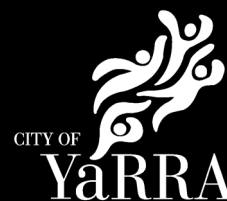


Engagement overview – Climate Emergency Plan (Stage 2)



Overview

Project background:

Our current [Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2024](#) is ready for a reboot. It's now time to develop the next plan which will underpin our response to the climate crisis in the years to come and ramp up our ambition.

We know addressing the climate crisis is a top priority for the Yarra community and that they want us to do more. We want our community to be part of the climate solutions we develop, every step of the way.

Why do we need a new Climate Emergency Plan?

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 together, now and into the future.

But right now, we are living in a climate crisis, 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.

The good thing is, the solutions are here and now, and we can all make a difference. Every day we get bolder and more courageous and the number of people taking action grows.

Already, many in the Yarra community are cutting emissions by:

- switching to renewable energy in droves
- reducing waste and recycling by thousands of tonnes a year
- moving to a less energy-intensive plant-based diet
- standing up and speaking out for political action and climate justice.

What are we already doing to tackle the Climate Emergency?

Here at Council, we are working in partnership with other local councils, community groups, businesses and schools to reduce emissions and create local climate solutions.

We are advocating for stronger climate policies and supporting our community to take climate action. We are creating a circular economy, improving sustainable transport, and championing neighbourhood batteries. And so much more!

Together with our community, we have achieved so much through our [Climate Emergency Plan 2020-24](#).

But right now, the climate crisis is accelerating. 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.

Stage 1 consultation - 23 October to 4 December 2023

In late 2023, we asked the community for their feedback to help form the next Climate Emergency Plan.

The methods we used included:

- Gather ideas board
- Survey (YSY and hard copy)
- Pop up sessions
- Workshops with key stakeholders

Level of Community influence

Negotiable

The community can influence:

1. The feedback from community can help shape the objectives for the final CEP.
2. The community can also provide feedback on the transformations, indicators, targets which will be taken into consideration as the final CEP is developed.

Non-negotiable

The community cannot influence:

1. We will deliver a new Climate Emergency Plan that is best practice, sector leading and has a meaningful and maximum impact.
2. We will be ambitious and ramp up our response to the climate emergency.
3. The plan must capture the voices and experiences of those most impacted by, and most at risk of, the impacts of climate change.
4. The plan must cover a broad range of themes and actions to respond to all aspects of the climate emergency.
5. The plan can only contain actions that are realistic and achievable.
6. The 5 overarching perspectives guide this plan and are not negotiable (the general community cannot change these perspectives; however some details of the perspectives may be changed if requested by groups associated with those perspectives. E.g. the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Council may have input).
7. Council will be conducting separate stakeholder engagement with the the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Council to gather stories and unique cultural perspectives to be included in the Climate Emergency Plan.
8. The new Climate Emergency Plan will be delivered in 2024.

Engagement objectives

1. Informing the Yarra community and key stakeholders about the progress of the draft Climate Emergency Plan and closing the loop on the first stage of community engagement.
2. Checking in with the community and seeking feedback on key elements of the draft Climate Emergency Plan, including:
 - level of agreement with the objectives listed under each of the 7 transformations.
 - gaps in the draft Climate Emergency Plan and checking if we missed anything that the community think is important to include.
 - any other comments about the draft Climate Emergency Plan.
3. Understanding the community's level of support for the Climate Emergency Plan based on the above feedback.
4. Making sure that the voices of those most impacted by the climate emergency (groups identified in Stage 1 of the consultation) are given the opportunity to provide their feedback on the draft Climate Emergency Plan.

Project phases

Stage of engagement	Details of the stage	Timeline
Engagement Planning Phase	<p>Finalise engagement plan.</p> <p>Community Engagement Plan completed (approved by Managers)</p> <p>Engagement Overview completed (approved by GM)</p> <p>Cr Workshop - Inform Councillors (Tues 19 March)</p> <p>Council Meeting - seek approval to commence consultation (Tues 9 April)</p> <p>Your Say Yarra page created (3 weeks before consultation begins)</p> <p>Build collateral and comms outputs (1 week before consultation begins).</p>	February to April 2024
Engagement Delivery Phase	<p>Your Say Yarra page launched</p> <p>Communications actions delivered</p> <p>In person pop up sessions delivered</p> <p>Targeted stakeholder engagement activities held.</p>	10 April to 6 May 2024
Engagement Reporting Phase	Review and process feedback.	Mid-2024
	<p>Community Engagement Summary Report completed by Engagement lead and provided to project team.</p> <p>Community Engagement Results Report completed by consultants and project team.</p> <p>Report back to ELT and Council on the outcomes of the engagement.</p>	Mid-2024
	Participants of this stage of engagement will be informed of the outcome.	Mid-2024

Engagement Methods

- Survey (online and hard copy)
- Targeted stakeholder engagement with community groups who are most at risk.
- 2 in person pop up engagement sessions held at the following locations across the municipality:
 - **Otter Street Reserve in Collingwood** on Saturday 20 April from 10am to 12midday
 - **Gleadell Street Market** on Saturday 27 April from 10am to 12midday.

Engagement Questions

Intro text

In the draft Climate Emergency Plan there are 7 transformations that guide our vision for a just and sustainable Yarra. Each of the 7 transformations has objectives, indicators and 2030 targets to help guide our actions and make sure we are delivering a strong climate emergency response.

These are the 7 Transformations which guide the Climate Emergency plan:

1. In Yarra every choice we make and every action we take responds to the climate emergency.
2. In Yarra, community members at greater risk from climate impacts are connected, supported, and empowered to build resilience.
3. Yarra is active, empowered and raising our voice together for a stronger climate emergency response.
4. Yarra is a leading and prosperous zero-emissions city.
5. Yarra is Caring for Country.
6. In Yarra, everyone in Yarra lives and works in comfortable and climate-safe homes and buildings, supported by climate resilient public spaces and infrastructure.
7. In Yarra, we are transitioning to a circular economy by consuming less, reusing, repairing, sharing and recycling more and sending less waste to landfill.

In the next set of questions, you will be asked to indicate your level of agreement with the objectives listed under each of the 7 transformations.

Transformation 1: In Yarra every choice we make and every action we take responds to the climate emergency.

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the objectives for transformation 1 (use a matrix table and scale: strongly disagree to Strongly agree)

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

Transformation 2: In Yarra, community members at greater risk from climate impacts are connected, supported, and empowered to build resilience.

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the objectives for transformation 2 (use a matrix table and scale: strongly disagree to Strongly agree)

- Understand and support the diverse needs of our community to bolster climate resilience.
- Council works collaboratively with community organisations that service community members at greater risk from climate impacts.
- Climate resilience is embedded across Council services.
- 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.

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the objectives for transformation 3 (use a matrix table and scale: strongly disagree to Strongly agree)

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

Transformation 4: Yarra is a leading and prosperous zero-emissions city.

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the objectives for transformation 4 (use a matrix table and scale: strongly disagree to Strongly agree)

- Zero carbon homes
- Zero carbon businesses

- Zero carbon transport
- Zero carbon organisation.

Transformation 5: Yarra is Caring for Country.

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the objectives for transformation 5 (use a matrix table and scale: strongly disagree to Strongly agree)

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

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the objectives for transformation 6 (use a matrix table and scale: strongly disagree to Strongly agree)

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

Transformation 7: In Yarra, we are transitioning to a circular economy by consuming less, reusing, repairing, sharing and recycling more and sending less waste to landfill.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the each of the objectives for transformation 7 (use a matrix table and scale: strongly disagree to Strongly agree)

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

Do you think there are there any gaps in the draft Climate Emergency Plan? Have we missed anything that you think is important to include?

(Please note: if you are providing feedback (on the indicators or 2030 targets, please indicate which transformation they are connected to).

Do you have any other comments about the draft Climate Emergency Plan?

Communications methods

- Your Say Yarra page with online survey and FAQs
- Email to past participants to invite them to take part in the consultation
- News item (corporate website)
- Social media (organic and advertisements)
- Council email newsletters, including Yarra Life & the Your Say Yarra EDM
- Yarra News (March/April edition)
- Workshop with key stakeholders who attended the Yarra Climate Summit during Stage 1
- Targeted Stakeholder engagement
 - email to representatives of at risk communities
 - involve Council advisory committees
 - contact key partners

- email invite to nature focus group
- attend Neighbourhood House Managers meeting
- Youth Workshops
 - High school students (online workshop)
 - 18-30's (in person focus group)
- Translated materials, including:
 - newspaper ads in other languages: Arabic, Vietnamese, Chinese, Italian and Greek.
 - translated posters (translations same as news ads)
 - radio ads (Yarra news promo)
- Posters and postcards at pop ups and displayed at Libraries and Customer Service Centres
- Digital Screens in our customer service centres.

Managing the risk

Describe the risk	Level of risk	Potential mitigation measures
Targeted stakeholders from Stage 1 consultation may feel that they haven't been given as much opportunity to participate.	Medium	Clear communication about opportunities and options (at least 1) to provide feedback (even if may be different to Stage 1).
Tight timeframes for this consultation could impact the delivery of the Final CEP.	Medium	Everyone involved in project is aware and reminded of timeframes.
The community does not support the priorities/ambition/transformations/objectives/indicators/targets listed in the draft CEP	Low	Feedback from Stage 1 of this consultation, the Yarra 2036 Community Vision and other data shows strong community support for climate action in Yarra. During Stage 2 consultation, the community will be given an opportunity to input into these elements of the plan.
Transport and setup of engagement equipment – City Works have indicated that they will not be able to assist with this.	Medium	Discussions are ongoing at GM level to try and resolve this issue.
OH&S – Potential for injury during set up and pack down of in person “pop up” engagement sessions.	Low	We will ensure that equipment is returned using accessible entrances to RTH / no stairs (where possible). Officers to be careful when carrying equipment and assist each other with lifting heavy objects.
Negative media coverage	Medium	Ensure that timing of engagement does not overlap with other controversial engagement topics that may impact perceptions of CEP development. Prepare statements or responses in advance where topics are seen to be potentially controversial.