



# Environmental Sustainability Strategy: a Vision for Pyrenees Shire 2011



## FOREWORD

As a regional Council, the Pyrenees Shire seeks to maintain the character, identity and sustainable way of life for the community.

Although the Shire's is largely dependant on agricultural productivity, there are opportunities for economic development through farming, tourism and industry. Linking these activities with protecting and enhancing our natural environment and reducing the impact of everyday living provides us all with a challenge.

Our environment faces significant challenges that have resulted directly from the choices we have made in the past and continue to make. In the decades to come, our waterways, ecosystems, native vegetation, forests and soils will continue to provide the natural resources essential to the quality of our regional lifestyle and sense of place.

Pyrenees Shire Council recognises we need to meet our existing needs while fulfilling our stewardship obligations to maintain a clean, healthy, liveable environment in response to a changing climate.

Through a responsible approach to growth and employment, community leadership and community wellbeing, we will work towards implementing actions from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, mindful that *'Our environment is everybody's environment'*.

An Acknowledgement of Country recognises the traditional Aboriginal land managers of this region, the Watha Warrung, Dja Dja Warrung and Djab Wurrung people and the complex ownership and land stewardship systems.

Michael O'Connor  
Mayor

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy (the Strategy) establishes a strategic operational framework to work towards environmental sustainability in Pyrenees Shire. The Strategy will guide Council in responding to community and to government initiatives and in embedding sustainability into Council operations.

The Strategy has been developed through an extensive consultation process involving Council officers, Councillors, business sector, Landcare, local community, youth and government agencies providing input into the many issues identified in the Strategy.

Context is provided in highlighting Council's progress on key considerations for environmental sustainability, including water quality and consumption, greenhouse gas emission, waste generation and biodiversity, identifying prioritised actions to increase uptake of sustainability in Council operations.

Pyrenees Shire has a vision for communities that are informed and empowered to act. Progresses toward this vision is demonstrated in leadership on actions, supporting programs that deliver outcomes across the Shire and creating networks in the community promoting knowledge transfer.

Understanding that we all have a role to play in reducing our environmental impact is the first step to changing the way we conduct ourselves within our environment. Council has an important role in actively engaging and working with shire residents to build awareness and progress toward environmental sustainability.

Council would like to acknowledge funding support from the Victorian Local Sustainability Accord to enable investigation of issues and development of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

No.	PRIORITY ACTIONS YEAR 1	TARGET
<b>Towards a changing climate</b>		
1.1.1	Undertake <b>energy saving measures</b> on Council owned buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote cost savings through media and Council website</li> <li>Reduce Council's Carbon Footprint</li> <li>Identify in the 10 Year Financial Plan</li> </ul>
1.2.1	Conduct an <b>energy audit</b> of Council owned buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build on Planet Footprint reports 2006</li> <li>Review the reduction target in Council's Greenhouse Plan</li> </ul>
1.2.4	Establish a Council <b>per capita emissions index</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate into the Council Plan environmental objectives</li> <li>Promote to community</li> </ul>
1.2.7	Promote <b>energy efficient retrofit programs</b> to the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively support the Central Victorian Solar Cities Program</li> </ul>
1.3.1	Develop a <b>risk mitigation strategy</b> identifying areas of risk e.g. flood, fire, wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy integrating environmental risk developed and endorsed by Council</li> </ul>
1.3.2	Increase <b>community awareness of adaptation measures</b> for a changing climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate a guest speaker series on climate adaptation</li> </ul>
<b>Managing our natural assets</b>		
2.1.1	Educate staff, contractors and the community on the <b>threat of weed spread</b> to the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake DPI facilitated Weed Movement, Machinery Inspection &amp; Cleaning Workshop training</li> <li>Incorporate in the Roadside Code of Practice</li> </ul>
2.1.3	Place emphasis on the ' <b>avoid principle</b> ' in the earliest stage of development proposals on private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure loss of vegetation is minimized through appropriate siting of dwellings</li> </ul>
2.1.4	Undertake fire prevention measures of <b>roadside fuel reduction</b> , strategic fire breaks, aligning to existing native vegetation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of 2 annual fire prevention measures through the media</li> <li>Fuel reduction and fire prevention maps on Council's website</li> </ul>
2.2.3	Deliver a <b>pest plant and animal control</b> program on Council managed roadsides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure recurrent allocation in Council's annual budget</li> </ul>
2.2.4	Conduct the Pyrenees <b>Planning Scheme review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate environmental and sustainability values into the Planning Scheme</li> <li>Update references to integrate current environment and sustainability references</li> </ul>
2.3.1	Promote an <b>anti- litter and recycling</b> ethic to the community and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual % reduction incoming litter and recycling requests to Compliance Unit of Council</li> </ul>

2.3.2	Supply of <b>biodegradable dog waste bags</b> to designated public places and waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate and report to Council on key locations for placement of biodegradable dog waste bags</li> </ul>
2.3.5	Facilitate investigation and integrate the function of native vegetation into promotion of new <b>Shire flood controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and implement a Shire Flood Plain Management Plan</li> </ul>
2.4.2	Promote Council's green waste facility within the community to <b>discourage burning of vegetative waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reduction as % of total waste sent to Council landfill</li> <li>Website information available</li> </ul>
2.5.3	Promote <b>community gardens and open spaces</b> for passive recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate community gardens and open spaces for passive recreation into the Recreation Strategy</li> </ul>

#### Resource use

3.1.1	Investigate drop points for <b>silage wrap</b> drop points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate demand and Shire-based drop points with HRWMG</li> </ul>
3.1.2	Undertake a <b>waste and recycling education</b> series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively support Highlands Regional waste programs</li> <li>Supply of a contamination report as % annually to Council</li> </ul>
3.1.3	Develop partnerships to investigate <b>bio-energy production</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of renewable energy projects</li> <li>Build on partnership with Highlands regional Waste and CVGA</li> </ul>
3.2.1	<b>Deliver actions from Council's Sustainable Water Use Plan (SWUP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 budget funded actions implemented annually</li> <li>Integrate Community Action Plans actions with the SWUP</li> <li>Promote Sustainable Water Use projects</li> </ul>

#### Working with local communities

4.1.1	Develop and promote an <b>energy meter loan system</b> for residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote loan availability through Council's Resource Centres</li> </ul>
4.1.2	Develop and promote information for building in <b>fire &amp; flood zone</b> areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supply of building information for applicants in flood and fire prone areas</li> <li>Development of a fact sheet for</li> </ul>

		building within flood prone areas
4.1.3	Establish a <b>meeting hub</b> in each community e.g. local hall, sporting clubrooms, schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support and promote the development of Shire community hubs</li> </ul>
<b>Pyrenees shire leading in sustainability</b>		
4.1.1	Develop and promote an <b>energy meter loan system</b> for residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote loan availability through Council's Resource Centres</li> </ul>
4.1.2	Develop and promote information for building in <b>fire &amp; flood zone</b> areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supply of building information for applicants in flood and fire prone areas</li> <li>▪ Development of a fact sheet for building within flood prone areas</li> </ul>
4.1.3	Establish a <b>meeting hub</b> in each community e.g. local hall, sporting clubrooms, schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support and promote the development of Shire community hubs</li> </ul>
4.1.7	Ensure diversity of media styles in <b>communication</b> between Shire and residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incorporate a commitment to diverse media styles into Council's Communication Strategy</li> </ul>
4.1.12	Liaise with and keep the community informed on <b>wind farm</b> development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Updating of Council's website media and ensure diversity of communication</li> </ul>

## **i Pyrenees Shire Profile**

Amalgamation of the Lexton, Avoca and Ripon Shires in 1994 resulted in the formation of Pyrenees Shire Council. Large in area, the Shire covers an area of approximately 3500 square kilometers with a population of 6800 (ABS 2009).

Natural assets are numerous; the Pyrenees Range, Great Dividing Range, the Goulburn-Murray River and Hopkins River systems, national and state threatened flora and fauna species and volcanic plains of national importance characterized by sparse trees and shallow wetlands.

Townships providing goods and services include Avoca in the north and Beaufort to the south of the Shire with smaller settlements surrounding these two centres.

Originally settled around agricultural activity and mining, agricultural pursuits today include mixed cropping and grazing, forestry and viticulture with an emerging eco tourism sector.

### **Local Context**

Pyrenees Shire is regionally placed in south west Victoria, located between the City of Ballarat and Ararat Rural City to the west, Shire of Golden Plains to the south and Northern Grampians Shire to the north.

The municipality is at the headwaters of three Catchment Management Authorities (CMA) catchments. The Hopkins River catchment flows to Warrnambool in the south, taking in the Mt Emu Creek tributaries. The Avoca River flows northwest past Charlton to Lake Tyrell, The Wimmera River flows to the north-west as inflow to Lake Hindmarsh, part of significant Murray River wetlands.

The Shire landscape is predominately a plain, crossed horizontally by the Pyrenees Range and Great Dividing Range. Much of the landscape has been cleared for agriculture resulting in fragments of remnant vegetation. These areas are supplemented by Mt Cole State Forest, Pyrenees Ranges State Forest, conservation reserves and Crown land. The State forests have historically supported firewood collection, however the remaining areas are now recognized for the high quality of flora and fauna health and connectedness.

The area south of Beaufort and to the east of Lexton and north of Avoca encompassing volcanic plains grassland, contains an estimated 5% of its pre-settlement extent and is nationally recognized for its critically endangered ecological community. Prior to settlement the volcanic plains supported key species such as she-oak and banksia in a ground layer of native tussock grasses and herbs.



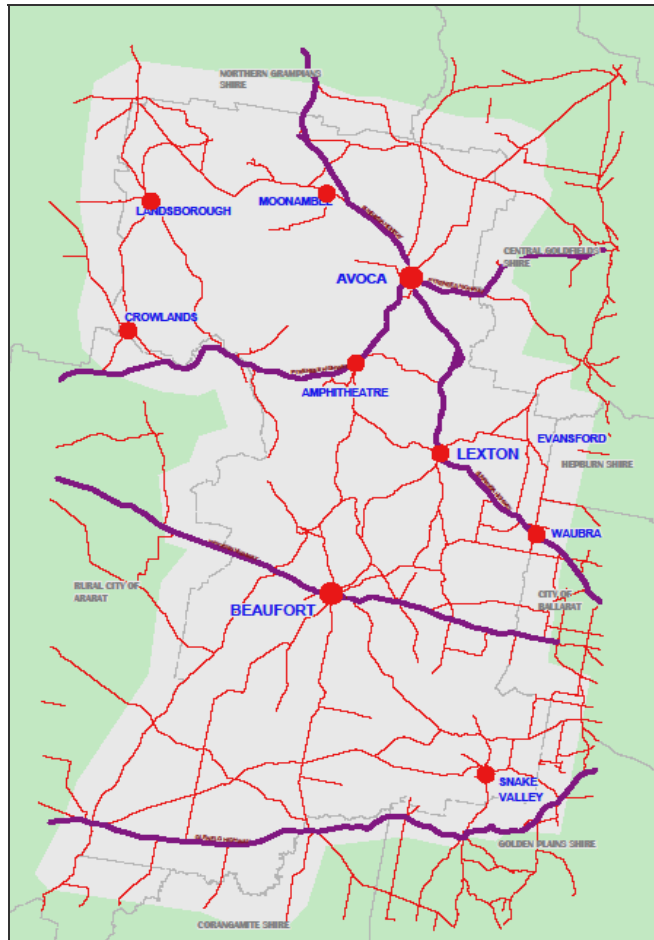


Fig 1: Map of Pyrenees Shire

## ii POLICY BACKGROUND AND GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORKS

### Federal Context

The Australian Government has a responsibility for balancing the social, economic and environmental pillars in conjunction with a leadership role in positioning Australia to adapt to a changing climate. Key Federal departments with a role in a changing climate are outlined below.

The Department of Climate Change was established in 2007 to drive climate change programs and adaptation, greenhouse action, renewable energy targets and develop the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

The Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities develops and implements national policy, programs and legislation to protect and conserve Australia's environment and heritage.

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency defines the Australian Government's role in adaptation actions to protect the environment, sustain society and support the economy.

## **State Directions and Framework**

The State government is responsible for delivery of education, transport, family services, housing, water, corporate law, industrial relations and urban planning. The Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment is a guiding legislative document placing emphasis on adoption of sound environmental practices and procedures for ecologically sustainable development.

Additionally, in September 2010, climate change became enshrined in the State Planning Scheme to identify and manage the potential for the environment and environmental changes to impact upon the economic, environmental or social well-being of society.

Key State strategy and plans referenced in developing this Strategy include:

- Taking Action for Victoria's Future: Victoria's Climate Change White Paper 2010
- Ready for Tomorrow: a Blueprint for Regional and Rural Victoria 2010
- curing our natural future: A white paper for land and biodiversity at a time of climate change 2009
- Green Light Report 2009
- Living Sustainably: The Australian Government's National Action Plan for Education for Sustainability 2009
- Our Environment Our Future – Environmental Sustainability Action Statement 2006

## **Local Government's Role**

As the level of government closest to the community local government is responsible for implementing programs, policies and regulations set by State and Federal Government. The role of Pyrenees Shire is in three parts:

- To ensure the policy agenda of the day is implemented through Councils strategic and operational activities such as the planning scheme
- To ensure environmental best practice in operational procedures and processes
- To demonstrate environmental leadership to the community

## **The Strategy**

Science based information is revealing that that our lifestyle and pattern of consumption is contributing to notable waste and air quality issues. Acknowledging that to flourish, a society is dependant on the health of the environment, there is an identified need to balance economic development with environmental sustainability.

The Strategy outlines Pyrenees Shire's progress relating to the protection, preservation and enhancement of our environment. It consolidates Council's existing achievements, policies and plans in regard to environmental sustainability.

Throughout the Strategy, Council has identified existing programs and plans addressing issues impacting or with the potential to impact on environmental sustainability. Building on these current initiatives and implementing the key actions identified in this strategy, Council will promote collective environmental responsibility.

### **The Role of the Strategy**

Pyrenees Shire Council is responsible for many activities that impact our environment including delivery of waste and recycling services and maintaining infrastructure including roads and bridges. In addition, Council administers the Pyrenees Shire Planning Scheme and enforces state and local laws relating to land use planning and environmental protection.

Throughout this document, the Council Plan objectives align to Strategy priorities, demonstrating strategic links over the three year life of the Strategy. The resulting prioritised actions are integrated into year one of the action plan.

A Steering Group was established, meeting on a regular basis to guide and inform Strategy development. This was added to by the community. A separate internal Implementation Committee comprising Council Officers will be established to monitor, evaluate and review achievement against outlined actions.

Working with the Steering group represents a changed approach, gaining direct input on municipal environmental concerns. Strategy development in this way demonstrated dual benefits; increased community knowledge of environmental sustainability and Council benefit in listening to the community voice.

Development of the Strategy will assist Council to:

- Promote Council's role in demonstrating leadership to the community
- Provide a strategic framework for forward planning, decision making and budget allocation
- Acknowledge Council's commitment to strategically address impacts associated with a changing climate
- Strategically plan for reporting under the Essential Services Commission, piloted in 2011, with all Councils contributing to annual performance reporting by 2013.

### **iii PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

The scope of the Strategy is to integrate community input with stakeholder collaboration and existing State and Council policy. Links are demonstrated with the Pyrenees Shire Council Plan vision of *a healthy, vibrant, prosperous and connected community* linking to internal policy and actions including:

- ISO14001 Environmental Aspects and Impacts Register is part of the Integrated Management Systems which control the services provided to our community.
- Community Action Planning is a community group led process documenting a community's achievements. Priorities are identified, informing Council's Annual Plan and the document is a reference for grant applications.
- Waste Management providing strategic direction regarding the collection, distribution, environmental and economic sustainability of waste management
- Statutory Planning aims to protect and grow elements of our physical environment eg. productive agricultural land, amenity values such as heritage qualities, public infrastructure and natural assets.
- Roadside management processes link Council's responsibility to maintain and repair its public roads with protection of native vegetation, determined under legislation.

This Strategy places focus on investigating, facilitating, developing and implementing actions to reduce the environmental impact from Council operations and municipal land use practices.

Sustainability is:

*Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*

(Bruntland Commission 1987)

*Sustainability is about making sure the social, economic and environmental needs of our community are met and kept healthy for future generations*

(Sustainability Victoria)

## **Strategy Development**

In the absence of any national sustainability legislation at the time of writing the Strategy, two documents have been referenced; the State document entitled *Our Environment Our Future - Sustainability Action Statement 2006* was used to provide document structure and the *Pyrenees Shire Council Plan 2009- 2013* brought a local focus to the Strategy. Insight and ideas have been sought from documents and the Steering Committee comprising representation from a:

- Pyrenees Shire Councillor
- Pyrenees Shire Director Assets and Infrastructure
- Pyrenees Shire Manager Planning
- Pyrenees Shire Environment and Sustainability Officer
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Parks Victoria

Secondary stakeholders identified in the accompanying Community Engagement Plan include Shire Community Action Planning groups, Shire public event participants, Resource Centre users, Bendigo Bank, Landcare, local communities of Avoca and Beaufort, a Climate Change Conference Ambassador sponsored by Council, a Youth Sustainability Forum and school students. The consultation process is discussed in further detail below.

Building on Management Team meetings, Council Officers were invited to provide operational input into the Strategy. This was followed by a discussion of outlined actions with each Council Officer delegated a responsibility over the Strategy lifespan.

The draft document was also circulated for a period of 28 days to gain input and comment from the community.

## **Community Consultation and Process**

Reflecting that 'our environment is everybody's environment', consultation and direct input from the community was required to represent their understanding and aspirations.

A Community Engagement Plan has been developed, setting out the engagement style and methodology to provide input into Strategy development and prioritization of issues.

In 2011 sustainability was introduced into the Community Action Planning process, broadening the focus and increasing potential for community funding uptake. Information gathered will build upon the Community Action Planning process.

Building upon this program will enable documenting projects identified by the community for future funding opportunities.

## **Methodology**

A series of thirty sustainability issues have been collated in collaboration with the Steering Committee to draw community responses and to prioritise issues of importance. Conversely information was also collected on areas of little importance to reveal areas for further media articles and Council promotion. A total of 174 individual responses were collected across the Shire.

The Indicator interest areas are integrated into the Strategy, many discussed in detail, with a summary graph contained at Attachment 2. The Indicators are also further summarized by theme (Attachment 3), revealing the high level of interest in integrating the environment into local place making.

In summarizing the responses, collation of environment, water and energy responses was equal to interest in community issues. With the addition of recycling and waste to the above, a 64% lead is revealed. This data represents the ground-swell of community interest in sustainable living. Data capture provides locality comparisons across Shire communities, providing an invaluable snapshot of community adoption of environmental sustainability.

Emerging priority interest areas include roadside firewood collection, weed management, renewable energy technology, a community firewood lot, walking paths, a clean atmosphere, provision of shade in public recreation areas, cycling trails, use of community art linking environment to place, community gardens and maintaining our productive areas.

## **Process**

The consultation and engagement process was diverse, building upon existing Council events and local community activities.



Fig. 2: Beaufort Community Action Plan meeting

To discuss the Strategy with the community and gain input into development, officer attendance was made at the:

- Beaufort Famers Market
- Avoca Eco-living Festival
- Community Action Planning (CAP) sessions were held in Avoca and Beaufort, including representation from sixteen CAP groups:
- Beaufort Show
- Snake Valley CAP 1
- Woody Yallock-Snake Valley School Campus
- Resource Centres Avoca & Beaufort
- Community meetings Avoca & Beaufort
- Youth Activity Forum

### **Implementation Process**

The Strategy outlines implementation of actions up to 2013. Implementation of the Strategy priority actions will be overseen by an Implementation Committee with a monitoring and reporting role on strategy progress.

As a strategic sustainability framework document for Council, the Strategy represents an overall vision. In formulating actions the outlined themes consist of a mix of:

- Actions for immediate delivery
- Planning and implementation of one major project over the life of this Strategy
- Communication of implementation progress to the wider community
- Establishment of Council partnerships with other key stakeholders

The Strategy aligns to the Council Plan 2009-2013 and the current Councillor term, integrating with and building upon the guiding principles of accessibility and responsiveness, integrity and accountability.

## **iv SUSTAINABILITY THEMES AND ACTIONS**

The key themes identified in the Strategy development process are discussed in detail in the following sub-headings:

- Towards a changing climate
- Managing our natural environment
- Resource use
- Working with our local communities
- Pyrenees Shire leadership in sustainability

Demonstrating strategic processes, each theme is accompanied by a vision and a goal reflected in the Council Plan 2009-2013.

## 1.0 TOWARDS A CHANGING CLIMATE

**Vision:** *Council and community will commit to increased renewable energy uptake*

Gathering evidence suggests that reliance on high consumption of natural resources and resulting increasing accumulation of waste is contributing to air quality and environmental issues. For Council, this translates as endeavoring to reduce the impact from Council operations and investigating implications of future climate issues on the local community.

### 1.1 Clean Green Energy

**Goal:** **To increase Council uptake of green energy technology and reduce greenhouse emissions from Council operations**

Green technology within Pyrenees Shire is demonstrated in wind farm development at Waubra with further proposals in various stages of progress across the municipality at Stockyard Hill, Chepstowe and Crowlands.

Building on a previous International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) program, Council has demonstrated interest in improving operational efficiency of vehicle fleet, streetlights, buildings, waste, water and sewage. Included in this is a focus on reduced energy consumption and emissions for increased efficiency and uptake of solar and alternate technology.



Fig.3: Solar installation to the Moonambel Pavilion



Priority Action	
<b>Clean Green Energy</b>	<b>Goal:</b> To increase the uptake of renewable technology
1.1.1 Undertake <b>energy saving measures</b> on Council owned buildings	
1.1.2 Investigate partnership opportunities for <b>carbon sequestration</b> to offset Council and community emissions	

Action Table 1.1: **Clean Green Energy**

### **ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM EXISTING PYRENEES SHIRE STRATEGIES**

**Pyrenees Greenhouse Plan 2005:** endorsed by Council, this Plan sets an emission reduction target of 20% below 2001-2002 levels by 2010. Measures to achieve the target included establishing an emission baseline for the 2001-2002 financial years, established at 1244 tonnes.

Working toward green energy adoption includes implementation of solar lighting and motion detectors to the Beaufort public toilets and a current investigation into the potential of agricultural waste use for power generation.

### **1.2 Improving Energy Efficiency**

**Goal:** To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations

Priority Action	
<b>Improving Energy Efficiency</b>	<b>Goal:</b> To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations
1.2.1 Conduct an <b>energy audit</b> of Council owned buildings	
1.2.2 Incorporate <b>sustainability principles</b> into building design, construction, Council and maintenance of Council owned buildings.	
1.2.3 Implement a <b>rolling retrofit program</b> on Council owned buildings	
1.2.4 Establish a Council <b>per capita emissions index</b>	
1.2.5 Implement <b>sustainable procurement</b> practices in Council <b>operations</b>	
1.2.6 Downsize Council's <b>vehicle fleet</b> to fuel efficient 4 cylinder/hybrid/gas/ethanol/diesel	
1.2.7 Promote <b>energy efficient retrofit programs</b> to the community	

Action Table 1.2: **Improving Energy Efficiency**

With mooted utility cost increases, a concerted focus on energy efficiency and reduced emissions is acknowledged by Council. Council is participating in the Solar Cities program, promoting interest in improving energy efficiency to the community.

## ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM EXISTING PYRENEES SHIRE STRATEGIES

**Motor Vehicle Policy 2009:** This policy ensures that Council’s light vehicle fleet, aligns to conducting business in a safe, efficient and cost effective manner. Guidelines are established for meeting environmental criteria on purchase, allocation of vehicles and conditions of use.

**Cities for Climate Protection Program 2002 (CCP):** As a participant in the program of five milestones, Council has established an emissions inventory, endorsed a reduction goal, developed a Greenhouse Plan and implemented actions.

**Pyrenees Greenhouse Action Plan 2005:** An inventory of emissions from Council owned buildings, vehicle fleet, streetlights, waste and water reveals the dominant source of greenhouse emissions is generated by Council’s vehicle fleet. The breakdown of corporate emissions by sector for the inventory year 2001-02 is outlined below.

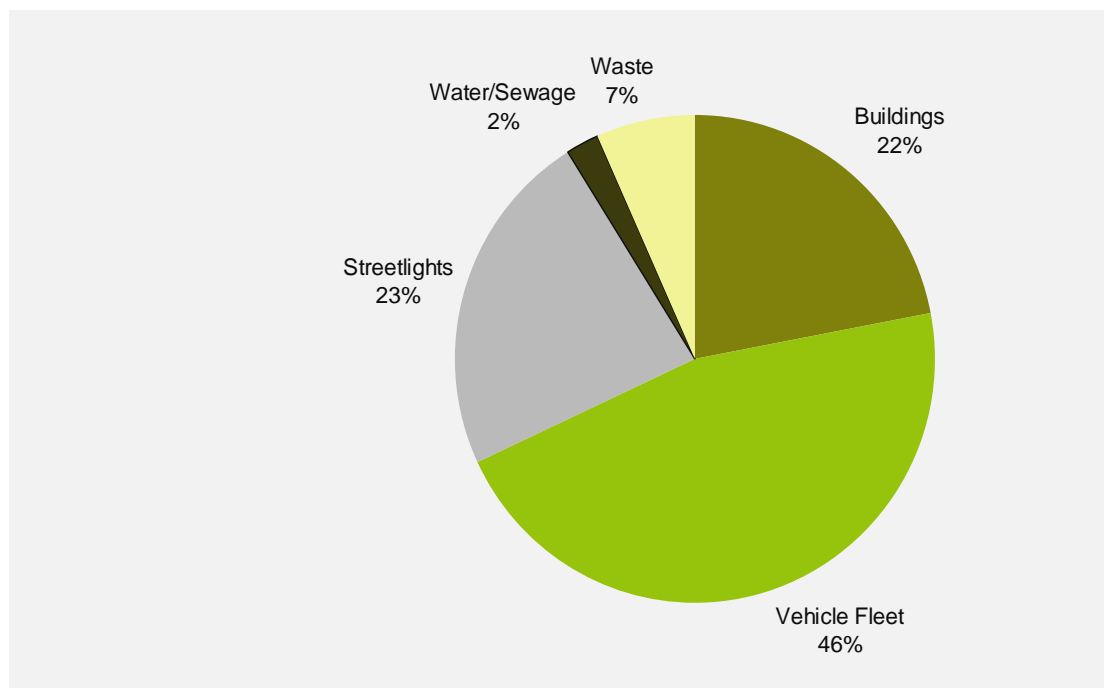


Fig 4: Corporate emissions by sector 2001-2002

Table 1: Corporate emissions and costs 2001 – 2002

Council has implemented actions from the Greenhouse Plan including:

- Conducting energy audits for the Beaufort Shire Office, Beaufort Senior Citizen Centre, Avoca and Beaufort Resource Centres
- Installing solar photo voltaic cells to heat pool water hot water at Landsborough
- Introducing staff awareness and education programs relating to paper recycling
- Fitting of a solar light to a Beaufort public toilet

### 1.3 Adapting to the Impacts of a Changing Climate

**Goal:** To develop a comprehensive strategy to prepare Council and the community for the projected impacts of a changing climate

Pyrenees Shire will promote and increase local community understanding around the impacts of a changing climate.

Formally enshrined in state legislation in 2010, the term ‘Climate change’ was integrated into planning scheme legislation. Clause 13 of the State Planning Policy Framework, under Environmental Risk states *planning should identify and manage the potential for the environment, and environmental changes, to impact upon the economic, environmental or social well-being of society.*

Priority Action	
<b>Adapting to the Impacts of a Changing Climate</b>	<b>Goal:</b> To prepare Council for the predicted impacts of a changing climate
1.3.1 Develop a <b>risk mitigation strategy</b> identifying areas of risk e.g. flood, fire, wind	
1.3.2 Increase <b>community awareness of adaptation measures</b> for a changing climate	

Action Table 1.3: **Adapting to the Impacts of a Changing Climate**

#### ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM EXISTING PYRENEES SHIRE STRATEGIES

**Municipal Fire Prevention Plan (MFPP) 2009:** The MFPP is a requirement under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958. As part of the MFPP process environmentally sensitive areas are to be identified and restricted from slashing, spraying or ploughing except where immediately adjacent to the seal or the property boundary. Burning is the preferred method of fuel reduction as this stimulates regeneration of the native species.

**Neighbourhood Safer Places 2010:** Places of last resort in the case of immediate fire threat are confirmed at Lexton Toll Bar Park, Waubra Recreation Reserve, Willoby Street Car Park Beaufort, Wotherspoon Park, Beaufort, Landsborough Recreation Reserve, Anzac Park Redbank, St Brigids Church Reserve Snake Valley, Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve, Moonambel Recreation Reserve and the Avoca median strip in High Street.

**Community Action Plans:** These Plans identify shared township priorities over a three year period, aligning to the Council Plan and informing Council’s operational and budget processes. The Plans promote local place making and document actions for funding and Council operational implementation.

## 2.0 MANAGING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

**Vision:** *Long term protection and enhancement of natural assets*

To achieve sustainable communities, economic development needs to be balanced with understanding of waterway health and land and biodiversity values in decision making.

### 2.1 A healthy environment

**Goal:** **To demonstrate commitment to management of Shire environmental assets**

The environmental landscape is much altered from settlement condition, with agriculture now being the Shire's main land use. The Shire contains three bioregions, areas sharing soil, climate, topography and plant and animal communities; the Victorian Volcanic Plain, Central Victorian Uplands and the Goldfields region.

The fertile volcanic plains include a large portion of the Shire, now estimated to represent less than 16% of the original sparsely treed grassland. This bioregion includes the Stoneleigh and Trawalla regions in the south, flowing east of Lexton in a northerly direction to include the Natte Yallock area.

The treed areas in the foothills of less fertile Central Victorian Uplands Region, includes Beaufort, Mt Cole through to Elmhurst and Glenpatrick, estimated to contain 40-70% of their original vegetation cover. The drier Goldfields Bioregion is moderately cleared and includes the areas around Lexton, Avoca, Redbank, Moyreisk and Crowlands.

Maintaining a healthy environment presents challenges. Weed invasion is a major threat to roadsides and open space, competing with native species for nutrients and moisture and overtaking less robust local species. Major weed species in the Shire include St John's Wort, Bathhurst Burr, Horehound, Cape Tulip, English Broom, Sweet Briar, Blackberry, Hawthorn, Patterson's Curse, Thistle and Gorse.

Local CFA brigades contribute to a healthy environment by maintaining strategic fire breaks on roads identified in the Integrated Fire Management Plan.

Pollution and siltation of local waterways has occurred as a result of prolonged drought and resulting build-up of debris, changed land practices, drainage patterns and storm water management. While degrading the in-stream habitat for aquatic biodiversity, low water quality impacts on water birds, plants, animals and

community livelihood. Recent heavy rains were impeded by in-stream debris contributing to flooding across the Shire.



Fig 5. Volcanic Plains typified by rocks and grassland (Courtesy B. Blackburn)

There are a number of organisations with a role in managing land and biodiversity in Pyrenees Shire, including Glenelg Hopkins, North Central, Wimmera and Corangamite CMA’s, Parks Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Central Highlands Water, Goulburn Murray Water, CFA, Vic Track, VicRoads, Landcare, Friends Groups, schools and landholders. Council has a role in working with these groups and the wider community to explore and understand long term biodiversity.

Priority Action	
<b>A healthy environment</b>	<b>Goal:</b> To demonstrate commitment to management of Shire environmental assets
2.1.1 Educate staff, contractors and the community on the <b>threat of weed spread</b> to the natural environment	
2.1.2 Protect and enhance <b>management of native plants, animals and their habitat</b>	
2.1.3 Emphasise the ‘ <b>avoid principle</b> ’ in the earliest stage of development proposals on private land	
2.1.4 Coordinate fire prevention with CFA on strategic fire breaks, outlined in the MFPP	

Action Table 2.1: **A healthy environment**

## **ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM EXISTING PYRENEES SHIRE STRATEGIES**

**Roadside management Plan 2011:** a review was undertaken of the Pyrenees Shire Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 1999 in partnership with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE). The Plan review objectives were to establish a works procedure and to provide a code of practice for on-ground works for roadsides of high, medium and low conservation value within the current legislative framework.

**Koala Connect:** this two year four Council partnered project is funded by the Victorian Sustainability Accord with a three-fold objective; to improve environmental outcomes through development of vegetation and biodiversity information for planners, to develop an information kit for new landholders and a native vegetation tool-kit for planning applicants.

**Managing native vegetation on roadsides:** the DSE & Council Agreement for *Managing native vegetation on roadsides* establishes guidelines under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to assist in determining exemptions for road safety and maintenance treatments involving removal of native vegetation.

### **2.2 Healthy and Productive Land**

**Goal:** **Provide support for agricultural systems that address current land management issues and adapt to the challenges of a changing climate**

Rising food costs and interest in food security reflect the impact of world markets, drought, flood and dependency on oil extraction. Within the Shire, continued ability to grow food in areas set aside for agricultural activity, needs to be integrated with landscape scale decision making.

Farming is the most extensive land use in the municipality and forms an important part of our economy and environment. Farming is constantly changing as farmers adapt to markets, weather and climate, economic and environmental conditions.

Although water efficiency is well understood, issues are emerging around salinity, acidification, erosion, weed management and the immediate and longer term impacts from floods. Other emerging issues include firewood collection, cropping of shallow wetlands and removal of volcanic plains rock in nationally protected grassland.

Across the municipality, the absence of access to natural gas means firewood collection and biodiversity are balanced against the immediate practicalities of fuel supply for heating and cooking.

While collection of fallen timber is restricted on the roadside, firewood may be cut from DSE listed coups on purchase of a permit. A long term local community firewood source needs to be investigated. This would enable a trial of suitable firewood species matched to soil and climate conditions.

For the commercial timber industry, a Forestry Code of Practice for Timber Production (Code) applies to development and harvesting for private and public plantation grown and native forests.

The importance of maintaining our productive food areas is an emerging priority being addressed by landholders, state stakeholders and Council. Council supports Landcare and ‘Friends of’ group activities contributing to improved water quality through restricting stock access to waterways, establishing biodiversity plantings, stabilizing soil, controlling pests and sharing local knowledge.



Fig.6 Vineyard at Avoca

Emerging opportunities for the farm sector include bioenergy and carbon sequestration, carbon trading, diversity of crop species and the growing demand for localized ‘clean and green’ food.

Priority Action	
<b>Healthy and productive land</b>	<b>Goal:</b> Provide support for agricultural systems that address current land management issues and adapt to the challenges of a changing climate
2.2.1 Investigate project opportunities for <b>carbon sequestration</b>	
2.2.2 Increase awareness of <b>sustainable land practices</b> for farmers, Landcare, ‘Friends of’ and community groups	
2.2.3 Deliver a <b>pest plant and animal control</b> program on Council managed roadsides	
2.2.4 Conduct the Pyrenees <b>Planning Scheme review</b>	
2.2.5 Use planning controls to maintain healthy and productive land	

Action Table 2.2: **Healthy and productive land**

## ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM EXISTING PYRENEES SHIRE STRATEGIES

**Weeds of the Pyrenees Region 2007:** the Identification Guide for the *Weeds of the Pyrenees Region* provides photos and management information for plants with the potential for a detrimental effect on Shire economic, environment and amenity values.

**Roadside Firewood Collection Strategy 2010 (Draft):** A road reserves primary function is to provide for property access and the safe movement of people and goods. Roads also support utility infrastructure, provide wildlife movement corridors and native flora and fauna habitat. Under Victoria's Firewood Strategy 2010, Council permission is needed for any roadside firewood collection for domestic use, taking into account road safety, personal risk and impact on the environment.

**Future Farming Initiative 2008-2009:** Funding from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to undertake rabbit warren fumigation and harbor destruction to improve biodiversity values on roadsides in the Wimmera River, Glenpatrick, Nowhere and Glenlofty Creek catchment.

### 2.3 Healthy Water Systems

**Goal:** Apply strategic processes to contribute to improved waterways and catchments

Pyrenees Shire has boundaries with four Catchment Management Authorities (CMA's); North Central to the north-east of the Shire, the Wimmera Catchment in the north-west, Glenelg Hopkins to the south-east and Corangamite to the south. The Shire comprises three water systems with threatened species habitat; examples are the Avoca River with galaxia and brown toadlet, the Wimmera River with phascogale and Mt Emu Creek habitat for growling grass frog and platypus.



Fig.7: Mount Emu Creek Pittong



Breaking of long term drought in storm related flooding, across the Shire in January 2011, resulted in significant damage to private property, infrastructure, roads and bridges, crops, pasture and fencing. Flood damage resulted in significant environmental damage in the upper catchments of Waubra, Landsborough, Avoca and Beaufort, with immediate impact on vegetation, waterway silting, loss of animal habitat and property loss.

In the longer term the event will impact on Council and CMA's in various ways; an identified need for risk mitigation planning, an increased education role on the impact of natural processes, and how flooding contributes to increased weed spread, salinity, changed soil Ph and nutrient load in waterways.

Landcare groups contribute to improved water quality through fencing, works to restrict stock from waterways and revegetation with local native species to reduce erosion potential. There is opportunity for Council to investigate coordinating waterway projects to strategically align to and build upon sediment control works, provision of habitat and to increase community amenity values.

Priority Action	
<b>Healthy water systems</b>	<b>Goal:</b> Apply strategic processes to contribute to improved waterways and catchments
2.3.1 Promote an <b>anti- litter and recycling</b> ethic to the community and visitors	
2.3.2 Supply of <b>biodegradable dog waste bags</b> to designated public places and waterways	
2.3.3 Partner with CMA's to manage <b>riparian weeds</b> & increase community awareness	
2.3.4 Apply appropriate and sustainable design of <b>waterway crossings</b>	
2.3.5 Facilitate investigation and integrate benefits of native vegetation into promotion of new <b>Shire flood controls</b>	
2.3.6 Facilitate investigation of Shire township water availability to inform <b>future growth limits</b>	
2.3.7 Investigate funding for <b>waterway, plant and animal interpretive signage</b>	
2.3.8 Strategically protect land within water catchments	

Action Table 2.3: **Healthy water systems**

## **ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM EXISTING PYRENEES SHIRE STRATEGIES**

**Regional stormwater education program 2007:** Funded through the Victorian Stormwater Action Program, the program aims were twofold; to raise awareness of stormwater in Shire schools, businesses and industry and to develop and monitor site-specific plans to improve stormwater management.

**Stormwater Management Plan Avoca and Beaufort 2002:** The aim of the plan is to improve the quality of stormwater discharged into local waterways and to put strategic actions in place for improved management of urban stormwater quality. Works undertaken to improve stormwater quality include installation of stormwater pits and gross pollutant traps to Beaufort and Avoca. The Avoca Industrial Estate, currently being developed, includes plans for including a stormwater retention basin in Stage 2.

**Domestic Wastewater Management Plan 2006:** the three part Plan contains an assessment of risks to stormwater in five priority towns of Snake Valley, Landsborough, Waubra, Moonambel and Lexton. Town and township actions are identified, management strategies outlined and guidelines for implementation included for risk minimization and protection of the community and natural environment.

**Sustainable Water Use Plan 2005:** This Plan places focus on reduction of potable water consumption, promotion of education and awareness around water conservation for improved water quality. Council facilities identified to reduce potable water consumption, include works depots, swimming pools, public toilets, parks and community buildings. Capital works undertaken to reduce potable water consumption include:

- Pool covers to Beaufort pool and backwash water use for Beaufort Gold Club course irrigation
- Pool shading to reduce evaporation loss at Landsborough
- Recirculated water and lawn irrigation at the Avoca pool
- Dual flush toilets at public pools, Council offices and the Avoca and Beaufort Resource Centres
- Truckwash facilities – a wash bay at Avoca depot and triple interceptor pit at Beaufort to trap and collect large particle and improve discharge water quality to stormwater
- Tanks to collect rainwater for toilet flushing are installed at the Council office in Beaufort, Waubra Community Centre, Goldfields Recreation Reserve Bendigo Bank building, Council Depots at Beaufort and Avoca

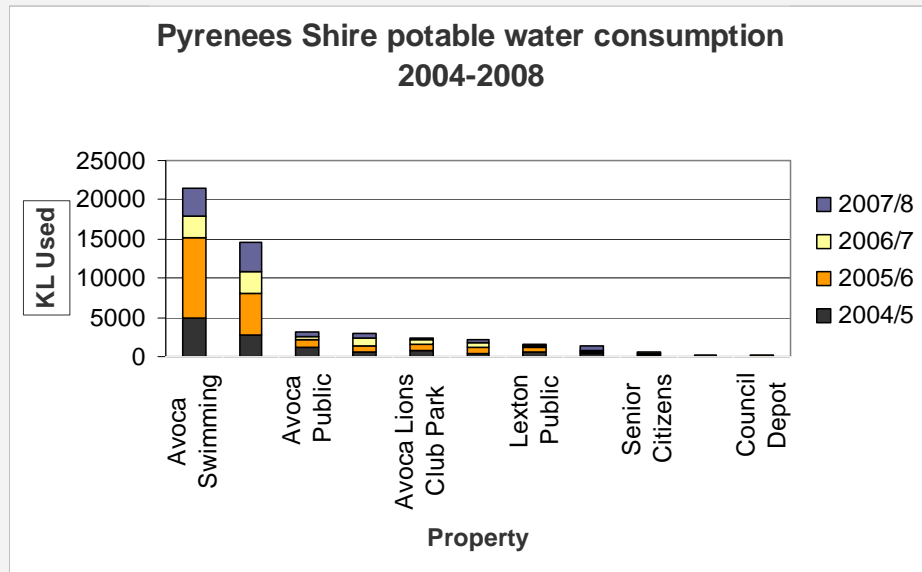


Fig 8: Corporate water consumption by property 2004-2008

## 2.4 Clean Air

**Goal: To increase understanding of improved air quality**

Pyrenees Shire is fortunate to have few effects from air pollution such as domestic wood heating, agricultural activities, stubble burning or dust storms. It is acknowledged that vegetation plays a vital role in the oxygen/carbon cycle, whilst burning of unseasoned wood and leaving older combustion heaters burning overnight impact on local air quality and people's health.

The proposed Vic Roads diversion of the Western Freeway around Beaufort will contribute to reduced vehicle exhaust fumes and brake emissions. A reduction in heavy articulated transport through the business, school and hospital activity areas will remove exhaust fumes containing suspended particle emissions, contributing to improved air quality.

Priority Action	
Clean air	<b>Goal:</b> To increase understanding of improved air quality
2.4.1 Promote use of <b>dry seasoned firewood</b> for fuel stoves	
2.4.2 Promote Council's green waste facility within the community to <b>discourage burning of vegetative waste</b>	

Action Table 2.4: **Clean air**

## 2.5 Park Linkages

**Goal:** To contribute to improved park connectivity

Pyrenees Shire hosts a range of parks and reserves providing diversity of experience for the community and visitors. A management challenge is posed to these areas with weed spread and animals invading open spaces within reserves. Pests impact not only native flora and fauna but also on recreational uses by the community.

With stakeholders there is opportunity to investigate linking parks and reserves to township areas and the development of walking and cycling trails for the community and visitors. Integration of water efficient irrigation, water efficient plantings and provision of natural or built shade with environmental interpretive signage will increase amenity values and environmental appreciation. Management of open space varies across the Shire, with Council, the DSE, Parks Victoria and community groups contributing to site maintenance.

Priority Action	
<b>Park Linkages</b>	<b>Goal:</b> To contribute to improved
2.5.1 Partner with agency to investigate <b>linking Council managed and crown open space</b>	
2.5.2 Investigate and develop a framework for a <b>community firewood lot</b>	
2.5.3 Promote <b>community gardens and open spaces</b> for passive recreation	
2.5.4 Support long term sustainable use of <b>native forests</b>	

Action Table 2.5: **Park Linkages**



Fig 9: Andrew State Forest (Courtesy E. Thurgood)

## ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM EXISTING PYRENEES SHIRE STRATEGIES

**Recreation Strategy 2010-2020:** This strategy is a ten year plan to implement the prioritised objectives in the Shire’s parks and reserves frequented by the community and visitors. Use of open space is encouraged for passive and active leisure, simultaneously promoting our natural assets.

	<b>3.0 RESOURCE USE</b>
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**Vision:** *Increased reuse and recycling and a reduced impact on the environment*

### 3.1 Waste management

**Goal:** **Annual reduction in power, water and waste from Council operations and the community**

Our society is increasingly consumer driven with a focus on updates of new technology and purchase of packaged goods, generating increasing increasing volumes of waste.

Encouraging a local ethic or re-use, replacement of disposable shopping bags with an ethic of re-use and installation of water refill stations are examples of community and Council actions to reduce resource use and waste generation to landfill.

A partner in the Highlands Regional Waste Group, Council needs to actively promote an ethic of reduce, reuse and recycling to minimise waste in community collections and in managing Council’s own waste stream. Council has a role in raising awareness of waste reduction and promotion of a reuse and recycle ethic within the community, for event planning, to businesses and Shire visitors.

An emerging challenge is managing waste generated from the introduction of new technology such as compact fluorescent globes and e-waste including digital television and radios, placing additional demand on recycling services and the availability of markets for sorted material.

Priority Action	
<b>Increased reuse and recycling and a reduced impact on the environment</b>	<b>Goal:</b> Annual reduction in power, water and waste from Council operations and the community
3.1.1 Investigate drop off points for <b>silage wrap</b>	
3.1.2 Undertake a <b>waste and recycling education</b> series	
3.1.3 Develop partnerships to investigate <b>bio-energy production</b>	

3.1.4 Council assessment to determine the appropriate number of <b>recycle bins</b> in open space areas
3.1.5 Investigate use of Council <b>shredded used paper for composting</b>
3.1.6 <b>Educate Council staff and community on recycling</b> of plastic bags, recyclable plastic containers, glass, steel
3.1.7 <b>Integrate environmental sustainability criteria into all Council operations and processes</b>

Action Table 3.1: **Increased reuse and recycling and a reduced impact on the environment**

### **ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM EXISTING PYRENEES SHIRE STRATEGIES**

**Waste Management Plan 2009:** The Pyrenees Shire Waste Management Plan provides strategic direction in the collection, distribution, environmental and economic sustainability of waste management. Kerbside services are provided in waste collection and greenwaste within township zones.

Statistics from Community Indicators Victoria reveal that Pyrenees Shire residents generated 383kg of non-recyclable waste per household in 2007-08, considerably less than for the remainder of Victoria at 476kg.

Shire transfer stations provide for receipt of paper and cardboard, glass, plastics, metal, used oil, batteries, the Detox Your Home program for household chemical products and Chemclear program for disposal of rural chemicals at the Beaufort and Avoca Transfer Stations. Green waste is now included in the kerbside services to Beaufort and Avoca. Rural properties without a kerbside service are provided with vouchers for domestic waste, recycling and green waste at Transfer Station collection points in Beaufort, Avoca, Landsborough and Snake Valley.

**Waste Wise Plan 2008:** The Plan has a focus on increased recycling, reduced contamination rates, sustainable purchasing and waste diversion across Council operations. Implemented actions include promoting double sided printing, removal of individual bins to encourage staff use of recycling bins, recycling of used mobile phones through Mobile Muster and printer cartridges collected through Planet Ark.

**Procurement Policy 2010:** The policy objective is to monitor and report on purchasing with an impact on the environment. Council is committed to reduce resource use, consumption and to minimise waste generation during the procurement life cycle. Copy paper used is plantation grown, with forest stewardship accreditation (FSC).

**Capped Landfill Project:** Council is participating in a three-year deregulated landfill site project to identify, establish and monitor native vegetation suited to landfill cap conditions including cap layer variability and compaction. Plants will be monitored for their ability to tolerate, thrive and uptake toxins from capped landfill.

### 3.2 Reduced water consumption

**Goal: To implement two actions from the Sustainable Water Use Plan 2005**

The far reaching effects of prolonged drought have reinforced the message to conserve water. Prolonged drought impacted on Shire reservoir and dam levels and saw Central Highlands Water introduction of rebates for purchase of water tanks to residents on reticulated water supply. Bureau of Meteorology predictions for a changing rainfall pattern, reduced rainfall and an increased evaporation rate will change effective water management.

Priority Action	
Reduced water consumption	Goal: To implement two actions from the Sustainable Water Use Plan 2005
3.2.1 Deliver actions from Council's Sustainable Water Use Plan (SWUP)	
3.2.2 Facilitate an investigation into Avoca desalination plant <b>recycled grey water use</b> for use in recreational facilities	
3.2.3 Investigate the installation of public <b>water refilling stations</b> to promote bottle reuse	

Action Table 3.2: **Reduced water consumption**

#### ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM EXISTING PYRENEES SHIRE STRATEGIES

**Sustainable Water Use Plan 2005:** Detailed at 6.5 Healthy and Productive Water Systems

### 3.3 Sustainable and Efficient Transport Systems

**Goal: Promote increased use of shared transport on serviced linkages**

Pyrenees Shire is well serviced by major highways. This is demonstrated with the Western Highway servicing Beaufort, providing an arterial connection between Melbourne and Adelaide and the Sunraysia Highway providing access to Mildura. The Pyrenees Highway provides links the Shire's central area and the southern section is serviced by the Glenelg Highway linking Melbourne with south-western Victoria.

A passenger rail service operates on the Ararat line, stopping at Beaufort and is enhanced by the Pyrenees and Rural City of Ararat partnered Flexible Transport Project, to increase public transport networks.

Increasing transport infrastructure provides benefits in reducing the number of single occupant vehicle trips, and subsequent greenhouse gas and vehicle emissions. Diversity of transport is also important for reducing Shire vulnerability to changes in oil supply.

**Community bus:** Council has a community bus available for hire to eligible Shire groups for a nominal charge. Not only reducing fuel consumption, hire of the community bus also increases social interactivity and mobility of patrons.

### Grampians Pyrenees Flexible Transport Project

The Grampians Pyrenees Flexible Transport project, funded by the Department of Planning and Community Development, is working to increase access to transport for people in the region. Goals of the six year project include providing integrated transport for the Grampians Pyrenees and to coordinate existing transport assets to gain maximum community benefit and patronage. Public transport bus routes trialed for the Pyrenees Shire community include:

- St Arnaud – Ararat – Stawell via Navarre, Landsborough and Crowlands
- Ararat to Maryborough via Elmhurst, Amphitheatre and Avoca
- Maryborough community bus to Redbank and Moonambel, Snake Valley to Ballarat

Priority Action	
<b>Sustainable and efficient transport systems</b>	<b>Goal:</b> Promote increased use of shared transport on serviced linkages
3.3.1 Advocate for re-opening of <b>Maryborough Ararat railway line</b> to reduce through traffic from local roads	
3.3.2 Advocate for a <b>bus timetable revision</b> to align services to local work patterns, increasing patronage from small townships	
3.3.3 <b>Explore minibus/carpooling incentives</b> for Council employees travelling into the Shire	

Action Table 3.3: **Sustainable and efficient transport systems**



## 4.0 WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

**Vision:** *Increased Council and community understanding and application of sustainability*

### 4.1 Communities with a Sustainable Living Ethic

**Goal:** Promote and increase community awareness of the benefits of increased sustainability

Any discussion around a changing climate needs to take into account the impact on people's everyday lives. In working together Council will enhance the community's ability to respond positively in adapting to change and planning for their future.



Fig 9: Exhibits at Beaufort Show 2010

Developing this Strategy has sought to make adapting to a changing climate relevant and local in engaging the community and inviting input on local and related issues and concerns. A chart was developed, comprising statements on energy, water, waste, biodiversity and community connectivity to gauge the importance of climate related issues and to adequately reflect community priorities in the Strategy as a guide to future decision making.

### Youth

Youth input on sustainability was gathered at primary schools appealing to their imagination as young adults. Lively discussion revealed interest in adaptive dwelling design for increased use of renewable energy, reduced consumption and increased efficiency. Water efficiency focused on personal water use restrictions, consolidation of small dams and a reduction in purchase of bottled water, replaced instead with refilling stations. A strong emphasis was placed on recycling and a focus on 'making do' from their grandparent's generation. Interest in the school

environment, was demonstrated, discussing plants, propagation and role of vegetation in the general environment.

A Sustainability Forum, as part of National Youth Week explored food miles, clothing miles and the impact on natural resources of using non compostable/non-renewable goods.

Priority Action	
<b>Communities with a sustainable living ethic</b>	<b>Goal:</b> Promote and raise community awareness of the benefits of increased sustainability
4.1.1 Develop and promote an <b>energy meter loan system</b> for residents	
4.1.2 Develop and promote information for building in <b>fire &amp; flood zone</b> areas	
4.1.3 Establish a <b>meeting hub</b> in each community e.g. local hall, sporting clubrooms, schools	
4.1.4 Support community groups with event management	
4.1.5 Facilitate and support an annual <b>'Sustainable House' open day</b>	
4.1.6 Investigate <b>incentives for domestic solar</b> installation through partnerships	
4.1.7 Ensure diversity of media styles in <b>communication</b> between Shire and residents	
4.1.8 <b>Promotion of sustainability</b> at community Landcare, CWA, environmental events including the Rainbow and other festivals	
4.1.9 <b>Educate the community on sustainability</b> issues	
4.1.11 Partner investigation with adjoining Shires into hosting an <b>Agricultural/Climate Adaptation Officer</b>	
4.1.12 Liaise with and keep the community informed on <b>wind farm</b> development	

Action Table 4.1 **Communities with a sustainable living ethic**

## 4.2 Improving community awareness and commitment to sustainability

There is a need to promote climate resilience where a community can foresee not only change, but potential budget savings and opportunities for their locality.

Council can play a role, directly or indirectly in promoting and facilitating bringing together people with an interest in exploring local ideas and actions to reduce their exposure to the impacts of a changing climate.

Priority Action	
<b>Improving community awareness and participation</b>	<b>Goal:</b> Use the Community Action Plans to determine the use of, and future needs for community facilities
4.2.1 Integrate sustainability into Council's <b>Community Grants</b> program	
4.2.2 Engage <b>local artists</b> in interpreting and promoting Shire sustainability	
4.2.3 Catalogue Shire <b>environmental and cultural icons</b>	

Action Table 4.2 **Improving community awareness and participation**

### ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM EXISTING PYRENEES SHIRE STRATEGIES

**Economic Development Strategy Building Partnerships – Achieving Growth 2006:** The key objectives of the Strategy include increasing collaboration, building on existing strengths that exist within the Pyrenees Shire such as agriculture, wine, events, the natural environment, and business organisations.

**Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009 – 2013:** The aim of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) is to protect, improve and community wellbeing within the municipality of the Pyrenees Shire, particularly to those areas Council can influence such as urban planning, advocacy, leadership, transport, employment, social connectedness, community awareness, participation and access.

**Positive Ageing Strategy:** The aim of the Strategy is to proactively plan for the needs of a growing older population, encourage good health within the community and sustain health and vitality. Programs include Home and Community Care services, adult day activity programs, recreational and social support programs, assisted transport and care support.

## COMMUNITY SUSTAINABLE LIVING ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED

**Beaufort Community House & Learning Centre:** Supported by Adult Community and Further Education, a variety of programs supporting sustainability are delivered including horticulture, operating a chain saw, bee keeping, sewing, floral art, alternate farming-alpacas, water wise irrigation for garden and farm and hat making. In 2011 further programs are planned around relating to the local environment.

**Healthy Communities Initiative 2010:** This joint program with Central Goldfields Shire is funded through the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health. The objective is to support and actively promote local healthy lifestyles and social connectivity.

**Good Food Program 2011:** This two year program in Avoca has two parts; encouraging people to cook with healthy produce and to build participant knowledge and awareness of fresh produce through establishment of a community garden.

**Healthy Communities Initiative 2010:** This joint program with Central Goldfields Shire is funded through the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health. The objective is to promote local physical activity, education and healthy lifestyle through the programs outlined below.

**Good Food Program 2011:** This two year program in Avoca has two parts; encouraging people to cook with healthy produce and to increase practical knowledge of fresh produce through establishment of a community garden.

**Beaufort Community Garden:** The garden plots are in the early stages of establishment at the rear of the RSL building. Tank water is available and local resources of wood shavings and locally milled timber have been utilized as mulch to suppress weeds.

**Avoca Community Food Pantry:** This project involves a community organisation affiliated with not-for-profit Foodbank Australia to seek and distribute donated business produce to agencies for distribution. Food donations are used to prepare meals or provide food parcels.

## 5.0 PYRENEES SHIRE LEADING IN SUSTAINABILITY

**Vision:** *A healthy, vibrant, prosperous and connected Pyrenees community*

**Goal:** **To lead the community into a sustainable and ecologically sound future**

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy sets out a vision with objectives and actions to guide Council in reducing the organisational footprint. Implementation of the document actions will be through a separate Implementation Committee to align projects to the annual Council Plan and budget process. It is proposed that the leadership part of the Strategy be reviewed and updated annually.

Priority Action	
<b>Pyrenees shire leading in sustainability</b>	<b>Goal:</b> To lead the community into a sustainable and ecologically sound future
5.1.1 Develop CEO, local and <b>regional partnerships</b> with environment and climate stakeholder groups	
5.1.2 Investigate the potential of Beaufort Primary School as an <b>off-site residential learning campus</b>	
5.1.3 Align proposed Shire population growth & ability to maintain a <b>sustainable lifestyle</b>	
5.1.4 Demonstrate and uphold a Shire annual <b>sustainable project award</b>	
5.1.5 Demonstrate <b>improved Shire infrastructure</b> such as telecommunications, housing, water, sewerage, energy, natural gas	
5.1.6 Demonstrate increased local patronage on <b>public transport</b> during business hours	
5.1.7 Demonstrate Shire solar/ <b>low emission street lighting</b> use	
5.1.8 Incorporate <b>workplace sustainability</b> clauses in the Council staff Climate and Culture program	
5.1.9 Demonstrate long term Council <b>commitment to sustainability</b>	

Action Table 5.0: **Pyrenees shire leading in sustainability**

## **ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM EXISTING PYRENEES SHIRE STRATEGIES**

**Central Highlands Regional Strategic Plan (CHRSP) 2010:** The Plan sets out a vision designed to position the Central Highlands region to 2030, to guide development of a productive, sustainable and liveable region. The CHRSP sets out a series of integrated strategic direction including

- Managing the use of regional scale assets, horticulture, securing water and energy
- Providing for planned rural living
- Transport infrastructure and services
- Positioning the region's heritage at the national level
- Expanded and better health services, it development,
- Housing , education and training
- Leadership, capacity building and regional planning

**Municipal Strategic Statement 2006 (MSS):** The MSS outlines the future directions for land use and development in the Pyrenees Shire over a ten year time frame. Objectives are outlined for strategic planning, land use and development, setting out strategies to achieve the outcomes. The MSS is scheduled to be reassessed in 2011.

**Pyrenees Shire Council Plan 2009 – 2013:** The Council Plan describes Council's goals and aspirations for the next four years. It describes areas of importance to Shire residents and future Shire objectives under the seven pillars of:

- Road infrastructure
- Community infrastructure
- Community wellbeing
- Growth and employment development
- Governance and community leadership
- Organisational development
- Environment

## **6.0 CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY**

### **Implementation of actions**

Whilst many of the Strategy actions will integrate into day to day Council operations, commitment to sourcing and establishing an ongoing environmental budget allocation will be needed to plan for and reduce vulnerability to the impacts of a changing climate.

### **Awareness of the environment**

Awareness of the environment and community participation in sustainability will increase with the Council commitment to involve, implement and communicate progress of Strategy actions through community groups, at local events and to new residents and students.

## **Participation and Ownership**

For this Strategy to lead Council and the community in a new direction, it is vital to consider the impact of decision making on the longer term social, economic and environmental implications. Throughout Strategy development an approach of informing, consulting, involving, collaborating and empowering has been undertaken to promote and inspire community action to address local concerns and issues.

## **7.0 MONITORING EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

Monitoring implementation of the Strategy actions will be the role of an Implementation Committee, comprising a Councillor and Council Officers. The structure and role of the Implementation Committee is discussed further in the Implementation Plan.

Development of a yearly report will describe completed Strategy, identifying further actions and budget requirements for the proceeding years. The Strategy will be reviewed as a means of ensuring progress, reviewing and making adjustments to ensure implementation.

## **8.0 ATTACHMENTS**

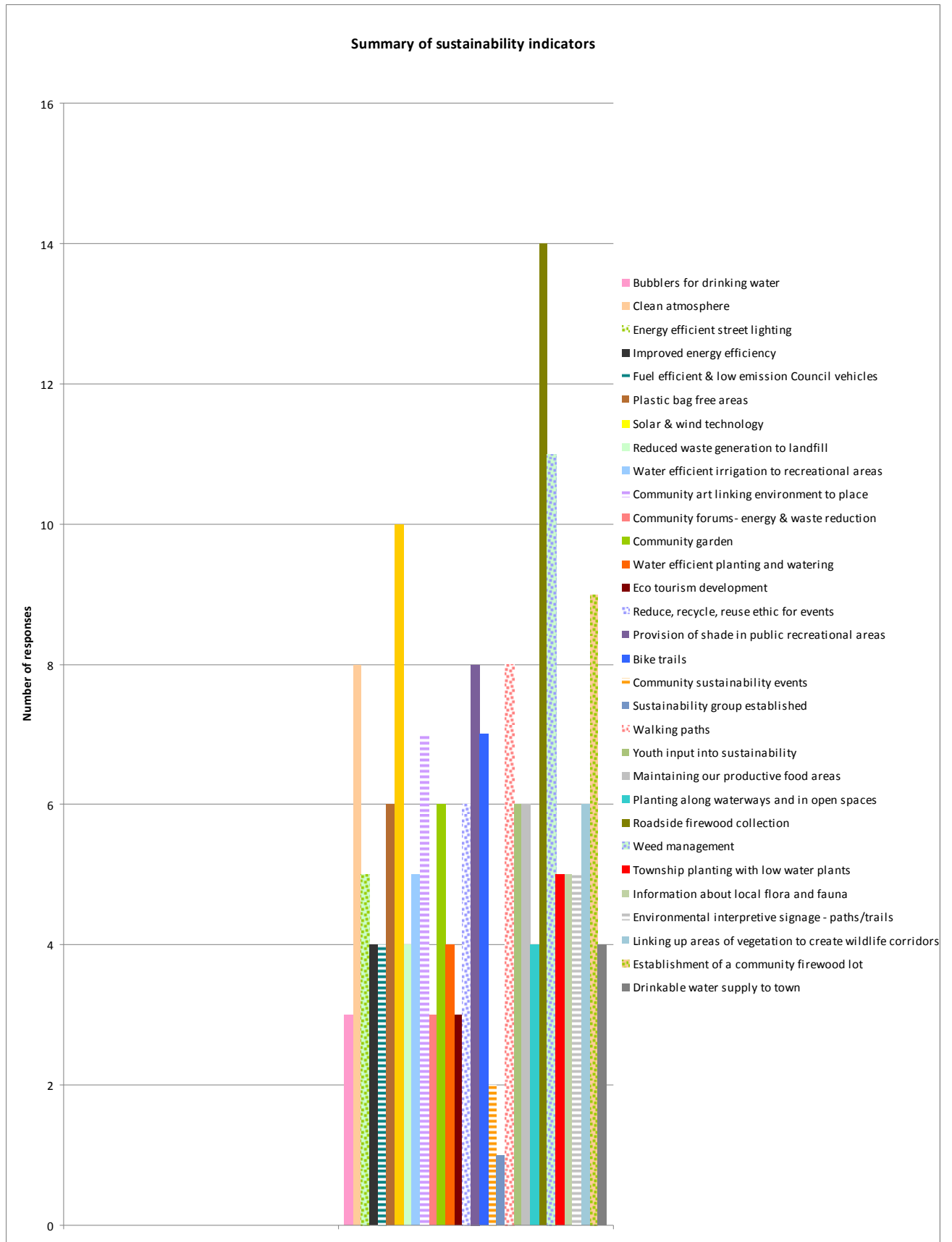
- 1.0 Sustainability Indicator Sheet
- 2.0 Summary of sustainability indicators
- 3.0 Summary of sustainability by theme
- 4.0 Environmental sustainability strategy - actions over three years

## ATTACHMENT 1 – Sustainability Indicator Sheet

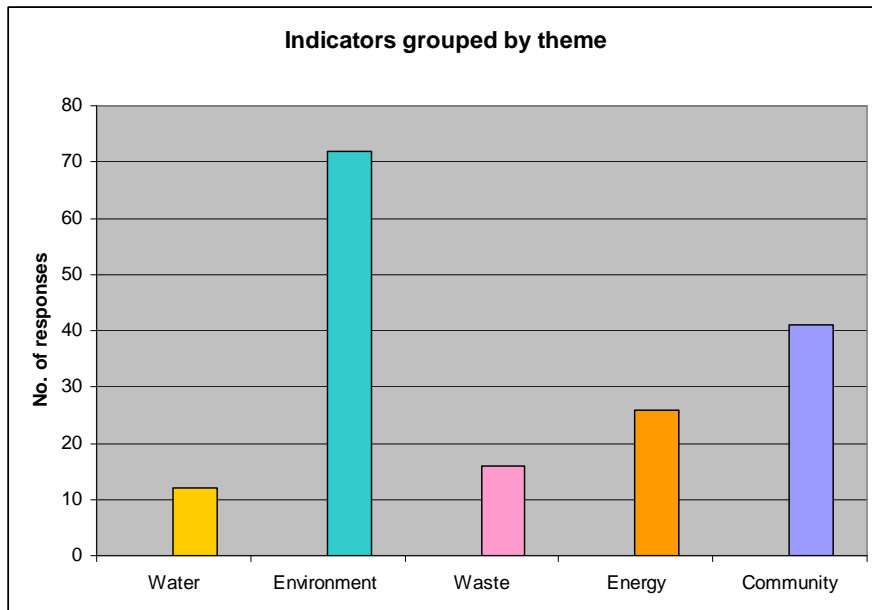
	ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	REALLY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE	NOT IMPORTANT
	Bubblers for drinking water				
	Clean atmosphere				
	Energy efficient street lighting				
	Improved energy efficiency				
	Fuel efficient & low emission Council vehicle fleet				
	Plastic bag free areas				
	Solar & wind technology				
	Reduced waste generation to landfill				
	Water efficient irrigation to recreational areas				
	Community art linking environment to place				
	Community forums- energy & waste reduction				
	Community garden				
	Water efficient planting and watering				
	Eco tourism development				
	Reduce, recycle, reuse ethic for events				
	Provision of shade in public recreational areas				
	Bike trails				
	Community sustainability events				
	Sustainability group established				
	Walking paths				
	Youth input into sustainability				
	Maintaining our productive food areas				
	Planting along waterways and in open spaces				
	Roadside firewood collection				
	Weed management				
	Township planting with low water requirement plants				
	Information about local flora and fauna				
	Environmental interpretive signage along paths/trails				
	Linking up areas of vegetation to create wildlife corridors				
	Establishment of a community firewood lot				



## ATTACHMENT 2 - Summary of Sustainability Indicators



### ATTACHMENT 3 - Summary of Sustainability Indicator areas by theme



#### Description of theme

**Water** includes water efficient planting, irrigation and water refill stations

**Environment** includes environmental management, flora and fauna, interpretive signage and wildlife corridors

**Waste** includes reduced waste generation through education and public events

**Energy** includes improved energy efficiency, solar and wind technology and low emission vehicles

**Community** includes open space and recreation

Attachment 4: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY - ACTIONS OVER THREE YEARS

COUNCIL PLAN 2009-2013	SUB THEME & GOAL	PRIORITY ACTION	STATUS O-N-P	YEAR 1-2-3	Funding New/ Recurrent	TARGET	RESPONSIBILITY	
<b>1.0 TOWARDS A CHANGING CLIMATE</b>								
Support the development of renewable energy projects where they will not be to the detriment of the community  <i>Vision: Council and community committing to increased renewable energy uptake</i>	1.1 Clean green energy  <b>Goal:</b> To increase Council uptake of green energy technology	1.1.1 Undertake <b>energy saving measures</b> on Council owned buildings	N	1	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote cost savings through the media and Council website</li> <li>Reduce Council's Carbon Footprint</li> <li>Identify in the 10 Year Financial Plan</li> </ul>	Director Corporate Services Env. Sustainability Officer	
		1.1.2 Investigate partnership opportunities for <b>carbon sequestration</b> to offset Council and community emissions	N	3	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership developed</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets and Development  Env. Sustainability Officer	
	1.2 Improving energy efficiency  <b>Goal:</b> To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations	1.2.1 Conduct an <b>energy audit</b> of Council owned buildings	N	1	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build on Planet Footprint reports 2006</li> <li>Review the reduction target in Council's Greenhouse Plan</li> </ul>	Env. Sustainability Officer	
		1.2.2 Incorporate <b>sustainability principles</b> into building design, construction, Council and maintenance of Council owned buildings.	O	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate the MAV <i>Sustainable Buildings Code</i> into design/tender specifications</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets and Development Manager Projects Manager Building	
		1.2.3 Implement a <b>rolling retrofit program</b> on Council owned buildings	N	3	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate into the Building Module of Assets <i>My Data</i> Register</li> <li>Incorporate into Council's Building Asset Management Plan</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets and Development Manager Assets	
		1.2.4 Establish a Council <b>per capita emissions index</b>	N	1	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate into the Council Plan environmental objectives</li> <li>Promote to community</li> </ul>	Director Corporate Services	
		1.2.5 Implement <b>sustainable procurement</b> practices in Council <b>operations</b>	O	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Councils Procurement Policy &amp; integrate commitment to sustainable procurement</li> </ul>	Director Corporate Services	
		1.2.6 Downsize Council's <b>vehicle fleet</b> to fuel efficient 4 cylinder/hybrid/gas/ethanol/diesel	O	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the effectiveness of Councils Vehicle Policy and implement fuel efficient, low emission standards</li> </ul>	Director Corporate Services	
		1.2.7 Promote <b>energy efficient retrofit programs</b> to the community	N	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively support the Central Victorian Solar Cities Program</li> </ul>	Communication Officer Env. Sustainability Officer	
	Mitigate risk through Council systems and processes	1.3 Adapting to the impacts of a changing climate  <b>Goal:</b> Risk mitigation through development of a Shire strategy for the projected impacts of a changing climate	1.3.1 Develop a <b>risk mitigation strategy</b> identifying areas of risk e.g. flood, fire, wind	O	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy integrating environmental risk developed and endorsed by Council</li> </ul>	Manager IMS Coordinator Emergency Mgt, Env. Sustainability Officer
1.3.2 Increase <b>community awareness of adaptation measures</b> for a changing climate			N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate a guest speaker series on climate adaptation</li> </ul>	Env. Sustainability Officer	
<b>2.0 MANAGING OUR NATURAL ASSETS</b>								
Participate in regional and state environmental forums  <i>Vision: Long term protection and enhancement of natural assets</i>	2.1 Protecting the environment  <b>Goal:</b> To demonstrate commitment to management of Shire environmental assets	2.1.1 Educate staff, contractors and the community on the <b>threat of weed spread</b> to the natural environment	N	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake DPI facilitated Weed Movement, Machinery Inspection &amp; Cleaning Workshop training</li> <li>Incorporate in the Roadside Code of Practice</li> </ul>	Manager Works ESO	
		2.1.2 Protect and enhance <b>management of native plants, animals and their habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct training for all staff involved in work impacting on the environment</li> </ul>	N	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct an annual information session for contractors &amp; tendees</li> </ul>	Manager Works, ESO
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate statutory environmental responsibility into Section 86 operating manuals</li> </ul>				Director Corporate Services	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure loss of vegetation is minimized through appropriate siting of dwellings</li> </ul>	O	1	R	Manager Planning	
		2.1.4 Undertake fire prevention measures of <b>roadside fuel reduction</b> , strategic fire breaks	O	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of 2 annual fire prevention measures through the media</li> <li>Fuel reduction and fire prevention maps on Council's website</li> </ul>	MFPO	
	2.2 Healthy and productive land  <b>Goal:</b> Provide support for agricultural systems that address current land management issues and	2.2.1 Investigate project opportunities for <b>carbon sequestration</b>	N	3	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network with CVGA to investigate opportunities</li> </ul>	Env. Sustainability Officer	
		2.2.2 Increase awareness of <b>sustainable land practices</b> for farmers, Landcare, 'Friends of' and community groups	N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate forums on soil health, organic, biodynamic farming techniques to support farmers</li> </ul>	Manager Economic Development, ESO, Communication Officer	

	adapt to the challenges of a changing climate	2.2.3 Deliver a <b>pest plant and animal control</b> program on Council managed roadsides	O	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure recurrent allocation in Council's annual budget</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets and Development
		2.2.4 Conduct the Pyrenees <b>Planning Scheme review</b>	O	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate environmental and sustainability values into the Planning Scheme</li> <li>Update references to integrate current environment and sustainability references</li> </ul>	Manager Planning
		2.2.5 Use planning controls to maintain healthy and productive land	O	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain productive farming land for farming purposes and review/extend zoning or overlays</li> <li>Require land management plans with all rural conservation planning applications</li> <li>Minimise the potential for dwelling developments on small rural lots through the use of restructure overlay controls</li> </ul>	Manager Planning
	2.3 Healthy water systems  <b>Goal:</b> Apply strategic processes to contribute to improved waterway and catchment health	2.3.1 Promote an <b>anti-litter and recycling</b> ethic to the community and visitors	O	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual % reduction incoming litter and recycling requests to Compliance Unit of Council</li> </ul>	Local Laws Manager Assets
		2.3.2 Supply of <b>biodegradable dog waste bags</b> to designated public places and waterways	N	1	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate and report to Council on key locations for placement of biodegradable dog waste bags</li> </ul>	Local Laws Manager Assets
		2.3.3 Partner with CMA's to manage <b>riparian weeds &amp; increase community awareness</b>	N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Length of weed control &amp; media promotion</li> </ul>	ESO & CMA's
		2.3.4 Apply appropriate and sustainable design of <b>waterway crossings</b>	N	3	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate waterway crossings, ford design and culverts and compile a report for Council</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets and Development
		2.3.5 Facilitate investigation and promotion of new <b>Shire flood controls</b>	N	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and implement a Shire Flood Plain Management Plan</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets and Development, Manager IMS, CMA's
2.3.6 Facilitate investigation of Shire township water availability to inform <b>future growth limits</b>		N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate discussion through G21, Grampians Regional Management Board, Grampians Tourism</li> <li>Monitor township growth and urban change patterns</li> </ul>	CEO, Manager Planning, Stakeholders	
2.3.7 Investigate funding for <b>waterway, plant and animal interpretive signage</b>		N	3	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successful grant submission</li> </ul>	ESO & Stakeholders	
2.3.8 Strategically protect land within water catchments		N	3	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the current water catchment overlay boundaries as part of the Planning Scheme review</li> </ul>	Manager Planning	
Minimise the impacts of forestry on infrastructure and the environment	2.4 Clean air  <b>Goal:</b> To increase understanding of improved air quality	2.4.1 Promote use of <b>dry seasoned firewood</b> for fuel stoves	N	3	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council website Fact Sheet for download</li> </ul>	ESO
		2.4.2 Promote Council's green waste facility within the community to <b>discourage burning of vegetative waste</b>	O	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reduction as % of total waste sent to Council landfill</li> <li>Website information available</li> </ul>	Manager Projects & Contracts
	2.5 Park linkages  <b>Goal:</b> To contribute to improved park connectivity	2.5.1 Partner with agency to investigate <b>linking Council managed and crown open space</b>	N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate mapping, linking sites of biological significance</li> <li>Develop a strategic plan for shared cycle ways/walkways</li> <li>Integrate nature based tourism into the Pyrenees Tourism Marketing Plan</li> </ul>	Manager Planning, ESO, CMA, DSE, Parks Vic.
		2.5.2 Investigate and develop a framework for a <b>community firewood lot</b>	N	3	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote use of a renewable timber supply</li> </ul>	Env. Sustainability Officer
		2.5.3 Promote <b>community gardens and open spaces</b> for passive recreation	O	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate community gardens and open spaces for passive recreation into the Recreation Strategy</li> </ul>	Manager Community Wellbeing
		2.5.4 Support long term protection of <b>native forests</b>	N	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate the Shire's natural assets into the Tourism Marketing Plan</li> <li>Promote use of plantation grown timber through Council's website</li> </ul>	Manager Economic Development, ESO
<b>3.0 RESOURCE USE</b>							
Implement community education campaigns to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and to encourage recycling  <i>Vision: Increased reuse and</i>	3.1 Reduced natural resource use & increased recycling  <b>Goal:</b> Annual reduction in waste from Council operations and community	3.1.1 Investigate drop points for <b>silage wrap</b> drop points	N	1	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate demand and Shire-based drop points with HRWVG</li> </ul>	Manager Projects & Contracts
		3.1.2 Undertake a <b>waste and recycling education</b> series	O	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively support Highlands Regional waste programs</li> <li>Supply of a contamination report as % annually to Council</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets and Development Manager Projects
		3.1.3 Develop partnerships to investigate <b>bio-energy production</b>	N	1	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of renewable energy projects</li> <li>Build on partnership with Highlands regional Waste and CVGA</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets and Development Manager Projects, ESO
		3.1.4 Council assessment to determine the appropriate <b>number of recycle bins</b> in open space areas	O	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a needs analysis and report to Council</li> <li>Improved annual OLG Survey ratings for waste management</li> </ul>	Manager Projects & Contracts

<i>recycling and a reduced impact on the environment</i>		3.1.5 Investigate use of Council <b>shredded used paper for composting</b>	N	3	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a waste analysis and report on shredded paper options</li> <li>Integrate into Council's Waste Reduction Action Plan</li> </ul>	Manager Projects & Contracts Env. Sustainability Officer
		3.1.6 <b>Educate Council staff and community on recycling</b> of plastic bags, recyclable plastic containers, glass, steel	O	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement actions from Council's Waste Management Plan</li> <li>Conduct waste audit &amp; promote findings to community</li> </ul>	Manager Projects & Contracts
		3.1.7 <b>Integrate environmental sustainability criteria into all Council operations and processes</b>	N	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate sustainability criteria into Council's IMS &amp; QA processes</li> <li>Mitigate risk through Council systems and processes</li> <li>Continued certification to Australian Standards for environment</li> </ul>	CEO, Management Team Dir. Corporate Services
	3.2 Reduced water consumption	3.2.1 <b>Deliver actions from Council's Sustainable Water Use Plan (SWUP)</b>	P	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 budget funded actions implemented annually</li> <li>Integrate Community Action Plans actions with the SWUP</li> <li>Promote Sustainable Water Use projects</li> </ul>	Manager Projects, Manager Community Wellbeing, ESO
	<b>Goal:</b> To implement 2 actions from the Sustainable Water Use Plan 2005	3.2.2 Facilitate an investigation into Avoca desalination plant <b>recycled grey water use</b> for recreational use	N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement water re-use action from the Sustainable Water Use Plan</li> <li>Benchmark against the OLG Survey ratings for recreational facilities and appearance of public areas</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets and Development, Manager Community Wellbeing, CHW
		3.2.3 Investigate the installation of public <b>water refilling stations</b> to promote bottle reuse	N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement as potable water reduction action from the Sustainable Water Use Plan</li> <li>Incorporate into functional streetscapes encouraging... town pride</li> </ul>	Manager Projects Manager Assets
	3.3 Sustainable and efficient transport systems	3.3.1 Advocate for re-opening of <b>Maryborough Ararat railway line</b> to reduce through traffic from local roads	N	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate opportunities through the regional Transport Connection Officer</li> </ul>	Manager Community Wellbeing, Transport Officer
	<b>Goal:</b> Promote increased use of shared transport on serviced linkages	3.3.2 Advocate for a <b>bus timetable revision</b> to align services to local work patterns, increasing patronage from small townships	O	3	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate opportunities through the regional transport group</li> </ul>	Manager Community Development, Transport Officer
		3.3.3 <b>Explore minibus/carpooling incentives</b> for Council employees travelling into the Shire	O	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate into Council's Vehicle Policy and adopt changes</li> </ul>	Director Corporate Services
<b>4.0 WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>							
Encourage environmentally sustainable development  <b>Vision:</b> <i>Increased Council and community understanding of sustainability</i>	4.1 Communities with a sustainable living ethic  <b>Goal:</b> Promote and increase community awareness of sustainable living	4.1.1 Develop and promote an <b>energy meter loan system</b> for residents	N	1	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote loan availability through Council's Resource Centres</li> </ul>	Manager Economic Development, Env. Sustainability Officer
		4.1.2 Develop and promote information for building in <b>fire &amp; flood zone</b> areas	O	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supply of building information for applicants in flood and fire prone areas</li> </ul>	Manager Building MFPO
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a fact sheet for building within flood prone areas</li> </ul>	Manager Planning,
		4.1.3 Establish a <b>meeting hub</b> in each community e.g. local hall, sporting clubrooms, schools	N	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and promote the development of Shire community hubs</li> </ul>	Manager Community Wellbeing
		4.1.4 Support community groups with event management	O	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise volunteer processes with a Steering Group comprising community volunteers</li> <li>Facilitate community event and governance workshops</li> </ul>	Manager Economic Development, Community Liaison Officer
		4.1.5 Facilitate and support an annual ' <b>Sustainable House' open day</b>	N	3	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop in partnership WITH CVGA</li> <li>Encourage environmentally sustainable development</li> </ul>	Env. Sustainability Officer
		4.1.6 Investigate <b>incentives for domestic solar</b> installation through partnerships	N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collate data on community take-up of the Solar City program</li> </ul>	Env. Sustainability Officer
		4.1.7 Ensure diversity of media styles in <b>communication</b> between Shire and residents	O	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate a commitment to diverse media styles into Council's Communication Strategy</li> </ul>	Director Corporate Services, Communication Officer
		4.1.8 <b>Promotion of sustainability</b> at community Landcare, CWA, environment events	O	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate into existing events and support farmers</li> </ul>	Env. Sustainability Officer
		4.1.9 <b>Educate the community on sustainability</b> issues	N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure Council's commitment to sustainability is visible to the community through diverse media exposure</li> </ul>	Env. Sustainability Officer
		4.1.11 Partner investigation with adjoining Shires into hosting an <b>Agricultural/Climate Adaptation Officer</b>	N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote sustainable land management practices within the farming community</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets and Development
		4.1.12 Liaise with and keep the community informed on <b>wind farm</b> development	N	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updating of Council's website media and ensure diversity of communication</li> </ul>	Manager Planning Communication Officer

		4.1.13 Provision of <b>shade</b> in recreation areas managed by Council	P	3	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate in Council's Recreation Strategy</li> </ul>	Manager Community Wellbeing
	4.2 Improving community awareness and participation  <b>Goal:</b> Use the Community Action Plans to determine the use of, and future needs for community facilities	4.2.1 Integrate sustainability into Council's <b>Community Grants</b> program	O	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration of sustainability criteria into Grant program</li> </ul>	Manager Community Wellbeing Env. Sustainability Officer
		4.2.2 Engage <b>local artists</b> in interpreting and promoting Shire sustainability	P	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote arts and culture within the shire to enhance community participation and develop sustainable cultural events</li> </ul>	Manager Community Wellbeing
		4.2.3 Catalogue Shire <b>environmental and cultural icons</b>	N	3	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate funding opportunities for development of an inventory with significance rankings</li> <li>Integrate with the Fire Risk Register</li> </ul>	IMS, Manager Assets
<b>5.0 PYRENEES SHIRE LEADING IN SUSTAINABILITY</b>							
To provide leadership to the community and advocate on its' behalf to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Pyrenees Shire  <i><b>Vision:</b> A healthy, vibrant, prosperous and connected Pyrenees community</i>	5.1 To encourage community input into sustainability issues  Goal: To lead the community into a sustainable and ecologically sound future	5.1.1 Develop CEO, local and <b>regional partnerships</b> with environment and climate stakeholder groups	N	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of an executive environmental stakeholder group</li> </ul>	CEO Dir. Assets and Development
		5.1.2 Investigate the potential of Beaufort Primary School as an <b>off-site residential learning campus</b>	N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate discussion on potential development with state stakeholders</li> </ul>	CEO, Dir. Assets & Development, Manager Economic Development
		5.1.3 Align proposed Shire population growth & ability to maintain a <b>sustainable lifestyle</b>	O	3	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate and develop a report for Council discussion</li> </ul>	Manager Economic Development
		5.1.4 Demonstrate and uphold a Shire annual <b>sustainable project award</b>	N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish an annual Shire award for a community sustainable project</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets and Development, Communication Officer
		5.1.5 Demonstrate <b>improved Shire infrastructure</b> such as telecommunications, housing, water, sewerage, energy, natural gas	O	1	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for improved infrastructure in partnership with state stakeholders</li> </ul>	Director Assets
		5.1.6 Demonstrate increased local patronage on <b>public transport</b> during business hours	O	2	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for revised/additional rail services to service Beaufort through Grampians Regional Management Board, G21 and Grampians Tourism</li> </ul>	CEO
		5.1.7 Demonstrate Shire solar/ <b>low emission street lighting</b> use	N	1	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure new streetlights meet lighting standards, are energy efficient &amp; low emission</li> </ul>	Manager Assets
		5.1.8 Incorporate <b>workplace sustainability</b> clauses in the Council staff Climate and Culture program	N	2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration into Council's corporate processes</li> <li>Incorporate into Council's workplace culture assessment</li> </ul>	Director Corporate Services
		5.1.9 Demonstrate long term Council <b>commitment to sustainability</b>	N	1	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate into the Council Plan</li> <li>Employ an Environment Officer Year 2</li> <li>Renew the Strategy in 3 Years time</li> </ul>	Dir. Assets & Development, Env. Sustainability Officer
		5.1.10 Advocate for <b>maintaining reservoir water supply</b> for local community consumption	N	3	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate through the Grampians Regional Management Board, G21 and Grampians Tourism</li> </ul>	CEO, Manager Economic Development

In the status column:

O Ongoing

N Newly Identified

P Unimplemented action listed in the Council Plan

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