



# Climate Emergency Response Plan



**Manningham Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the traditional owners of the land and waterways now known as Manningham. For millennia, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cared for country using land management practices that worked with the natural environment.**

**We recognise their connection to country and the important role that such practices have in adapting to climate change. We will continue to work with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to ensure that traditional knowledge, perspectives and practices form a part of our shared response to the climate emergency.**

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# Executive summary

**In 2020, Manningham Council adopted a resolution that 'acknowledges we are in a state of serious climate and environmental change and that this climate emergency requires urgent action by all levels of government, including local government.'**

Climate change is already having a significant global impact. In Manningham, climate change risks and impacts are growing. This includes more extreme weather, increased average temperature, water availability risks and the flow on effects from these things which all threaten the liveability of Manningham.

Manningham Council has long recognised the risks of climate change and has been taking climate action for a long time. Our experience and momentum have us well placed to increase this action. We will also need to significantly scale up support for community action.

We have explored and are developing a broad range of climate actions that we and the Manningham community can take. They include climate mitigation or initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, initiatives to adapt to climate change already occurring or imminent and advocacy.

Community feedback demonstrates that there is a shared commitment with Manningham Council to take this increased action on climate change. The feedback indicates that people of different genders, income levels and other attributes can experience the impacts of climate change differently and there will also be varying capacity for people to take climate action.

The feedback also indicates that our community want progress on taking climate action, but not at any cost. This aligns well with our adopted principle that actions 'be based on best value and be economically prudent, environmentally viable and technically proven.'

With that shared commitment, we have adopted ambitious aspirational climate mitigation or greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. The adopted targets are:



The *Climate Emergency Response Plan* outlines our approach to addressing climate change in Manningham. Through increased climate action, we aim to enhance the liveability of Manningham, promote community health and well-being, and boost the resilience of our natural and built environments, as well as the economy.



# Climate risks

## By making small changes in our everyday lives, we can make a big difference in the health of our planet.

Understanding and addressing climate change is vital as it is already having a damaging and growing impact on Manningham's liveability, community health and wellbeing. It also impacts the natural and built environments and the economy.

The climate projected to become hotter, more erratic and to shift across continents.

The Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO's State of the Climate reports detail the climate change that has already occurred and is predicted for the future. It includes 1.44 degree celsius of warming for Australia since 1910. For Melbourne and Manningham, declining total rainfall will likely continue at the same time as isolated downpours become more intense.

Climate risks already impacting Melbourne and Manningham and likely to worsen over the long term include the following:



extreme weather including heatwaves, bushfire, storms, wind, hail and flooding



increased average temperature



water availability

Extreme weather in Manningham has been particularly notable during 2020 and 2021 causing significant damage to property, trees and vegetation and a higher risk of harm to people:

- A January 2020 hail storm caused about \$5 million of property damage and clean-up costs incurred by Manningham Council. Private property owners also incurred significant damage and costs.
- June and October 2021 wind storms resulted in about \$150,000 of costs for Manningham Council.
- The flow on effects of such impacts are keenly felt, including growing insurance costs.

With increasing likelihood and moderate to catastrophic consequences, these have been assessed as 'high' or 'very high' risks for Manningham. It is increasingly difficult for us and our community to adapt to these growing risks.

This is why Manningham needs to take more action to address climate change and lessen these risks through climate change mitigation and adaption actions.

We also recognise that people experience climate change risks and impacts differently. Gender, income, cultural background and other personal attributes can all influence this lived experience of climate change.

The intersectionality of attributes or the compounding effect of attributes can feed into socio-economic inequality that means some people are more vulnerable to climate impacts.

This intersectionality and socio-economic inequality can also influence people's capacity to take climate action and preferences of what type of actions to take.

We need to be mindful of and responsive to this differing impact and differing capacity and preferences for action. If there are climate change mitigation or adaption actions that also help progress socio-economic equality, these should be pursued. We should also be careful not to take climate action that worsens inequality.

### Extreme weather

Significant hail damage from a storm in 2020 resulting in damage to solar panels at the Manningham Depot.





# Our journey so far

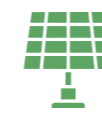
**We have been working for a long time to help mitigate climate change by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the community to live more sustainably and reduce emissions.**

A decade ago, we adopted a *Carbon Abatement Plan* which incorporated a target to reduce emissions from Council operations by 20% below 2008/09 levels by 2020.

In moving towards this target, our action has included:



Energy efficient streetlights



Building rooftop solar and energy efficiency measures



Low-emission fleet vehicles



Green power grid electricity purchasing



Partnering with Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) for wind-powered grid electricity



Participation in the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) to lead stronger environmental action



Residential solar and energy saving programs

We have closely monitored emissions and the reductions that have resulted from mitigation action. We surpassed our emissions reduction target – by 2020, we achieved a 25% reduction.

We have also implemented a number of initiatives to help adapt to climate change already occurring. This includes:

- water sensitive urban design
- harvesting stormwater as an alternative water source for open space irrigation in response to water shortage from the 'millennium drought'
- investigation of flooding impacts, drainage improvement and development planning responses
- extreme weather emergency response work and support for affected and vulnerable community members.

Our experience and momentum provide a solid basis for Council to increase and expand climate action and adapt and expand support for community climate action.

## Playing it cool

“Cool roof” reflective treatment keeping our buildings cooler, reducing the heat island effect and enhancing solar performance



# Emissions profile

The greenhouse gas emissions profiles of Council and the Manningham community are shown in the following figures.

Figure 1: Council emissions 2008/09 to 2021/22

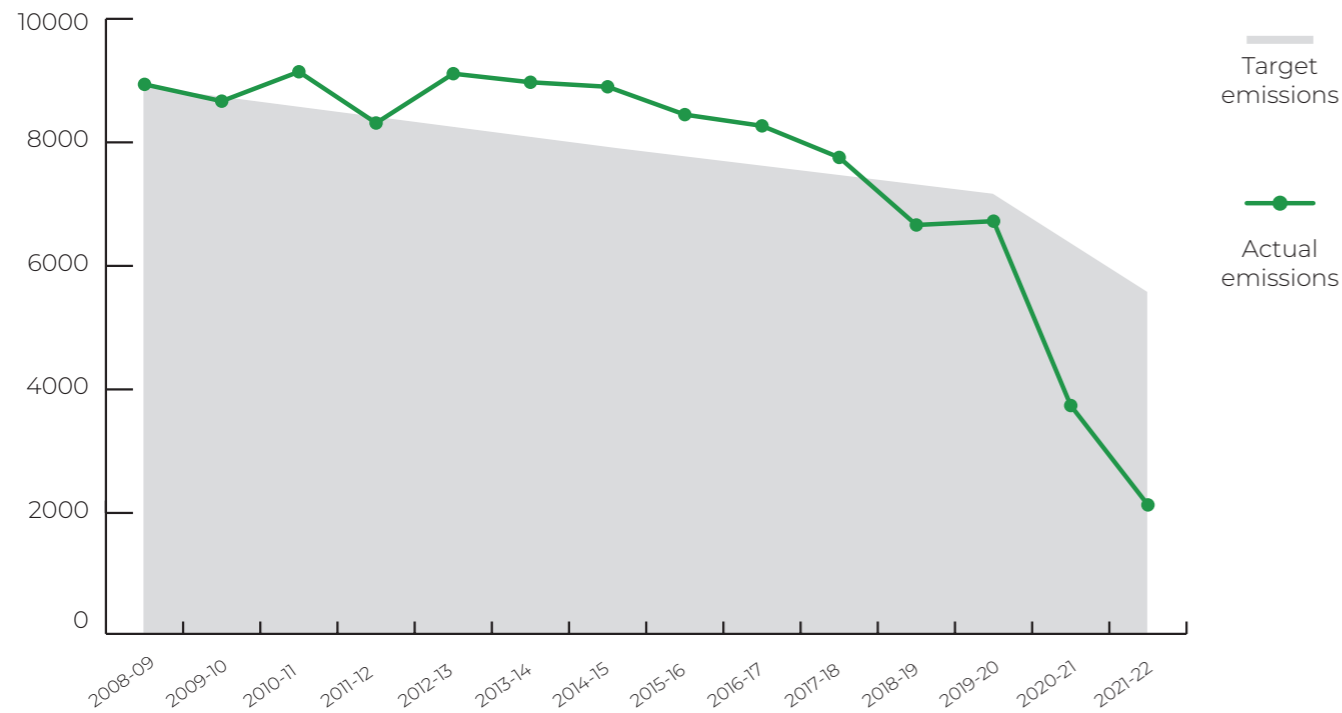


Figure 2: Council emissions sources 2021/22 (in tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent)

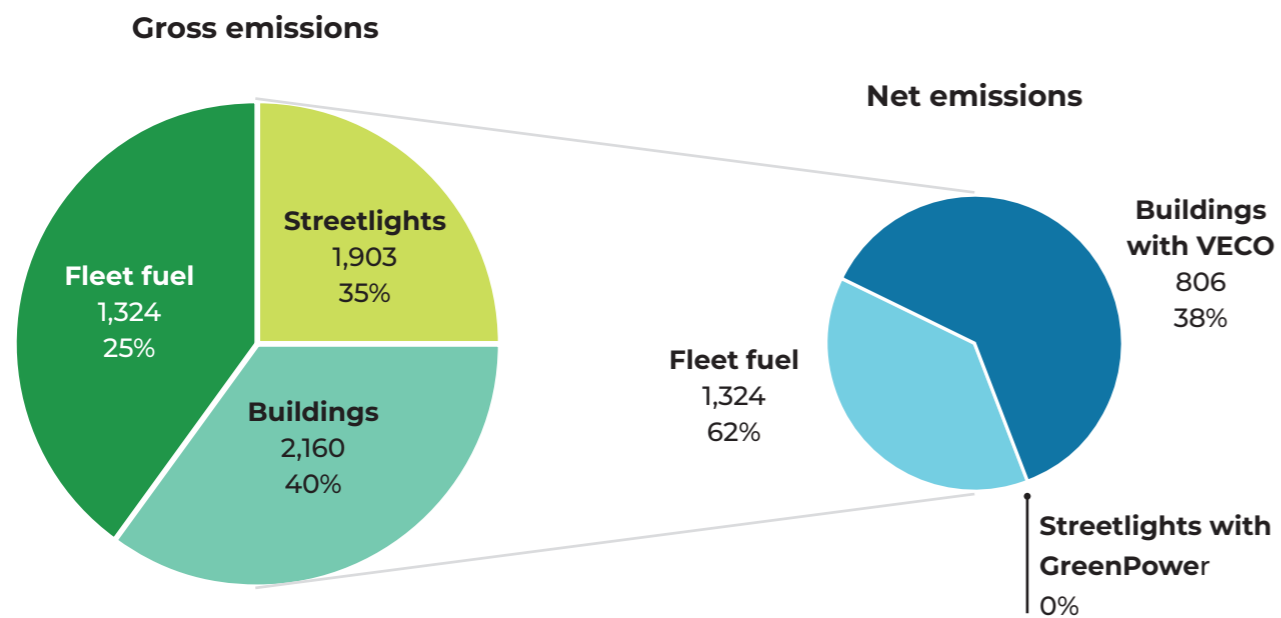


Figure 3: Manningham community emissions 2020/21

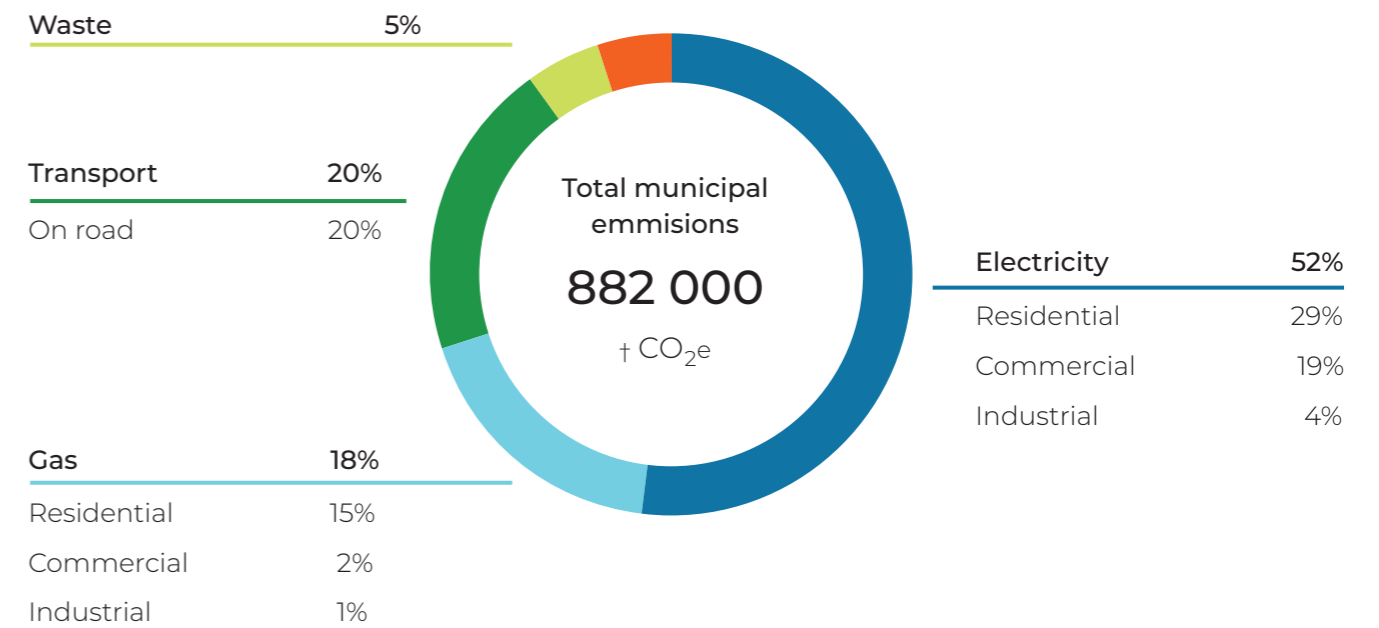


Figure 1 shows emissions over time and tracked against the 2008/09 to 2020 emissions reduction target. Emissions were reduced by 25% by 2020, surpassing our 20% target. By 2021/22, we have reduced emissions by over 70%.

Figure 2 shows a breakdown of emissions sources, comprising of streetlights electricity, building electricity and gas and fleet vehicle petrol use. This breakdown shows the main areas that our past and future actions have and will continue to focus on because they are our largest emissions sources – switching to emissions-free electricity and initiatives for buildings, fleet and streetlights.

Figure 3 shows the approximate Manningham community emissions profile for 2020/21. This profile has been taken from *Snapshot*, available at [snapshotclimate.com.au](https://snapshotclimate.com.au).

Similar to our emissions profile, this community breakdown of emissions points to the main areas that our future actions should focus on; switching to emissions-free electricity and low-emissions transport and waste initiatives.

When the Council and community emissions totals are compared, we see that our emissions account for less than 1% of the community emissions footprint. This indicates the large scale challenge and shared responsibility of tackling community emissions.

As shown, we have experience, momentum and success reducing our emissions. This will need to be continued and adapted to support community climate action. We will need to significantly increase community action which will require appropriate resourcing and partnership between Manningham Council, the community, all levels of government and the private sector.

# Targets

**Together with the community, we are committed to increasing action on climate change. Our shared commitment is demonstrated by our history of climate change action, the climate emergency resolution, community feedback and our *Council Plan 2021-2025*.**

It is important we aspire to climate mitigation targets to drive us to take increased action.

Governments, businesses and the international community are all moving towards taking more urgent action on climate change. This positive development is essential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. We all need to play our part by reducing our own carbon footprints, supporting businesses that are taking action on climate change and advocating for stronger government action.

In order to maintain a safe climate for humanity and our home earth, the international community has a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050. The Victorian Government has a target for a state-wide 45-50% reduction of 2005 emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. The Australian Government also aspires to net zero by 2050.

With this context, and in accordance with our *Council Plan 2021-2025*, we have committed to take ambitious climate action and adopt aspirational emissions reduction targets for us and the community.

During 2021, our adopted targets were:



Through these targets and the actions we take to achieve them, we seek to make a significant and worthwhile contribution to address climate change.



## ***We're electrifying***

A growing number of Manningham buildings are moving away from fossil fuels and gas to renewable energy.



### Let it be

Apply for a LEAF grant to protect bushlands and biodiversity. Watch how not removing stumps and logs gives other living things a home to grow and work together to create soil. Or how leaving ground undisturbed enables mosses to insulate our soil and fungi to thrive.

# Increased action going forward

## Manningham and the community need to take action to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

We recognise the community net zero emissions target will be more challenging to achieve than Manningham Council's net zero emissions target because of the large scale of action required and the level of cooperation needed from everyone who lives, works in or visits Manningham.

Our adoption of the community target has established the policy setting and the responsibility for achieving this target will need to be shared between us and the community, all levels of government and the private sector.

Community action will need to be significantly increased to achieve these targets. This will require partnership, appropriate resourcing and investment between all these people and organisations.

Along with the net zero targets, we also made the following commitments during 2021:

- We commit to providing advocacy and sustainability initiatives to facilitate and assist the community in achieving the community target
- We endorse the following principles to guide decision making on actions and the implementation:
  - actions are to be based on best value and be economically prudent, environmentally viable and technically proven
  - actions and progress towards targets are to be reported annually
  - future councils aim to affirm or adjust the ongoing program of climate mitigation actions within the first 12 months of their elected term
    - due in 2024/25, 2028/29, 2032/33.



We have explored and are putting forward a wide range of climate change mitigation, adaptation, advocacy and other actions. This includes actions for both our operations and for the community and in partnership with other councils, other levels of government and the private sector.

To facilitate and assist in achieving the community target, advocacy and sustainability initiatives are included in accord with our 2021 commitment.

We have looked at how these actions will benefit the community, how they align with our policies and whether we have the ability to deliver them.

People experience climate change impacts differently and these impacts can be exacerbated by socio-economic inequality. The capacity to take climate action can also vary. We need to be mindful of and responsive to these things when taking climate action.

Adhering to our 2021 decision making guiding principles, our climate actions will be further investigated, developed and implemented in the years ahead and through to the net zero target years of 2028 and 2035. Where necessary, financial commitment to funding actions will be decided annually through the budgeting process.

Our actions are detailed on the following pages.



**Totally renewable**

Our electric vehicles and chargers are powered by 100% renewable energy.



**Back me up**

A growing number of Manningham’s Community Centres are powered by onsite solar and battery systems that continue to operate during blackouts.

# Increased action

## Mitigation, energy sustainability, emissions reduction

### Manningham Council

- Extend solar and other energy sustainability measures across more council-owned buildings
- Introduce environmentally sustainable design training and upskilling for staff
- Transition our buildings from gas to renewable electricity
- Expand VECO (Victorian Energy Collaboration) contract to incorporate more electricity accounts
- Further LED retrofits of streetlights
- Convert all fleet vehicles to hybrid or electric vehicles
- Green travel offer for staff
- Establish a kerbside collection service to divert food and garden organics waste away from landfill
- Develop a waste wise policy to eliminate the use of single-use plastics and soft plastics in our operations, functions and at events held on council-owned land and facilities

### Community

- Expand residential solar and energy saving programs and improve household comfort
- Explore or facilitate renewable energy powered public electric vehicle charge points
- Explore or facilitate car-share schemes
- Encourage use of public transport and active transport such as walking and cycling
- Seek better outcomes for environmentally sustainable design and vegetation retention in the planning system and compliance
- Develop a renewable energy power purchasing agreement for businesses and/or residents
- Support environmental upgrade finance for business and/or residents
- Investigate the provision of e-waste drop off hub(s) to collect small e-waste items
- Embed circular economy principles throughout municipality

# Increased action

## Adaption

### Manningham Council

- Initiatives to reduce urban heat island effect in streetscapes including water sensitive urban design and increasing tree canopy
- Flood modelling in partnership with Melbourne Water to better understand flood risk for our municipality, including mapping for a climate change scenario
- Develop an Integrated Water Management Strategy to minimise potable water use and better manage storm-water to utilise the resource and harvest for irrigation
- Develop sustainability principles and guidelines in procurement to ensure all materials and services acquired meet mandatory sustainability standards
- Educate and build capacity to respond to increased family violence in the aftermath of climate events

### Community

- Increase Local Environment Assistance Fund grants for private landholders to incentivise protection of existing tree canopy and understory vegetation
- Explore biodiversity improvement or environmental community engagement programs with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria
- Research, increase knowledge and build resilience of biodiversity and protect vegetation to better manage the impact of climate change
- Manage bushfire risk with fuel management in bushland reserves and provision of community green waste disposal initiatives
- Support at-risk community members to adapt to climate risks such as heatwaves and other severe weather
- Educate community in climate adaptation through capacity building sessions (e.g. resilience circles)
- Explore and build understanding of gender and socio-economic implications of climate actions in the Climate Emergency Response Plan



### *We're adapting to climate change*

We're using smart technology to effectively irrigate our sports ovals so that they remain safer and available for play.





**Sharing is caring**

Who needs a car when you can access one at your convenience through the “GoGet” car share pool.

# Increased action

## Advocacy, awareness and partnership

### Manningham Council

- Collaborate with other councils on advanced waste technology, explore collaboration with State Government on separated glass recycling and container deposit scheme
- Collaborate with other councils on climate action, participate in the Cities Power Partnership or Climate Emergency Australia, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, International Council Local Environment Initiatives
- Collaborate with State Government to understand land use change for net zero carbon sinks
- Explore integrating climate action into aged, disability, maternal and child health services

### Community

- Raise awareness and facilitate community education, including diverse and hard to reach audiences
- Encourage the community to be waste-wise, reduce use of plastic and reduce hard waste and e-waste
- Educate the community to lower food emissions and consumption
- Encourage sustainable gardening and community gardens
- Promote community-led climate initiatives, map and connect existing work, people and groups
- Advocate for community energy innovation such as neighbourhood batteries or virtual energy networks
- Advocate for electric buses from wind and solar generation
- Advocate for Victorian government to declare climate emergency

### Implementation plan

During 2023, Council intends to develop an implementation plan with further details on the actions in this *Climate Emergency Response Plan*.

# Community action

We need to increase community climate action significantly and share the responsibility. We all need to work together to reduce our emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Community net zero emissions by 2035 is a challenging but achievable target that will bring great benefits.

The opportunity is there to improve Manningham's liveability, strengthen community health and wellbeing and build the resilience of our natural and built environments and the economy.

Community feedback and policy action demonstrates there is a strong shared commitment to increase community climate action. This will require appropriate resourcing and partnership between Manningham Council, community, all levels of government and the private sector.

Listed on the previous pages are a wide range of community climate actions to advocate, facilitate and assist the community.

For climate change mitigation, many actions help with switching to emissions-free electricity, low emissions transport and waste initiatives. There are also adaptation, awareness and advocacy actions that seek to build community resilience and build the resilience of our natural and built environments.

We plan to increase and expand on our work to support our existing action plan and work together in partnership with our stakeholders.

Adhering to our 2021 decision making guiding principles, support for community actions will be based on best value, technical and environmental viability and economic prudence with financial commitment to funding decided through annual budgeting processes.

As a member of the community, we encourage you to take more climate action.

You can take climate action in a range of ways. You could:

- install solar, switch to green power or take energy saving action, adapt your home
- switch to a hybrid or electric vehicle or switch to public transport, cycling or walking
- improve biodiversity on your property
- consume less and waste less
- advocate for more action from governments and business

Along with other organisations, we offer advice and support on sustainability. Online resources are also a great place to start.

We recognise that the successful implementation of our *Climate Emergency Response Plan* will require all of us to work together in new ways. We are committed to partnering with the community and to learning how we can respond to the climate emergency effectively.



# Community feedback

During 2021, we engaged with a community panel to develop our Council Plan. This community consultation produced significant input on climate actions that have been incorporated into the *Council Plan 2021-25* and the *Climate Emergency Response Plan*.

Community consultation to develop our *Climate Emergency Response Plan* occurred from late April to early November 2022. The feedback was received in a range of ways including:

- **Your Say Manningham website**  
Survey resulting in 105 responses
- **Consultation with community advisory committees**  
Members contributed to Your Say survey responses
- **A gender impact assessment**
- **Submissions from local environment groups**
- **A community-authored survey**  
“Pol.is”, with 211 participants

The community feedback was quite diverse and overall, it indicates the majority of people support increased climate action.

## Your Say and community advisory committees

Fifty six per cent of Your Say survey responses ‘agreed somewhat or definitely’ that the draft *Climate Emergency Response Plan*, its targets and its range of actions are adequate. Eleven per cent of responses were neutral and thirty three per cent disagreed that the draft plan was adequate.

Most survey respondents choose a set of top three actions they think should be prioritised. People selected from nine options of broadly defined types of action or wrote their own ‘other’ action. People’s choices spread well across the ten options with the following breakdown:

15%	Community education and awareness raising
12%	Local rooftop solar and household/building energy saving measures
12%	Divert food and garden organics away from landfill (FOGO)
12%	Change to energy efficient LED streetlights
11%	Bolster biodiversity and natural environment actions to help adapt
9%	Use renewable energy from the grid (typically wind and solar)
9%	Switch to electric vehicles and other sustainable transport options
7%	Advocacy for more Victorian Government climate action
4%	Adapt to climate change already occurring
4%	Other actions put forward by survey respondents
4%	Survey respondents comments that no climate action should be taken

## Appendix

- » Following this feedback, changes were made to the actions in the *Climate Emergency Response Plan* to reflect the common themes that came through in many people's feedback.

While the majority of people support increase climate action, there are some who want less or no action on climate change. These people made up about eighteen per cent of Your Say survey respondents.

Their comments indicate doubt about climate change occurring or that climate action should not be something prioritised by Manningham Council. Sometimes, these respondents thought some actions were worthwhile if they help reduce costs for council and the community – for example, if they reduced energy bills.

- » Following this feedback, changes were made to this *Climate Emergency Response Plan* to emphasise Council's adopted principle that climate actions 'be based on best value and be economically prudent, environmentally viable and technically proven'.

## Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)

We are committed to ensuring that all people in our community are treated with dignity, respect and fairness. We consider the gender, equality and diversity of all people in our community as we develop policies and plans such as this *Climate Emergency Response Plan*.

In line with this commitment to gender equality and to help fulfill the requirements of the *Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020*, a GIA was undertaken on the draft *Climate Emergency Response Plan*.

The GIA included two workshops including diverse participation of 14 people from the community and community organisations and relevant council personnel.

The GIA highlighted that people experience climate change impacts differently. Capacity to take climate action and preferences of what action to take can also vary. We need to be mindful of and responsive to these things when taking action on climate change.

- » Following the feedback and recommendations that arose from the GIA, changes were made to this *Climate Emergency Response Plan* to emphasise differing impact and capacity and the need to partner with the community and to learning how it can most effectively support the community. Changes were made to the 'climate risks' section, some actions were refined and others added to reflect the recommendations from the GIA. This includes an action to 'build understanding of gender and socio-economic implications of climate action'.

## Submissions

The Warrandyte Climate Action Now (WCAN) community group and the Manningham Adaptation and Resiliency Group (MARG) made submissions on the draft *Climate Emergency Response Plan*.

Generally, WCAN were pleased with the draft plan. However, WCAN believe the plan should be taken further and would like to see 'further detail on actions which could be done by way of an implementation plan developed as a matter of priority.'

MARG put forward recommendations to increase the plan's focus on adaptation, and promotion of adaptation actions as a top priority.

- » Following this feedback, we intend to develop and propose an implementation plan with details on the actions in this *Climate Emergency Response Plan* during 2023.

## Pol.is Survey

The results from the community-authored survey, Pol.is, largely reinforced the feedback received through Your Say and other workshops - indicating that most people support increased climate action.

From the 211 people that voted on 116 statements and ideas put forward by the community (to the community) in the survey, the action statements that garnered the most support include:



111 people support 'advocacy for improved public transport'



111 people support 'incentives to recycle and repurpose building materials'



110 people support 'switching to energy efficient LED streetlights'



103 people support 'FOGO to be diverted from landfill'

A total of 55 survey participants say they want 'less or nil climate action from Manningham Council and community, there are more important priorities to focus on'.

Despite this view that there is still a strong majority of all survey participants that support improved public transport, LED streetlights, FOGO etc, further legitimising these priorities.

# Links to other policies and work

Our *Climate Emergency Response Plan* links in with a range of other policies and work.

The *Council Plan 2021-2025* is our leading policy document that has a key goal to 'reduce our environmental impact and adapt to climate change' under the theme of 'Resilient Environment'. A range of climate actions are included in our Council Plan, many of which are incorporated into this *Climate Emergency Response Plan*.

A Manningham Environment Strategy will be developed and will integrate climate change alongside other areas of enhancing our natural environment and biodiversity, reducing waste, improving water sustainability and empowering community.

The other themes of Healthy Community, Liveable Places and Spaces, Vibrant and Prosperous Economy and Well Governed Council will have a bearing on the implementation of actions from this *Climate Emergency Response Plan*.

Under these themes, the following policies link with climate action:

- *Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025* – calls for increased adaptation to the health impacts from climate under its 'health, safe and resilient community' goal.
- *The Liveable City Strategy* – provides an urban design framework to underpin the liveability of Manningham – incorporating environmentally sustainable design, sustainable transport and 'greening our city' that relates with aspects of climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- *Integrated Water Management Strategy* (in development) – seeking a collaborative approach to planning for and managing water resources within the context of adaptation to the challenges presented by climate change and population growth.

The *Victorian Local Government Act 2020* established a new responsibility for councils 'to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate risks'.

The *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017* established the Victorian net zero emissions target, which has recently been updated to net zero emissions by 2045. The Act also prompted the setting of a 40-50% reduction target (below 2005 emissions) by 2030 and 75-80% reduction target by 2035. Victoria's Climate Change Strategy details the climate action that the State Government intends supporting to achieve these targets

# Monitoring and reporting

To track our progress with implementation of our *Climate Emergency Response Plan*, there will be annual monitoring and reporting on climate actions and greenhouse gas emissions levels.

This will then feed into future elected councils having the opportunity to affirm or adjust the ongoing program of climate mitigation actions.

This monitoring, reporting and adjustment process is in accordance with our 2021 commitments.



**Our 100% renewable electricity is powered by two wind farms in Victoria, these were built through a collaborative procurement project with 51 other Victorian councils.**



Version 1, July 2023

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