



# Yarra Climate Emergency Plan 2024–2030 snapshot



Acknowledgement of Country

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past and present.

Introduction

We all want to live in a healthy and just community where everyone is supported, no matter their age, background, ability or circumstances. A world where people and nature thrive, now and into the future.

But right now, we are living in a climate emergency driven by burning fossil fuels, land clearing and excessive waste.

Here in Yarra, we are seeing our unique plants and wildlife disappear before our eyes. People in our community are suffering the impacts of more frequent and intense heatwaves and storms – and those most at-risk are bearing the brunt of it.

This moment of crisis is a moment for hope – from crisis comes transformation.

The solutions are here and now, and every day we get bolder and more courageous and the number of people taking action grows.

Local councils have a unique role in addressing the climate emergency with their deep understanding of community needs, close relationships with community groups and local businesses and ability to influence planning and environmental outcomes.

Yarra was one of the first Councils to declare a climate emergency. Our declaration recognised that the planet’s climate is already too hot and that effort is needed across all levels of government, businesses, and communities to address the climate crisis.

Together with our community, we have already achieved so much through our Climate Emergency Plan 2020-24.

Already, the community of Yarra is reducing emissions by switching to renewable energy, reducing waste and recycling, moving to a more plant-based diet and standing up and speaking out for political action and climate justice.

But if we want to create a safe and just future where people and nature thrive, all levels of government must do more, and faster, to address it.

Our community has told us time and time again that addressing the climate crisis is a top priority and that Council should do more.

This next iteration of the Climate Emergency Plan (2024-2030) builds on the existing Plan and ramps up the ambition. It responds to current and emerging challenges across our community, natural environment, and economy.

This Plan has been developed in partnership with our community. We want our community to be part of the climate solutions we develop, every step of the way. Together, we can create a safe and just future where people and nature thrive.

Our Climate Emergency Plan commitment

We recognise the scale of ambition required to match this moment of crisis. In this plan, we outline 7 transformations across society which will bring forth our collective vision of a climate-safe, sustainable and just society.

This plan signals our role in these key transformations from now until 2030. Within this timeframe we will deliver two three-year action plans, which will map the actions we plan to take to achieve the 7 transformations outlined above. These transformations are not inevitable or easy to achieve but will be the result of everyone uniting towards a shared vision.

Vital perspectives included in the Plan

- Centering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences and knowledges
- Fostering social justice and equity
- The rights of young people and future generations
- The rights of nature
- A commensurate climate emergency response

The 7 transformations



Transformation 1

In Yarra every choice we make and every action we take responds to the climate emergency.

Objectives

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1.1 | Our individual and collective choices and behaviours reduce emissions, conserve resources, and build climate resilience |
| 1.2 | Every Council decision and action responds to climate emergency   |



## Transformation 2

Yarra's community, especially those most at risk, are connected, supported and empowered to build climate resilience.

### Objectives

- 2.1 Understand and support the diverse needs of our community to bolster climate resilience.
- 2.2 Council works collaboratively with community organisations that service community members at greater risk from climate impacts.
- 2.3 Climate resilience is embedded across Council services.
- 2.4 Council advocates for policies and programs which facilitate climate resilience among community members at greater risk.



## Transformation 3

Yarra is active, empowered and raising our voice together for a stronger climate emergency response.

### Objectives

- 3.1 Our community is actively and consistently leading and participating in collective climate action.
- 3.2 Council, community, and other partners are advocating on climate emergency issues together.
- 3.3 Young people are supported to engage in democratic processes and decision making.



## Transformation 4

Yarra is a leading and prosperous zero-emissions city.

### Objectives

- 4.1 Zero carbon homes.
- 4.2 Zero carbon businesses.
- 4.3 Zero carbon transport.
- 4.4 Zero carbon organisation.



## Transformation 5

Yarra is Caring for Country.

### Objectives

- 5.1 Collaborate with Traditional Owners as decision-makers and partners on Country.
- 5.2 Everyone in Yarra will have access to biodiverse-rich spaces and nature within a walkable distance from their home, workplace or school.
- 5.3 Invest in nature and expand climate-adaptive greening, biodiversity and urban agriculture outcomes.
- 5.4 Advocate for nature within Yarra and beyond.



## Transformation 6

In Yarra everyone lives and works in comfortable and climate-safe homes and buildings, supported by climate resilient public spaces and infrastructure.

### Objectives

- 6.1 Yarra's homes and workplaces are climate-safe, resilient and thermally comfortable.
- 6.2 Yarra is building, upgrading and maintaining safe and resilient public infrastructure.
- 6.3 Yarra's public spaces and streetscapes are connected, climate resilient and create an enabling environment for climate conscious living.



## Transformation 7

Yarra is transitioning to a circular economy by consuming less, repairing, sharing, and repurposing more, and sending less waste to landfill.

### Objectives

- 7.1 Yarra is transitioning to a circular economy by demanding circular design, buying less, borrowing, reusing, repairing, repurposing and recycling more.
- 7.2 Waste to landfill and recycling contamination are eliminated.
- 7.3 Council and local businesses are implementing circular economy principles across supply chains.
- 7.4 We are advocating to government and key stakeholders to embed circular economy principles in the design and manufacture of goods and services.