

Climate Emergency Plan

2024-2030

2025-26 Annual Report





Background

This report outlines progress in 2025-26 on Yarra City Council's Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 (CEP) and Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027.

In the CEP, Council committed to transparently monitoring and reporting on:

- **Progress** against the Action Plan. Council reports on the 237 actions in the Action Plan through this Annual Report and Council's quarterly community reports.
- **Outcomes** are measured annually through 62 indicators and reported through this Annual Report.

For background and further information on the seven key transformations, objectives, actions and indicators, please see the **Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030** and **Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027**.



Progress to date

The Action Plan includes 237 actions, with 223 of these programmed for delivery in Year 2 (2025-26).

At Q4 2025-26 194 of the 223 actions slated for delivery in Year 2 were reported as on track. The outcomes and impact of our work, as measured through indicators, are detailed throughout the report and in the table on the final pages.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and their ongoing connection to the land, water, and sky Country. We pay our respects to Elders past and present for their continued care of Culture and Country.

Source: Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Whole of Country Plan 2025-2035 (2025), opening acknowledgement.

Progress in implementing the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027

This section highlights progress against the 223 actions in the Action Plan scheduled for delivery in Year 2 (2025-26), across the CEP's seven key transformations.



Transformation 1

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

- The Sustainability team delivered 107 events with 2,998 attendees, on topics including connecting with nature and the Birrarung, electrification and EVs, saving energy at home, climate adaptation, climate action for young people, and more.
- Council hosted the first Yarra Environmental Film Festival, including four film screenings followed by opportunities to engage with filmmakers, campaigners, and community leaders.
- A Service Planning Framework trial was completed with managers from across the organisation, and included consideration of climate emergency response in service planning.
- Council commenced a Climate Risk Assessment to improve understanding and consideration of climate risks to the organisation, community and Yarra's natural environment, and inform decision-making to adapt to a changing climate.
- An official trial of 30km/hour speed zones was completed. Analysis of data is underway to finalise outcomes of the trial and identify future areas for 30 km/h speed zone trials, with two precincts identified for a future rollout of 30km/h speed zones.



Transformation 2

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

- Fourteen small project grants to the value of \$54,987 were awarded for climate-related projects.
- Council operated a Cool Spaces program across 4 sites (2 libraries and 2 leisure centres), providing safe air-conditioned spaces during extreme heat. 550 'cool kits' were distributed to at-risk community members during extreme heat events.
- Thirteen Council-funded sustainability workshops were delivered across the neighbourhood house network. All workshops supported local communities to learn about and adopt more sustainable living practices, including topics such as draughtproofing, clothes mending, bicycle repair, and food gardening.
- Council established a Climate Risk and Resilience Sub-Committee, which sits underneath the Yarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee. The subcommittee is a network of local organisations supporting at-risk communities and has collaborated to deliver support to residents including distributing cool kits, providing cool spaces during heatwaves, and delivering energy bill relief sessions.



Transformation 3

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

- Six cohorts of the Climate Voices program have been completed since the adoption of the Climate Emergency Plan. Climate Voices is a ten-week program aiming to provide underrepresented communities with the opportunity to develop advocacy skills which are applied to a climate-related campaign of their choice. 110 participants have completed the program across the five cohorts.
- A Climate Voices Campaign Hub was delivered as a space for Climate Voices participants to continue working on their campaigns and receive ongoing mentoring. Eight campaigns continued to work on their campaigns with support through the Campaign Hub.
- Council applied for and was awarded a US\$50,000 Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund grant to support young people taking climate action. Grants of up to \$7,000 will be provided to young people in 2026/27.
- The Can't Vote, Can Campaign program was delivered to three Yarra high schools (Fitzroy High School, Richmond High School and Melbourne Girls College). This program included a series of incursions to empower young people to learn about government, democracy and how to have their say on climate issues. The program concluded with the Students Take the Mic event, an opportunity for students to share their ideas and have their say on environmental issues.





Transformation 4

Yarra is a leading and prosperous zero-emissions city.

- The Community Charge project installed solar and batteries at four Council sites (Alphington Park Pavilion, Fairlea Reserve Netball Complex, Fairfield Park Pavilion and Mark Street Hall), demonstrating how buildings across Yarra can be utilised to quickly increase the amount of clean, renewable energy being locally generated and used by our community. With support from the Victorian Government's 100 Neighbourhood Batteries program, Council deployed 162kW of solar panels and 360kW of batteries which will generate revenue from selling excess electricity into the local electricity system when prices are favourable. Savings will be distributed annually to local community groups through Yarra Community Grants.
- A community battery and accompanying accessible two-bay fast EV charger were installed at Collingwood Leisure Centre, expanding Yarra's EV charging infrastructure and providing a unique test-case for coupling community batteries with EV charging. This project was led by the Yarra Energy Foundation and funded by a \$750,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Neighbourhood Battery Initiative.
- Council secured a federal Thriving Suburbs grant of \$2.9 million to transition Collingwood Leisure Centre from gas to all-electric. The electrification process will also be used as a demonstration of how similar sites can be electrified.
- Council successfully implemented a two-year pole-mounted EV charging pilot, rolling out 26 charging locations and 41 charging ports, the most of any municipality in Victoria.
- Additional EV fast chargers have been added to The Hive in Abbotsford, and a convenience store in Richmond.
- Five Council buildings were converted to all-electric (Djerring Centre, Willowview Centre, Old Richmond Police Station, Ray Coverdale Pavilion and Alfred Crescent Pavilion), with gas usage reduced at 3 other sites by replacing gas appliances with electric.





Transformation 5

Yarra is Caring for Country. Our landscapes and waterways are healthier, greener, and more biodiverse, and our communities feel at one with nature.

- 63,844 local native tubestock were planted as part of the Bringing Nature Back to Yarra Program, equating to an increase in area maintained as bushland by 1.6ha.
- 1,146 advanced trees were planted in open space and streets across Yarra, with planting focused on priority locations identified through the Urban Forest Strategy to increase canopy cover, improve urban cooling outcomes and support climate resilience.
- Council committed to continuing to fund the second Narrap Ranger Traineeship Initiative 2025 - 2028. In 2025/26, outcomes included hiring a further four Indigenous trainees into the Trainee Ranger Program undertaking their Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management, contributing 253 hours to the Birrarung Bank Restoration Program at Collingwood Children's Farm and delivering a Murnong Harvest Cultural Engagement activity at Collingwood Children's Farm First Nations Garden.
- Council continued to participate in the Greening the Birrarung Steering Committee and working group, and completed a Greening the Birrarung Guide, considering cultural indicators, focus species and shared principals for caring for the Birrarung and its lands to deliver culturally appropriate healing country outcomes.
- The Sustainability Team delivered twenty nature engagement events, including the Walk Talk Swim Birrarung program connecting people with the Birrarung and progressing toward a Swimmable Birrarung, and events to connect people with nature in Yarra.
- The Roads to Parks program completed a road discontinuance process for Mater Street and Budd Street in Collingwood. Final concept designs were approved by Council and construction is scheduled to begin in 2026/27.
- Water play elements have been included in the construction of the Fairfield Park play space, due for completion in August 2026. This will be the first water play included in a Yarra play space and will increase the availability of outdoor cooling on hot days.



Transformation 6

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

- The Yarra Home Energy Upgrades Program supported 46 low-income households with 71 subsidized energy upgrades to improve thermal comfort and climate resilience at home, bringing the total number of at-risk households supported by the Yarra Home Energy Upgrades and Climate Safe Rooms programs since the commencement of the Climate Emergency Plan to 100. This program supports low-income residents at risk of climate impacts who face barriers to installing home energy upgrades including draughtproofing, insulation, reverse cycle heating and cooling, solar, hot water heat pumps and window treatments.
- Council sought authorisation from the Department of Transport and Planning to exhibit an amendment to introduce planning permit exemptions for solar panels. If successful, this amendment will test a new approach to exempting solar panels from planning permits in heritage overlays, under strict conditions.
- Council developed and launched a Greening our Business tool, in partnership with Darebin, Hume, and Merri-bek City Councils and the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA). This tool supports small to medium businesses with energy reduction and circular economy action pathways.
- Council Supported small businesses in the Victoria Street Precinct to reduce energy running costs and increase energy literacy and savings.
- Council is participating in the Resilient Asset Management and Investment project with all M9 Councils (Darebin, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Merri-bek, Moonee Valley, Port Phillip, Stonnington, and Yarra City Councils). This project will support improved decision-making for investment in new assets and asset management.
- The New Deal for Walking Audit process has included consideration of shade in its assessment and implementation, with \$50,000 allocated in the 2026-27 Budget to deliver the Audit recommendations.



Transformation 7

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

- Council delivered a communications campaign aligned with Buy Nothing New Month and National Recycling Week, including e-news, social media, and web updates.
- Council continued to deliver the My Smart Garden program, and Yarra's Food Waste Challenge food waste avoidance campaign.
- Community consultation for a new draft Waste and Recycling Strategy was in progress as at the end of financial year 2025/26. The new strategy focuses on creating more sustainable services, reducing overall waste, and responding to key challenges such as rising operational costs and evolving state regulations.



Outcomes as measured by the indicators in the Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030.

The table below includes indicators scheduled for reporting in 2025-26.

16 indicators are measured at a different reporting frequency due to limitations on the availability of data. Indicators not scheduled for reporting this year are not included in the table below.

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
1	1.1	Annual percentage of participants in Council climate emergency engagements who then take steps to reduce household emissions	75%	Of the climate emergency engagements which focused on emissions (plant-based eating events, draught-proofing and home electrification events), 89% of attendees who responded to surveys indicated they would take action to reduce household emissions, up from 41% in 2024-25.	Target met.
2	1.1	Annual percentage of participants in Council climate emergency engagements who then act on climate change	No target	2,988 people attended climate emergency events and programs delivered by the Climate Emergency Team. An additional 46 people participated in the Yarra Home Energy Upgrades programs. Of those who completed post-event and program surveys: • 54% went on to take action on climate change • 30% joined with others to take action on climate change • 89% shared their learnings with family and friends • 33% advocated for stronger climate action or policies	N/A

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
3	1.1	Annual number of people participating in Council climate emergency engagements who have never participated before	1,000 new people per year	Of the 156 people who completed surveys, 94 said that they attended for the first time. This represents 64% of survey respondents. Assuming that the rate of new attendees amongst survey respondents is the same across all participants, we attracted 1,915 new participants to events.	Target met.
4	1.1	Uptake of active and public transport	• In accordance with the Transport Strategy: • 20% increase in total number of bicycle and scooter trips by 2027 • 40% increase in total number of bicycle and scooter trips by 2032 • 40% increase in commuters travelling to work by public transport by 2032 • 35% increase in commuters travelling to work by public transport to work by 2026 • 40% increase in commuters walking, cycling or scooting to work by 2032 • 30% increase in commuters walking, cycling or scooting to work by 2026 • 25% increase in commuters travelling to Plan work by active transport by 2030.	Bicycle counters managed by the Department of Transport & Planning remain unavailable since June 2024. There is no estimated date for this data to be available at time of writing. New VISTA data has been released for 2024-25. This shows an overall decrease in active and public transport mode share and an increase in the use of private transport. It is important to note the limitations of all datasets. There has been a 9% Yarra-wide recorded decrease in cycling volumes measured as part of Bicycle Network's Super Tuesday counts from 19,235 to 17,437 recorded trips. The gender split of people cycling was recorded at 30% women, compared to the Victorian average of 26%. No updated ABS Census data is available at time of writing. The next Census is due to be collected in August 2026.	In progress

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
5	1.1, 7.1, 7.3	Annual volume of rubbish produced per capita	15% reduction on baseline established through the June 2024 audit	504kg of kerbside waste per household in 2025-26. This is made up of a total of 21,968.67 tonnes of residential waste across: • Domestic Kerbside Garbage – 11,930.7t • Kerbside Recycling and Glass – 5,472.3t • Kerbside FOGO – 3,307.9t • Housing Estate (Landfill only) – 1,257.68t This is an increase of 6.5kg or 1.3% per property for this financial year. 53kg of Hard Waste per property in 2025-2026. This is made up of 2,319.56t including dumped waste and our recycling centre. This is a reduction of 2.1kg or 3.8% per property for this financial year.	In progress.
6	1.1, 7.1, 7.3	Annual percentage waste diverted from landfill	80%	42.39% diversion rate of kerbside waste in 2025-2026. This is an increase of 0.15%. 39.87% diversion rate of hard waste in 2025-2026. This is an increase of 1.69%.	In progress.
9	1.2	Annual progress against Council's operational and strategic climate risks reported to Audit and Risk Committee	No target	Climate strategic and operational risks updates were delivered to ARC during 2025-26, with progress updates of detailed review underway and scheduled for delivery in the first half of the new financial year.	N/A

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
10	1.2	Council progress on Climate Emergency Plan actions, reported in the Quarterly Community Report	No target	Twice-yearly updates on Climate Emergency Plan action highlights were included in the Quarterly Community Report in 25/26.	N/A
11	1.2	Service Units have Climate Emergency actions in their work plans, in line with their Climate Emergency role	All Service Units act on delivering their Climate Emergency role statement	A Service Planning Framework pilot was completed with managers from each directorate. Each Service Plan required managers to confirm the climate role in their service profile, and link their current services to the Climate Emergency Plan where appropriate.	In progress



No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
14	2.1	Frequency with which Council uses bicultural workers/ interpreters to ensure information is available regarding climate impacts.	Interpreters and/or bi-cultural workers are used in all in-person interactions with multicultural communities about climate impacts.	Interpreters were engaged for: • Draughtproofing for Renters workshop (Vietnamese) • Yarra Home Energy Upgrades information session (Mandarin) • Yarra Home Energy Upgrades participant support (Mandarin, four instances) • 2 Energy Bill Relief sessions (Greek, Italian) Bicultural Liaison Officers were engaged for: • Waste Management Strategy consultation (support in Arabic, Mandarin and Vietnamese at four in-person pop-ups) • Promotion of the Yarra Home Energy Upgrades program and support for CALD community participants to apply (Greek, Italian, Vietnamese, Arabic and Mandarin) • One-on-one ongoing support for a Yarra Home Energy Upgrades participant to participate in the program in Mandarin, along with translations and registered interpreters where required.	Target met

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
15	2.1	Availability and comprehensibility of translated material, assessed annually	Written translations are available for all climate impact information, with translations reviewed for accuracy and comprehensibility.	Translated information made available for: • Keep Cool in Yarra posters in Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian, and Vietnamese • Energy bill savings information pack available in Vietnamese and Arabic at Draughtproofing for Renters workshops • Yarra Home Energy Upgrades posters in Vietnamese, Mandarin, Greek, Italian and Arabic • Yarra Home Energy Upgrades participant-specific translated materials provided in Mandarin to Mandarin-speaking participant • Big Ways to Take Climate Action and Go Electric Plan flyers in Vietnamese, Mandarin and Arabic distributed at various community events Translations are produced by professional translation service and reviewed to ensure accuracy and clarity.	Target met
16	2.1	Accessibility of climate-related communications and resources, assessed annually	Digital and hard-copy information is always available, particularly at known places of low digital access (e.g. public housing estates).	Information on climate-related campaigns and programs including Big Ways to Take Climate Action, Go Electric Action Plan, Yarra Home Energy Upgrades and Keep Cool in Yarra was distributed in hard copy at various community events, Council facilities, libraries, and through sector partners, in English, Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian and Vietnamese. Digital versions of the materials were available at all times on the Council website.	Target met

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
17	2.1	Number and location of rough sleepers in Yarra, as a basis for understanding socioeconomic vulnerability and exposure to extreme weather.	No target	During 2025-26, the number of reported rough sleeping sites in Yarra decreased slightly from 268 to 239. The number of sites reported each month ranged from 35 -52, with April 2026 being the peak (52 sites).	N/A
18	2.1	Annual dissemination of vouchers to community members experiencing homelessness to access pools and showers, cool places, and groceries.	Vouchers (for leisure centres, cool places, and/or groceries) are available during all periods of extreme weather to community members experiencing homelessness	62 Free shower/swim entry passes were processed in 25/26. Launch Housing outreach staff distributed 85 \$10 Coles vouchers.	Target met
19	2.1	Reasonable efforts made to ensure all community members experiencing homelessness are aware of which cool places are available during periods of extreme heat	Information on cool places is shared in a coordinated effort through our network of service providers	Information on cool spaces is shared with service providers	Target met.
20	2.1	Annual number of businesses providing water and cool spaces to delivery riders during periods of extreme heat	All businesses which deliver food through food delivery services provide water and cool spaces (where feasible) to delivery riders	Nil data	Unknown
22	2.1, 2.2	Number of cool places available to community members experiencing homelessness during periods of extreme heat	20 cool places available to community members experiencing homelessness during periods of extreme heat	Four Council Cool Spaces (two libraries and two leisure centres) and three DFFH Cool Spaces were activated during severe and extreme heatwaves in 25/26, providing safe, accessible spaces to over 90 community members. 550 cool kits to at-risk community members to help them stay safe during extreme heat.	In progress

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
24	2.2	Number of Community Service Organisations (including neighbourhood houses and community health organisations) which have implemented climate resilience planning annually	All partner Community Service Organisations have developed and implemented climate resilience planning	None in 2025-26	In progress
25	2.3	Annual climate-related disruptions to critical Council services in excess of service-level standards	No disruptions outside of the service-level standard to critical Council services due to the physical and transition impacts of climate change	No disruptions to Council services in 2025-26 due to climate impacts	Target met
26	2.4	Annual submissions to government inquires related to the climate resilience of Yarra community members	Yarra makes a submission to all relevant government inquires (where feasible) advocating for resilience on behalf of community members at greatest risk of climate impacts	Submissions were made to: • Review of the Owners Corporations Act 2006 • Inquiry into Electricity Supply for Electric Vehicles • Inquiry into Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025 and six related bills • Inquiry into renewable and affordable energy for apartments • Inquiry into the development and expansion of waste-to-energy (WtE) infrastructure in Victoria • Electrical Line Clearance submission	Target met
27	3.1	Annual percentage of participants in Council climate emergency engagements who then join with others to take collective action	75%	Of the 156 people who completed post-event surveys, 29% indicated that they would join others to take action together, an increase from 5% in 24/25.	In progress

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
28	3.1	Readership of the Yarra Environment News	No target	Readership now totals 2,974 subscribers, an increase of 4% from 2024-25.	N/A
29	3.2	Annual increase in community and partner organisation participation in Council-led submissions and campaigns	No target	None in 2025/26.	N/A
30	3.2	Yarra participates in all relevant opportunities to influence State and Federal Government policies and commitments including: • Being members of Government Advisory Committees and Working Groups • Submissions / input to all relevant Parliamentary Inquiries and formal Policy consultation/ participation • Seeking to meet at a minimum twice yearly with relevant Ministers and advisors • Grant applications to all schemes of relevance, including those that provide funding for additional open and green space.	No target	Submissions were made to: • Review of the Owners Corporations Act 2006 • Inquiry into Electricity Supply for Electric Vehicles • Inquiry into Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025 and six related bills • Inquiry into renewable and affordable energy for apartments • Inquiry into the development and expansion of waste-to-energy (WtE) infrastructure in Victoria • Electrical Line Clearance submission	N/A

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
31	3.3	Number of schools in Yarra that Council is delivering climate engagement programs with annually	No target	Fitzroy High, Richmond High, and Melbourne Girls' College participated in Council climate engagement programs which reached 275 students and culminated in an event which included 75 students. Council invited all high schools in Yarra to participate in the program.	N/A
32	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4	Annual municipal greenhouse gas emissions	Net zero emissions by 2035 (*Noting that this ambition relies on significant acceleration of action from state and federal governments) Data for this indicator is sourced from a third-party reporting platform, Snapshot Climate. New data is typically released every 1-2 years, with a data processing time of approximately 12 months. New data was available in 25/26 for FY23/24.	Municipal emissions reduced from 1,041,200 tCO2e in FY 22/23 to 1,026,200 tCO2e in FY 23/24, a 1.44% reduction.	In progress.
33	4.1	Annual household fossil gas usage	A reduction of 40% from 2023 usage (124,000 tCO2e) Data for this indicator is sourced from a third-party reporting platform, Snapshot Climate. New data is typically released every 1-2 years, with a data processing time of approximately 12 months. New data was available in 25/26 for FY23/24.	Yarra's residential fossil gas emissions reduced from 124,000 tCO2e in FY 22/23 to 118,500 tCO2e in FY 23/24, a 4.44% reduction.	In progress.

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
34	4.1.1, 4.1.2.1, 6.1.2	Annual number of residents provided with a climate safe room or home energy upgrade	No target	46 households were provided with energy upgrades through the Yarra Home Energy Upgrades Program.	N/A. No target was set, however Council supported as many households as possible with the budget available.
35	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4	Annual installed municipal solar capacity	A doubling of installed municipal solar capacity from 2023 (23,948kW)	As of the latest available data 31 December 2025, total installed solar capacity was 29,208 kW, a 4.3% increase from the last Annual Report. This included: • Residential: 16,958 kW or 3,847 installations (15.7% of solar-feasible dwellings) • Commercial: 12,250 kW or 279 installations • Current solar capacity is 1.22 times the baseline solar capacity in 2023.	In progress.
36	4.2	Annual business (commercial and industrial) fossil gas usage	A reduction of 20% from 2023 usage (98,000 tCO2e) Data for this indicator is sourced from a third party reporting platform, Snapshot climate. New data is typically released every 1-2 years, with a data processing time of approximately 12 months. New data was available in 25/26 for FY23/24.	Yarra's business fossil gas emissions increased from 98,000 tCO2e in FY 22/23 to 99,400 tCO2e in FY 23/24, a 1.3% increase.	In progress.
37	4.3	Annual percentage of vehicles registered in Yarra that are zero emissions vehicles	25%	2.68% Battery electric vehicles (increased from 1.8% in 24/25)	In progress

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
38	4.4	Annual fossil gas usage in Council-owned buildings	No fossil gas usage in Council-owned buildings by 2035	30,093 GJ, equivalent to 1,671.06 tCO2-e	In progress.
39	4.4	Annual percentage of Council-owned and contractor vehicles and equipment that is zero emissions	100% (where feasible and fit for purpose)	15.7% of Council fleet is electric (19 of 121 vehicles), and 30.6% is hybrid (33 of 121 vehicles), including: • 10 x cars • 3 x trucks • 3 x vans • 2 x buses • 1 x electric excavator 2.5% of vehicles used across open space, cleaning and waste contracts are electric, including: • 1 x footpath sweeper • 2 X pressure washer vans 95% (39 of 41) pieces of contractor equipment used in the horticulture contract are electric-powered, including: • 3 electric mowers • 1 hybrid mower	In progress

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
40	5.2, 5.3	Percentage of space allocated to canopy cover in the public realm	Annual increase	28.34% canopy cover in the public realm, increased from 24.4% in 2021.	As canopy cover is only measured every five years, there is no 2024/25 data for comparison. However, canopy cover has increased since the last available data (2021).
41	5.2, 5.3	Native biodiversity in Council-managed natural spaces (based on annual biodiversity audits)	Annual increase in the health of biodiversity in Class 1 and 2 vegetation sites managed as bushland (assessed via annual audits)	Ecological Vegetation Class Representation improved significantly across all EVCs and classes, except 56 Floodplain Riparian Woodland Class 1 which stayed stable. 895 Escarpment Shrubland Class 1 showed the largest EVC Rep. improvement (a 58.3% increase). Lifefrom Cover increased across all categories. • Representation of Ecological Vegetation Class increased by 22.12% • Lifefrom Diversity decreased on average by -1% • Lifefrom Cover increased on average by 11.07%	Target met
42	5.2, 5.3	Annual percentage and distribution of canopy cover across Yarra	The Urban Forest Strategy (2017-2026) set a target of 21.25% total canopy cover by 2040.	20.1% of Yarra was covered by tree canopy as measured in 2026, up from 17.7% in 2021. 28.3% of the public realm (streets and parks) was covered by tree canopy.	In progress.

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
43	5.2, 5.3	Annual percentage and equitable distribution of shaded routes to essential services, schools, active and public transport	Annual improvement	24.1% canopy coverage over key routes, up from 16.65% in 2024/25.	Target met.
46	5.2, 5.3	Amount of open space managed for biodiversity	Increase of 5% annually (currently have approx. 40ha, 5% is approx. 2ha, or 20,000m ²)	The annual area of bushland managed increased from 396,857m² (2024) to 406,777m² (2025). This equates to ~1Ha annual increase or 3.5% expansion of area managed under the bushland contract.	In progress.
47	5.2, 5.3	Annual number of plantings in open space areas (noting number of indigenous, Victorian native, Australian native)	100,000 plantings per year (for a range of purposes including shade/cooling, biodiversity, habitat, pollination).	101,207 total plants planted, including: • 216 advanced indigenous trees and 549 advanced Australian native (non-indigenous) trees planted in open space and streets. • 33,050 tubestock and 45,870 local native plants planted through the Bringing Nature Back program. • 20,989 total tubestock planted through the Michael Street Median project. • 1,198 total plants planted through the Open Space Renewal Works.	Target met

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
48	5.2, 5.3	Number of advanced trees, ground and understory species planted that are local native, Victorian native and Australian native, in line with DEECA 'Biodiversity revegetation with provenance mixing for climate change adaptation guidelines', assessed annually	75%	67% of the 1,146 advanced trees planted in open space and streets were native or indigenous, made up of: • 216 advanced indigenous trees • 549 advanced Australian native (non-indigenous) trees	In progress.
49	5.2, 5.3	Annual number of local native trees planted specifically to provide winter foraging opportunities for threatened Grey Headed Flying Fox	200	457 advanced trees planted to support the winter foraging needs of the Grey Headed Flying Fox.	Target met.
50	5.2, 5.3	Annual number new local extinctions of flora or fauna; and number vulnerable or near-threatened species that have become endangered	0	Insufficient data available. Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) Representation improved significantly across all EVCs and classes (except 56 Floodplain Riparian Woodland Class 1 which stayed stable). EVC representation improvement is one metric with a direct and positive influence on local extinctions.	Unknown
51	5.2, 5.3	Annual stormwater nutrient loads into the Birrarung (Yarra)	1.6mg/L nitrogen and 0.05mg/L for phosphorous in line with the ANZECC Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality	No EPA breach notices were issued to Council. No further data is available.	Unknown.

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2025-26 report	Progress against target
52	6.1	Elevating ESD Targets Amendment gazetted in Planning Scheme	By 2026	Amendment with Minister	In progress.
61	1.2, 7.3	Annual use of raw material in Council operations	10% reduction	Nil data	Unknown
62	1.2, 7.3	Annual proportion of second-hand, repair, reuse and recycled content in material used in Council capital works	One third	Nil data	Unknown

