the community and other stakeholders to develop locally specific adaptation responses to climate variability, including identifying potential opportunities
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for support, such as increased research, information and investment, to develop local adaptation responses to climate variability



Skipton floods 2010



Section D: Organisational Priorities Working with Council

10 Council leading by example

OBJECTIVE

Reduce Council’s environmental impact across all operations and strengthen commitment to being a leader in environmental sustainability.

Context

Taking action internally is an important step in transitioning the Shire to be more environmentally sustainable with an increased capacity to respond and adapt to drivers of change such as climate variability.

By reducing its environmental impact, Council will be able to demonstrate that it is an organisation that is serious about its commitment to the environment and sustainability. The goals that have been set will challenge Council to identify economically viable systems and strategies for achieving environmental sustainability.

Council can become more environmentally sustainable by reducing internal use of waste, energy and water, improving building design and more efficient transport options.

Support and active participation from all Council staff will be central to achieving effective and long-lasting change within the organisation and more broadly across the community.

The following sub-areas have been identified by Council as priorities to achieve its objectives:

- Engaging staff
- Waste
- Energy

- Water
- Environmentally sustainable design
- Transport



Installation of energy efficient street lighting

10.1 Engaging staff

Context

The transition to being a more environmentally sustainable organisation requires the participation and commitment of all staff. Resource use must be monitored and reduced not only within the office, but also across all Council operations in order for Council to make a meaningful reduction in its environmental impact.

The current interest amongst Council staff provides a strong basis to drive internal engagement on environmental and sustainability strategies.

Within each of the sub-areas e.g. waste, energy, water, ESD and transport there are strategies to engage staff on environmentally sustainable initiatives. Many of the internal strategies may also benefit staff through increased efficiencies, reduced costs, healthier work environments and more social interaction with colleagues across the organisation.

Staff at Corangamite Shire value environmental sustainability

A staff survey* undertaken for the development of this strategy showed strong support amongst staff members to achieve better environmentally sustainable outcomes within Council and to be proactively involved in doing so.

- 95% of staff members indicated that this was either very important or important to them that Council demonstrates good environmental and sustainability practice.
- The majority of staff members said they were prepared to play either a leadership and advocacy role (32%) or a support and participate role (54%) to help Council achieve better environmentally sustainable outcomes.

* 69 surveys were completed by staff

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline
1 Environmentally sustainable practices have increased across all Council work areas	Review environmentally sustainable practices in each Council work area	2014-2019

How will Council achieve the goal?

Embedding environmentally sustainable practices across the organisation and creating a more environmentally responsible culture will be the responsibility of all Council staff and departments.

Strategies to engage staff have been identified across each of the five sub-areas and these strategies have been denoted with the symbol *.



Corangamite Shire Staff Planting Program



10.2 Waste

There is capacity for Council to improve internal waste management through increasing the use of recycled and recyclable products; undertaking regular waste audits to measure progress; providing staff education and programs on recycling, waste reduction and composting.

Council has already taken some measures to reduce office paper use. For example, Council agendas are now distributed electronically.

Council waste audit

An internal waste audit was undertaken by Council in 2008, producing the following results:

- Council recovers around 54% of waste for recycling
- Within the recyclables there was 7% contamination with non-recyclables
- Of the waste that goes to landfill, 25% was recyclable.



General rubbish and recycling bins at a community event

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline
2 Council waste going to landfill has been reduced by 20% by 2019	Review the volume of waste going to landfill against 2013 levels	2014-2019

How will Council achieve the goal?

Strategies

- Identify opportunities to increase recycling and composting across Council
- Investigate the development of an environmentally responsible purchasing policy for Council
- Develop staff initiatives and education to reduce waste and improve recycling and composting practices across all work areas*

10.3 Energy

Shifting Council’s internal energy consumption to more renewable sources, and working to reduce overall energy use, are important actions in reducing the organisation’s environmental impact.

Council has already taken steps to increase the use of renewable energy through the installation of solar power on several Council buildings. There is opportunity for Council to promote their own solar use, demonstrating leadership and acting as a source of information for the community on this topic.

Corangamite Shire showing leadership in solar power

- Solar power systems currently operating at Council managed sites
- Corangamite Shire Civic Centre 37kW system
- Camperdown Depot 5.85kW system
- Various Council facilities Total of 66kW

During 2012-13, Council saved \$10,000 in electricity charges through solar generated power

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline	
3	Council energy use has been reduced by 10% by 2019	Review energy usage across Council against 2013 levels	2014-2019
4	The renewable energy produced by Council has been increased by 10% by 2019	Review renewable energy production by Council against 2013 levels	2014-2019

How will Council achieve the goal?

Strategies

- Increase the energy efficiency of Council offices, buildings and facilities.
- Increasing the production of renewable energy and trialling of alternative energy sources
- Retrofit existing Council buildings to incorporate energy efficient technology
- Communicate Council energy savings to the community and use as a basis for community information on renewable energy
- Develop staff initiatives and education to increase energy efficient behaviours across the organisation*

10.4 Water

There are significant opportunities for Council to collect and conserve water, reducing demand on potable water supply, including:

- Installing water saving devices in Council buildings e.g. water tanks, dual flush toilets, water saving showerheads etc.
- Increasing water reuse in Council operations e.g. open space irrigation, road maintenance works
- Increasing sustainable gardening practices in Council managed parks and reserves e.g. water wise gardens
- Providing staff education on water conservation and advocating practice change
- Undertaking regular water use audits within the Council offices and across Council operations.

Potable water usage by Council

Based on 2012-13 data total potable water use for Council facilities was 84.5ML.

The biggest potable water users in the Shire include:

- Camperdown Saleyards 17.75ML
- Municipal swimming pools^ 12.7ML
- Camperdown Avenue 8.7ML
- Terang Avenue 6.4ML

^Includes Camperdown, Cobden, Lismore, Skipton, Terang and Timboon swimming pools.

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline	
5	Council's potable water use has been reduced 10% by 2019	Monitor and review Council's potable water use against 2012-2013 data	2014-2019

How will Council achieve the goal?

Strategies

- Increase water efficiency across Council offices, buildings and facilities such as swimming pools
- Decrease potable water use in Council operations such as parks and gardens irrigation, construction and road works
- Retrofit existing Council buildings to increase water efficiency
- Develop staff initiatives and education to increase water efficiency practices across all work areas*

10.5 Environmentally sustainable design (ESD)

Environmentally sustainable design (ESD) aims to reduce the environmental impact of the construction and operation of buildings. ESD focuses on reducing resource use through smart design, which considers the surrounding environment and the use of efficient technologies. Buildings that are based on ESD principles are often more cost-efficient to operate and create healthier environments for occupants through the inclusion of natural light and ventilation, and the use of non-toxic materials, for example.

This is a new area for Council; establishing ESD principles within Council will be the first step. Beyond this there is opportunity for Council to influence the broader adoption of ESD principles within the community e.g. through the planning process and incorporation of environmentally sustainable streetscapes.



Renovating the Corangamite Shire offices at Manifold Street, Camperdown in 2011

What is an environmentally sustainable streetscape?

Rain garden streetscapes

A rain garden is a garden bed which is designed to treat stormwater. As water falls onto and enters the garden it passes through a filter media which is planted with vegetation.

The treated stormwater then returns to the drainage system or infiltrates into the ground. Rain gardens can provide a greener solution to treating stormwater in streetscapes and reduce demand on potable water for plants (Clearwater 2012).

Indigenous vegetation

Streetscapes can also be planted with local indigenous plant species, which provide numerous benefits. Indigenous vegetation species are well adapted to local soil and climatic conditions, have minimal irrigation requirements, contribute to distinctive local landscape character and provide habitat for wildlife (Surf Coast Shire 2014).

Edible streetscapes

Edible streetscapes, or verge gardens, is the practice of growing edible plants on the footpath. The rise in popularity of edible gardens has seen an increase in the planting of fruits, herbs and vegetables, sometimes mixed with flowers and native plants, along footpaths. This practice provides benefits including food production, increased aesthetics and shade, habitat and community interaction. This is a growing practice in many urban Councils around Melbourne and Sydney (Australian City Farms & Community Garden Network 2010).

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline
6 All new Council buildings will have a minimum 5 Green Star Certified Rating and all existing buildings will be moving towards improved efficiency by 2019	Review Council buildings in accordance with the Green Star Certification Rating system	2019
7 Environmentally sustainable streetscapes in the Shire will have increased by 2019	Review progress and establishment of sustainable streetscapes incorporating rain garden, indigenous vegetation and/or edible streetscape principles	2019

How will Council achieve the goal?

Strategies

- Incorporate ESD principles into all new Council offices, buildings and facilities and in the renovation of existing buildings, using other Councils who are leaders in ESD as a benchmark
- Provide information and tools for the community on ESD, using Council experience and case studies; use planning mechanisms where appropriate to strengthen ESD requirements for new dwellings
- Provide ESD information and tools to staff*

10.6 Transport

Using more efficient forms of transport across Council will contribute to reducing Council's environmental impact.

This can be achieved by shifting to fuel-efficient fleet vehicles; offsetting vehicle fleet emissions and advocating sustainable modes of transport amongst staff to and from work.

Council Fleet Policy

Corangamite Shire Council is already taking steps to improve the fuel efficiency of their fleet vehicles. For example:

- The environmental performance of all new light fleet vehicles is considered using the Australian Government's Green Vehicle Guide.
- Light commercial vehicles must have a Green Vehicle Guide star rating of 2.5 stars or higher.
- Passenger Vehicles must have a Green Vehicle Guide star rating of 3.5 stars or higher.

Information based on Corangamite Shire Council Policy – Vehicle Fleet Policy & Procedures (2013)



Corangamite Shire Staff Ride to Work Day 2013

What does Council aim to achieve?

Goal	Measuring the goal	Timeline	
8	Council's overall fuel usage has been reduced by 5% by 2019	Review current fuel usage by Council light fleet and heavy plant vehicles	2014-2019
9	CO2 emissions produced by Council has been reduced by 10% from 2013 levels by 2019	Review the CO2 emissions produced by Council	2014-2019
10	The use of sustainable transport options used by staff to commute to work has been increased by 5% by 2019 e.g. bike, walking, car-pooling	Review the modes of commuter transport used by staff	2014-2019

How will Council achieve the goal?

Strategies

- Reduce Council's vehicle emissions through offsets, fuel efficient vehicles and plant items and trialling alternative fuelled vehicles
- Communicate Council initiatives to reduce vehicle emissions to the community
- Develop staff initiatives to encourage fuel-efficient driving and adoption of low carbon transport options to commute to work*

11 Implementation

This strategy will help guide the development and implementation of Council's environmental and sustainability programs over the next five years.

To achieve the goals identified within the strategy, annual action plans will be developed for operational and organisational priority areas. Using the templates in Appendix 1, targeted actions will be developed to help achieve each of the goals. The strategies in each priority area will help guide the development of the actions.

Regular monitoring and evaluation will be important in determining how effective the actions are in helping to achieve the goals. This will also help to ensure Council's efforts and resources are being used in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Specific tools have been identified within the action plan templates to assist Council to measure their progress in achieving the goals. Some actions will need to be reviewed annually, whilst others will be reviewed over a longer timeframe.



Section E: Implementation

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Appendix 1: Annual action plan templates

Template 1: Operational action plan

Priority Area	Goals	Measuring the goal	Timeline	Action Plan Year:
WASTE	1. Kerbside waste per household to landfill has reduced by 10% by 2019, based on 2013 levels	Collect annual kerbside waste data to monitor reductions	2014-2019	
	2. Kerbside recovery of organics and recyclables per household has increased across the Shire by 10% by 2019, based on 2013 levels	Collect annual kerbside organics and recyclables data to monitor reductions	2014-2019	
	3. Waste facilities have improved recovery rates within 3 years	Review recovery rates at all waste facilities	2017	
	4. Large waste producers in the Shire will implement improved waste recovery technology in the next five years	Review the implementation of waste recovery technology by large waste producers in the Shire	2019	
	5. A high level alternative waste technology project will commence in the Shire by 2019	Review the establishment and progress of a high level waste technology project in the Shire	2019	
ENERGY	6. Council will support renewable energy production across the Shire to double by 2019	Review renewable energy production data for the Shire	2019	
	7. One renewable energy supply will be produced in the Shire at a commercial scale by 2019	Identify the number and type of commercial renewable energy producers operating in the Shire	2019	
	8. One community owned renewable energy supply will be established in the Shire by 2019	Identify the number of community owned renewable energy supplies in the Shire	2019	
	9. Residential homes across the Shire will have improved energy efficiency by 2019	Review energy efficiency of residential homes across the Shire	2019	
	10. The availability and uptake of sustainable transport options will have increased by 2019	Review the availability and uptake of sustainable transport options	2019	
NATURAL ASSETS	11. There will be a 5% increase in the health and production of natural assets on Council managed land by 2019	Collect annual natural asset data for Council managed land using Council's roadside mapping, NaturePrint and Index of Stream and Wetland Condition as a basis where applicable	2014-2019	
	12. Council will have formed three formal partnerships with other stakeholders to increase the protection and enhancement of natural assets by 2019	Identify the number of partnership projects	2019	
	13. One large biolink project will be established in partnership with stakeholders and community by 2019	Review the progress and establishment of the biolink project	2019	

Priority Area	Goals	Measuring the goal	Timeline	Action Plan Year:
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	14. Priority weeds will be reduced on Council managed land across the Shire by 10% by 2019	Review the extent of priority weeds on Council managed land	2019	
	15. There will be no increase in the extent of new, emerging and isolated weed infestations, which may impact on priority environmental assets	Review the extent of new, emerging and isolated weed infestations across the Shire	2014-2019	
	16. The extent of priority weeds will not increase beyond the 2013 extent on Council managed land	Review the extent of priority weeds across Council managed land	2014-2019	
	17. Pest animal harbour on Council managed land will be reduced by 5% by 2019	Review the extent of pest animal harbour on Council managed land	2014-2019	
	18. Community satisfaction for the management of roadside weeds will have increased by 2019	Review the Community Satisfaction Survey, using the 2012-13 satisfaction levels as the baseline	2014-2019	
COMMUNITY CAPACITY	19. Council will provide support for environment and sustainability in the form of resources, information and/or funding to at least three groups within the Shire	Identify the number of community groups Council has supported and the scale of support provided (resources, information and funding)	2014-2019	
	20. One sustainability focused group will be established within the Shire in the next 3 years	Review the focus of community groups operating in the Shire	2017	
	21. Community education on environmental sustainability will be increased over the next 3 years	Review the sustainability focused community programs undertaken e.g. number of activities and participants, against 2013 community education data	2017	
CLIMATE VARIABILITY	22. A climate variability plan will be prepared for Corangamite Shire within three years	A climate variability plan is developed and considers the local economy, environment and community	2017	
	23. At least one major adaptation for a changing climate will be implemented by 2019	Identify the number of adaptations implemented in the Shire and review their progress	2019	
	24. Corangamite Shire's vulnerability to a changing climate will have decreased (based on the 2013 Climate Resilient Communities assessment) by 2019	Review Corangamite Shire's vulnerability to a changing climate against the Climate Resilient Communities 2013 assessment	2019	
	25. There will be increased community awareness of individual vulnerability and risk to climate variability	Review the level of community awareness of climate related vulnerability and risk against 2014 levels	2019	
ENGAGING STAFF	1. Environmentally sustainable practices have increased across all Council work areas	Review environmentally sustainable practices in each Council work area	2014-2019	

Priority Area	Goals	Measuring the goal	Timeline	Action Plan Year:
WASTE	2. Council waste going to landfill has been reduced by 20% by 2019	Review the volume of waste going to landfill against 2013 levels	2014-2019	
ENERGY	3. Council energy use has been reduced by 10% by 2019	Review energy usage across Council against 2013 levels	2014-2019	
	4. The renewable energy produced by Council has been increased by 10% by 2019	Review renewable energy production by Council against 2013 levels	2014-2019	
WATER	5. Council's potable water use has been reduced by 10% by 2019	Monitor and review Council's potable water use against 2012/13 data	2014-2019	
ENVIRO, SUSTAINABLE DESIGN	6. All new Council buildings will have a minimum 5 Green Star Certified Rating and all existing buildings will be moving towards improved efficiency by 2019	Review Council buildings in accordance with the Green Star Certification Rating system	2019	
	7. Environmentally sustainable streetscapes in the Shire will have increased by 2019	Review progress and establishment of sustainable streetscapes incorporating rain garden, indigenous vegetation and/or edible streetscape principles	2019	
TRANSPORT	8. Council's overall fuel usage has been reduced by 5% by 2019	Review current fuel usage by Council light fleet and heavy plant vehicles	2014-2019	
	9. CO2 emissions produced by Council has been reduced by 10% from 2013 levels by 2019	Review the CO2 emissions produced by Council	2014-2019	
	10. The use of sustainable transport options used by staff to commute to work has been increased by 5% by 2019. <i>eg. bike, walking, car-pooling</i>	Review the modes of commuter transport used by staff	2014-2019	

Appendix 2: Development of the strategy and consultation

Development of the strategy

Development of the strategy involved four stages, each with an associated written report as demonstrated in Figure A1.



Figure A1. Development of the Corangamite Environment and Sustainability Strategy

A Project Steering Committee comprising Councillors and representatives from the Corangamite Shire Environment Unit oversaw the development of the strategy. Table A1 provides a breakdown of the specific tasks involved in the development of the strategy.

Table A1. Tasks undertaken in the development of the strategy

Tasks	Timetable
1. Project set-up and inception meeting	July 2013
2. Initial workshops with Council staff and stakeholders	7 August 2013
3. Councillor workshop	10 September 2013
4. Collate initial feedback and present to Project Steering Committee	September 2013
5. Community consultation period	September – November 2013
6. Review community feedback and present to Project Steering Committee	November 2013
7. Internal Council workshop with Project Steering Committee	November 2013
8. Prepare Draft Strategy	December – January 2014
9. Present Draft Strategy to Project Steering Committee & Council	January – February 2014
10. Draft Strategy released for public comment	March – May 2014
11. Review comments with Project Steering Committee	May 2014
12. Present Final Strategy to Project Steering Committee	May 2014
13. Present Final Strategy to Council	June 2014
14. Council endorsement	June 2014

Consultation schedule

The tables beneath provide a summary of the consultation activities undertaken in the development of the strategy.

Table A2: Issues and Opportunities Workshops

Group	Date	Attendees
Workshop 1: Council staff	7 August 2013	A total of 11 participants. The following Council divisions were represented: Economic Development and Tourism, Environment and Emergency, Planning and Building Services, Facilities and Recreation, Works and Assets Planning. The Community Relations team was consulted internally on a separate occasion.
Workshop 2: External stakeholders	7 August 2013	A total of 19 participants. The following organisations were represented: Greening Australia, Trust for Nature, Waste Reduction Group, Lismore Landcare Protection Group, Heytesbury District Landcare Network, Glenelg-Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI), Coastcare, Wannon Water, peak bodies such as the United Dairy Farmers of Victoria (UDV) and the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF), West Vic Dairy and DemoDAIRY. Invited but did not attend: Sustainability Victoria, Ballarat Environment Network, Parks Victoria and Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Two Councillors and the Mayor, as well as Council Environment staff also participated in the workshop.
Workshop 3: Councillor Briefing	10 September 2013	All Councillors participated.

Table A3: Community consultation activities

Group or event	Date	Number of participants
Street stall, Terang	13 October 2013	1
Camperdown Saleyards	13 October 2013	
Corangamite Shire Youth Council	14 October 2013	10
Heytesbury District Landcare Network	15 October 2013	9
Lismore Land Protection Group and Stony Rises Landcare Group	15 October 2013	5
Skipton Farmers Market	9 November 2013	
Cobden Lake Committee	11 November 2013	6
Cobden CFA	11 November 2013	Approx 20
Farmer Focus Group (Invitations were extended to farmers in the Shire by Councillors to participate in the discussion group)	12 November 2013	12
Noorat Show	16 November 2013	



**CORANGAMITE
SHIRE**

CORANGAMITE SHIRE COUNCIL

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