



W2040



OUR ENVIRONMENT

Climate change presents a threat to our natural and built environment, to our communities and economy. Increased flooding, bushfires and heat stress are all risks which Warrnambool is vulnerable to. Building a community which has greater resilience to a changing climate is a high priority.

Warrnambool and the wider Great South Coast [region] is well placed to face many of the challenges posed by climate change. The region has an abundance of clean and renewable energy opportunities from wind, wave, solar and geothermal. Warrnambool has the opportunity to develop as a future "Green City" with vast amounts of public open space, corridors for flora and fauna, predicted reliable rainfall increasing sustainable transport options and the ability to plan for a sustainable built environment.

The Warrnambool community has demonstrated a commitment to sustainability and caring for the natural environment.

From the revegetation of the Flume and the creation of the community garden to the protection of Coastal Spaces the community has shown that the natural environment and sustainable use of resources is a high priority.

How are we faring?

What is going well in Warrnambool?

- 98 indigenous vegetation species along our coast, 6 are rare species.
- Revegetation of indigenous plants along our waterways
- The Middle Island Project – Use of Maremma guardian dogs to protect the colony of Little Penguins.
- Street Smart Lighting Project – 1902 mercury vapour lights replaced with efficient LED globes.
- 68 kms of on-road bike lanes
- Reuse of stormwater
- 42% of open space has a conservation function

What needs improvement?

- Use of sustainable transport modes - cycling, walking, public transport
- Recycling of waste - only 39%
- Up take of energy efficiency programs and practices
- Use of indigenous vegetation and shade canopy planting in public spaces and private property
- Only 78% of houses within 1km of a major off-road trail (target 95%)
- Public access and habitat corridors along waterways

Council's Goals

Coastal Management - Ensure environmental, cultural and other values are retained and improved when planning and managing the coast

Waterways and wetlands - Recognise, protect and improve the natural values of our waterways and wetlands.

Pest plants and animals - Minimise the threats and impacts pest plants and animals present to native flora and fauna.

Protection of flora and fauna - Protect and improve biodiversity for current and future generations.

Parks, reserves and public open spaces - Ensure our Parks, Reserves and Public Open areas are managed to improve environmental values, passive transport networks, community ownership and public safety.

Create community awareness and involvement - Encourage the community to become involved and take into account environmental considerations in everyday life.

Sustainable communities - Ensure future planning and development meets the needs of the present while allowing for future generations needs.

Climate change - To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop programs and policies to adapt to climate change.

Water and energy efficiency – Continue to develop and implement programs to reduce water and energy use. Work with partner agencies to create community behaviour change for more efficient use.

Resource efficiency, waste, recycling and pollution - Consider the natural environment when using, purchasing and disposing of resources.

Leadership, reporting and accountability - To be innovative, progressive and accountable management of the environment and build capacity in environmental awareness and involvement.



ECONOMY



ENVIRONMENT



PEOPLE



PLACE