



THEME FOUR **CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE**

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
2020–2021

BENTLEIGH • BENTLEIGH EAST • BRIGHTON EAST • CARNEGIE • CAULFIELD • ELSTERNWICK
GARDENVALE • GLEN HUNTLY • MCKINNON • MURRUMBEENA • ORMOND • ST KILDA EAST



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

THEME FOUR

CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE

Long-term community goal:

An attractive and sustainable environment for future generations.

We are committed to providing a City that will be attractive and environmentally sustainable. We will protect the diversity of plants and animals, and provide for a healthy environment that supports our community to live healthy and happy lives.

In 2020–2021 we:

- endorsed *Our Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2021–2025* on 29 June 2021. Extensive community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken to inform the final *Strategy*, which sets out how we will achieve our new emission reduction targets of zero net emissions for Council operations by 2025 and for the community by 2030;
- assessed the outcomes of our weekly green bin trial held in McKinnon and Ormond throughout October 2019. The outcomes from the weekly green bin trial were presented to Council on 21 July 2020 where Council resolved to further rollout the weekly green bin, fortnightly red bin collection to the wider community. On 8 September 2020, Council endorsed a plan to rollout the weekly green bin service to the Glen Eira community from July 2021; and
- enhanced the protection of significant trees across the municipality, which included consultation with the community on a Classified Tree Local Law. On 1 September 2020, following public consultation and after consideration of community submissions, Council resolved to adopt the Classified Tree Local Law.

THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THIS LONG-TERM COMMUNITY GOAL ARE:

1. KEEP OUR CITY CLEAN AND ATTRACTIVE.

WE WILL:

- Continually improve our maintenance activities to keep the City clean, including looking for ways to incorporate new technologies such as mobile reporting and solar litter bin compaction.
- Progressively renew and revitalise our streetscapes.

2. PRESERVE AND DEVELOP OUR OPEN SPACE TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS.

WE WILL:

- Improve and upgrade our open spaces for passive and active recreation through our *Capital Works Program*.
- Continue to explore opportunities to increase the amount of open space for recreation purposes, including access to schools, as well as state and federal government owned land.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity on Council land.

3. INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND PREPARE FOR THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

WE WILL:

- Help our community members to reduce their impact on the environment through education and support programs.
- Show leadership in sustainability in our waste, water and energy usage practices.
- Demonstrate a clear focus on energy sustainability in our capital projects, in design, construction and operations.
- Work towards zero net carbon emissions from Council operations by 2030 by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by a further 25 per cent from Council buildings, waste and outdoor lighting by 2021.
- Work towards zero net carbon emissions from the community by 2050 by supporting the Glen Eira community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- We will consult the community on the implementation of a *Classified Tree Register*.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY, COUNCIL WILL ADVOCATE FOR:

- New generation waste disposal and recycling facilities for the future.
- The protection of vegetation in major development projects in the City, including level crossing removals and on state and federal government owned land.
- Better immediate community access to Caulfield Racecourse Reserve for sporting and recreation purposes and full implementation of the recommendations of the ministerially appointed Bi-Partisan Working Group within five years.
- Improved state and federal government policy on environmental sustainability initiatives.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

STRATEGIC INDICATOR	RESULT
<p>We will see a five per cent increase in the recycling rate at Council buildings.</p>	<p>Waste audits of Council buildings were not completed in 2020 and 2021 due to the outbreak of COVID-19.</p> <p>An audit of the garbage stream was undertaken in November 2019 which showed a 4.73 per cent improvement in the recovery of recycled material at Town Hall, but a 16.23 per cent decrease in recovery at the Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre.</p> <p>An audit of the garbage stream was undertaken in 2017 and 2018, which showed a 15 per cent improvement in the recovery of recycled material at Town Hall and a three per cent improvement at Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre.</p>
<p>Greenhouse gas emissions will be a further 25 per cent lower from Council buildings, waste and outdoor lighting by 2021.</p>	<p>We have seen a 40 per cent reduction of green house gas emissions from Council buildings, waste and outdoor lighting since our baseline year of 2014–15.</p> <p>The <i>Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016–2021</i> set a target for Council greenhouse gas emissions to be 25 per cent lower from Council buildings, waste and outdoor lighting by 2021. With collaboration across Council, we delivered multiple renewable energy, energy efficiency and Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) projects since then, and we have exceeded this target, delivering a 40 per cent reduction since our baseline year of 2014–15.</p> <p>Our 2020–21 carbon footprint decreased by 18 per cent to 6,888 tonnes Greenhouse gas emissions (t CO₂-e) compared to 8,399 tonnes in the previous financial year. The COVID-19 pandemic would have significantly contributed to this decrease in emissions with many buildings unoccupied during lockdown periods. There were also a number of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects that helped bring our emissions down, with another 78.27kWh of solar power systems installed on eight community buildings, bringing the total amount of rooftop solar capacity to 1109kW.</p> <p>Council has now started to measure emissions from our supply chain, like postage services, paper consumption, water use, road asphalt, waste generation, waste collection and street cleaning. This year we have accounted for an additional 2,851 t CO₂-e and will now incorporate these carbon sources into our emissions inventory every year. By capturing these new sources of emissions, we are responsible for generating, we will be able to identify opportunities to work with our supply chain to further reduce emissions across our operations.</p> <p>Continues on next page.</p>

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL? (continued)

STRATEGIC INDICATOR	RESULT
<p>Greenhouse gas emissions will be a further 25 per cent lower from Council buildings, waste and outdoor lighting by 2021. Continued.</p>	<p>Our 2019–20 carbon footprint decreased by 10 per cent to 8,399 t CO₂-e compared to 9,287 tonnes in the previous financial year. This decrease was the result of upgrading 1,315 street lights to energy-efficient LEDs and the installation of new solar photovoltaic systems at 19 Council facilities. We've reduced our emissions by 27 per cent since our baseline year of 2014–15.</p> <p>Our 2018–19 carbon footprint decreased by 6.8 per cent to 9,287 t CO₂-e compared to 9,961 tonnes on 2017–18. This decrease was due primarily to an 18 per cent increase in solar power generation, energy efficiency and lighting upgrades at a range of Council sites. Electricity use at our smaller buildings decreased by 25 per cent and by 37 per cent at our Works Depot. In July 2019 we completed an upgrade of street lights on major Council roads with energy efficient lighting, it is expected that this will lead to a 20 per cent decrease in emissions from street lights in 2019–20.</p> <p>Our 2017–18 carbon footprint decreased by eight per cent to 9,961 t CO₂-e compared to 10,837 tonnes in 2016–17. The biggest decreases in electricity use were achieved at Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre (nine per cent), Glen Eira Town Hall (six per cent) and Council's nursing home — Spurway Community (three per cent). The decrease in electricity use is due to solar panel installations, energy efficiency upgrades and lighting upgrades at a range of Council sites.</p>
<p>There will be an increase in open space in areas of the City identified in our <i>Open Space Strategy</i> as lacking green space.</p>	<p>Further opportunities to expand and connect the open space network are identified in the <i>Open Space Strategy</i> which was refreshed in 2020. Key projects over the 2020 year included: finalising a road closure to create a new park in Aileen Avenue, Caulfield South; identifying potential new open spaces adjacent to the Caulfield to Dandenong rail corridor; and advocacy with the Caulfield Reserve Racecourse Trust for improved access and recreational activity on Crown Land within the reserve.</p> <p>The <i>Open Space Strategy</i> refresh incorporated the updated <i>Census</i> data showing the population growth trends across Glen Eira. Given the previous <i>Open Space Strategy</i> was developed with previous population data it is difficult to compare the open space per capita shift, however the refreshed <i>Strategy</i> positions Council well to report positive shifts in the future.</p>


HOW WILL WE KNOW IF WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL? (continued)

STRATEGIC INDICATOR	RESULT
The level of satisfaction with open space in the <i>Community Satisfaction Survey</i> , will be consistent with, or better than, industry benchmarks.	<p>In the 2021 <i>Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey</i>, Glen Eira residents rated their level of satisfaction with the appearance of public areas an index score of 78. The state-wide average is 73. Residents rated their level of satisfaction with recreational facilities an index score of 78 compared to the state-wide average of 71</p>
Traders' associations will report an increased level of satisfaction with the cleanliness and amenity of our activity centres.	<p>Carnegie and Bentleigh Traders Association have advised of some issues with the cleanliness/amenity in each centre. Dumped rubbish remains a problem but is actioned upon requests being received. Graffiti is a major problem across all three centres.</p> <p>Elsternwick Traders Association has reported the level of cleanliness is consistent with the previous year but have concerns with graffiti, public toilets and the lack of greenery.</p> <p>Council's schedule of footpath cleaning, high pressure cleaning and bin emptying and cleaning has been conducted at the required frequency.</p> <p>Each trader association manages graffiti above two metres in height from funding from the special rate. Below two metres is a Council responsibility and is removed once reported.</p> <p>In the coming year, Council will work more closely with the trader associations to obtain more detailed reporting on this matter as well as actions from each Associations business plans.</p>
New generation garbage disposal facilities will be well progressed toward opening.	<p>Council partnered with 16 councils in the south east region of Melbourne and the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) to tender for an advanced waste processing alternative to landfill. On 29 June 2020 MWRRG announced three shortlisted tenderers for the new waste management infrastructure. Contracts are to be awarded in 2022 with construction expected to begin in 2023.</p>
New buildings and facilities will be recognised as leading examples of highly efficient and sustainable design.	<p>All our major projects, have five percent allocated to the budget for Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD). For the new Murrumbeena Community Hub and Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool Centre, we plan to exceed the target, spending more on ESD. The new Murrumbeena Community Hub and Lord Reserve Pavilion will have all electric systems, with no fossil fuel in the building. Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool Centre will be one of the first 6-Star Green Star aquatic centres in Australia.</p>

Achieved =  Not achieved =  Deferred by Council 

Not achieved due to COVID-19 pandemic = 

Not achieved due to factors outside of Council's control = 

2020–21 COMMITMENT	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESULT
We will enhance community perceptions of cleanliness and safety of our public spaces by taking a proactive approach to the removal and prevention of graffiti on Council and State assets.	Continue to work with Inner South East Mayors Forum members to progress a graffiti removal trial on State assets.	
Comment: Work has continued with the Inner South East Mayors Forum members in preparation for the start of a two-year trial to manage graffiti on State assets. The program is set to begin 1 July 2021.		
We will enhance the protection of significant trees across the municipality through the development of a <i>Classified Tree Register</i> .	Council will consult with the community on a Classified Tree Local Law and thereafter determine and implement the Classified Tree Local Law and <i>Classified Tree Register</i> .	
Comment: On 1 September 2020, following public consultation and after consideration of community submissions, Council resolved to adopt the Classified Tree Local Law. The nomination process and <i>Classified Tree Register</i> has been moved to business as usual. This is also a major initiative of the 2020–21 Annual Budget.		
We will increase the quality, availability and accessibility of public open space across the municipality by implementing priority actions from our <i>Open Space Strategy 2019–2031</i> .	Implement the high priority action from the <i>Lord Reserve Koornang Park Master Plan</i> to commence construction of the new Lord Reserve Pavilion.	
Comment: Project works commenced in April 2021 and are progressing well on site at Lord Reserve Pavilion, Carnegie with the construction phase site set up complete. Temporary facilities are in place for the community sports clubs use during the construction phase. The demolition and site preparation works are now complete, with footings installation and slab construction currently underway. The project is expected to reach practical completion by March 2022. This will be weather dependent. The construction timelines will be continually reviewed as we progress further.		

2020–21 COMMITMENT	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESULT
<p>We will increase the quality, availability and accessibility of public open space across the municipality by implementing priority actions from our <i>Open Space Strategy 2019–2031</i>.</p> <p>Continued.</p>	<p>We will commence the preparation of a planning scheme amendment process to implement a change to the open space contribution levy to 8.3 per cent for all developments in excess of a two lot subdivision.</p>	
<p>Comment: Planning Scheme Amendment C218 (revised open space contribution) was referred to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in December 2020, seeking authorisation. DELWP is yet to respond but a response is considered imminent and we will proceed to exhibition once authorised.</p>		
	<p>We will commence the construction of a new open space in Aileen Avenue, Caulfield South.</p>	
<p>Comment: Construction of new open space commenced with demolition and site preparation works in June 2021. Park construction will be completed in the 2021–22 financial year.</p>		
	<p>Implement the high priority action from the <i>Lord Reserve Koornang Park Master Plan</i> for new cricket nets at Lord Reserve.</p>	
<p>Comment: The construction of the new cricket nets at Lord Reserve was completed in February 2021.</p>		
<p>We will invest in Council initiatives and support our community through programs that contribute to our environmental sustainability objectives.</p>	<p>We will develop a new <i>Environmental Sustainability Strategy</i> with action plans to achieve corporate and community carbon emission reduction targets.</p>	
<p>Comment: Our <i>Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2021–2025</i> was endorsed by Council on 29 June 2021. Extensive community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken to inform the final <i>Strategy</i>, which sets out how we will achieve our new emission reduction targets of zero net emissions for Council operations by 2025 and for the community by 2030.</p>		
	<p>We will install additional solar generation facilities on Council sites including: early learning centres (at least three sites) and pavilions (at least three sites).</p>	
<p>Comment: Council implemented solar works at four pavilions and four early learning sites. The sites include: Victory Park Pavilion, Bentleigh; Bailey Reserve Pavilion, Bentleigh East; Mackie Road Reserve Pavilion, Bentleigh East; Moorleigh Reserve Pavilion, Bentleigh East; Bentleigh East Kindergarten, Bentleigh East; Centre Road Kindergarten, Bentleigh East; Caulfield South Kindergarten, Caulfield South; and East Bentleigh Child Care Centre, Bentleigh East. These works have enhanced the building and improved their energy usage.</p>		

2020–21 COMMITMENT	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESULT
We will invest in Council initiatives and support our community through programs that contribute to our environmental sustainability objectives. Continued.	We will install an electric car and vehicle charging station at Town Hall for community use and to facilitate the introduction of electric options to our fleet as opportunities arise.	✓
Comment: Two electric car vehicle charging stations have been placed at Town Hall for community use and for recharging our new electric cars that are now part of our fleet.		
We will invest in sustainability initiatives for our large building projects, over and above the minimum required standards, to contribute to our environmental sustainability objectives.	Five per cent of the capital budget for Carnegie Swim Centre, Murrumbeena Pavilion and Elsternwick Community Hub will be allocated to sustainability measures, over and above the minimum required standards.	✓
Comment: Five per cent of the capital budget has been incorporated into the plans for Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool and Murrumbeena Community Hub. Council has gone over and above the minimum required sustainability standards with Council adopting a six star, green star approach for Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool. Murrumbeena Community Hub has allocated 6.7 per cent of the total budget for sustainability measures.		
We will reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by increasing our rate of food waste recycling across the municipality.	Assess the outcomes of the trial and determine a future approach across the municipality.	✓
Comment: The outcomes from the weekly green bin trial were presented to Council on 21 July 2020. Council resolved to further roll out the weekly green bin and fortnightly red bin collection to the wider community. On 8 September 2020, Council endorsed a plan to roll out the weekly green bin service to the wider municipality from 1 July 2021.		
This is also a major initiative of the 2020–21 Annual Budget.		
	Our annual waste bin audit will show a minimum 10 per cent improvement in the rate of food waste recycling from 2019–20.	✗
Comment: We have not achieved this commitment. The annual waste bin audit was completed in March 2021, delayed from October/November 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. The waste audit showed no improvement in the rate of food waste recycling but remained steady compared to the audit completed in November 2019. The lack of improvement could be due to a variety of factors, such as the outbreak of COVID-19 and less enthusiasm for food waste recycling. However, there could be other factors influencing the result, such as the different season the audit was completed. There was a noticeable reduction to organic tonnes recycled in February and March 2021 compared to the preceding months, although we have continued to supply kitchen caddies and new green bins to residents. In July 2021, the green bin will be collected weekly instead of fortnightly. We expect the rate of food waste recycling to increase alongside the increased collection frequency of the green bin.		
This is also a major initiative of the 2020–21 Annual Budget.		

2020–21 COMMITMENT	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESULT
We will update and refresh a minimum of two key Council community strategies relating to recreation, open space, infrastructure or facilities.	We will refresh our <i>Asset Management Plans</i> for roads, footpaths and drainage.	✗
<p>As part of reassessing our priorities post COVID-19 we commenced the process to update and refresh our <i>Asset Management Plans</i> for roads, footpaths and drainage in January 2021. These will be completed in-line with the new <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> requirements by the end of June 2022.</p> <p>Council's <i>Road Management Plan (RMP)</i> review has been completed. The <i>RMP</i> will be issued for community consultation process prior to Council endorsement in 2021–22.</p>		

COMMITMENT 2019–20 (CARRIED OVER)

2019–20 COMMITMENT	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESULT
We will update and refresh a minimum of two key Council community infrastructure strategies relating to recreation, open space and facilities.	Council endorsement of the <i>Playground Strategy</i> .	D
<p>The <i>Playground Strategy</i> was deferred in 2020 to allow for the community consultation phase to be undertaken when social distancing restrictions due to COVID-19 were eased. Background work on the <i>Strategy</i> and the community consultation process has been completed. Officers are in the process of reviewing consultation feedback and preparing the final <i>Strategy</i> for Council endorsement.</p>		